

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-5427**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 01-101**

Waste Discharger Identification No. 3412005001

For  
**MONEY'S FOOD US, INC.  
PACIFIC MUSHROOM FARM  
San Mateo County**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (hereafter Board), finds:

**SITE OWNER AND LOCATION**

1. David Todes, Manager of Environmental Affairs for Vlastic Foods International, filed a notice of name change on July 9, 1999 in accordance with Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements (January 1984 version), General Reporting Requirement C.11. On April 3, 2000, Richard Aguirre, Facility Manager for Money's Food US, Inc., filed a second notice of name change in accordance with General Reporting Requirement C.11. As of April 24, 2001, a sign posted in front of the Pacific Mushroom Farm indicated the Facility was for sale.
2. Money's Food US, Inc., (hereafter "Money's") PO Box 169, Maiden Creek Road, Blandon, PA 19501, owns and operates the Pacific Mushroom Farm (hereafter Facility) located at 6150 Cabrillo Highway, Pescadero, CA 94046. The Facility is located about 25 miles northwest of Santa Cruz in Section 1 and 12, T9S, R5W, and in Section 7, T9S, R4W, MD B&M, as shown on Attachment A of this Order.

**PURPOSE OF ORDER**

3. The discharge has been regulated since adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 76-64, on December 10, 1976. The previous owner, Campbell's Soup Company, transferred ownership of the Facility to Vlastic Farms International on March 10, 1998. On February 1, 2000, Vlastic transferred ownership of the

facility to Money's. At this time, Money's does not intend to significantly change the operation of the Facility. This Order continues to authorize discharge of domestic wastewater, excess mushroom irrigation and compost slab runoff water, wash down water, and boiler blow down water within the Gazos Creek Watershed (Ano Nuevo Hydrologic Subunit). This Order updates Board Order No. 85-129.

**SITE/FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

4. An average of approximately 23,000 gallons per day of wastewater is discharged via spray disposal on the Facility. Approximately 2,000 gallons per day is domestic wastewater that is treated in an oxidation pond. Wastewater from the oxidation pond empties to a sump where it combines with mushroom process water. The mixture is discharged to an Evaporation/Percolation Pond (hereafter Pond) or to Spray Fields (hereafter Fields) currently covering 30 acres of the 100 acres available. Estimated capacity of the system is 72,000 gallons per day.
5. The Facility's domestic wastewater effluent quality (in the Oxidation Pond) has varied during the last five years. Total dissolved solids varied between 340 and 1450 mg/l. Sodium varied between 55 and 290 mg/l. Chloride varied between 57 and 410 mg/l. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) varied between 11 and 155 mg/l. Total Nitrogen (as N) varied between 6.1 and 54 mg/l. Measurements of pH varied between 6.9 and 8.9. Dissolved Oxygen varied between less than one (<1) and 11.4 mg/l. The Evaporation/Percolation Pond (also referred to

as the Wastewater Storage Reservoir) receives predominantly wastewaters from the mushroom growing operation. Only when the Oxidation pond overflows does domestic wastewater commingle with process wastewater. Monitoring of the Evaporation/Percolation Pond during the last five years indicated higher levels (compared to the Oxidation Pond) of the following constituents:

- Total Dissolved Solids (up to 5,000 mg/l), Sodium (up to 885 mg/l),
- Chloride (up to 1990 mg/l),
- BOD (up to 620 mg/l), and
- Total Nitrogen (up to 200 mg/l).

Attachment B of this Order is the Wastewater Treatment System Flow Diagram for the Facility.

6. The Evaporation/Percolation Pond and Spray Fields are located on sloping (5 to 15 %) topography. The Fields are well vegetated primarily with grasses. Soils to a depth of about 28 ft are predominately fine grained. The underlying formation is a gray rock and is likely the Pigeon Point Formation.
7. Three monitoring wells have been installed to monitor the Fields as shown on Attachment B. These wells include MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3. On May 29, 2001, the groundwater flow direction was calculated to be 235 degrees clockwise from North with a gradient of 0.06 foot per foot. Depth to ground water (i.e., below ground surface) is shallow (i.e., 37.01 feet for MW-1, 4.87 feet for MW-2 and 14.53 feet for MW-3). One production well exists about 400 feet west of the Fields. The June 1, 2001 "Groundwater Evaluation Report" prepared by Atlas Engineering Services, states:

*"Based on these graphs (i.e., total dissolved solids and nitrate nitrogen data from January 1993 through December 2000 for MW-1 and MW-2) it appears that the northern spray irrigation disposal field is not having an adverse impact on site groundwater quality."*

Groundwater monitoring will continue to be required as described in the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

8. Gazos Creek is located northwest of the Fields and flows in a southwesterly direction. An unnamed intermittent drainageway is located southeast of the spray field and flows in a southwesterly direction. The Facility is supplied water from an intake structure along Gazos Creek.

#### MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM

9. Monitoring & Reporting Program (MRP) 01-101 is a part of this Order. The MRP requires effluent (i.e., water contained in the Evaporation/Percolation Pond) monitoring, Oxidation Pond monitoring, groundwater monitoring, and site inspections. Monitoring reports are required quarterly, due the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, April, July, and October.

#### BASIN PLAN

10. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin, (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Board on November 17, 1989 and approved by the State Board on August 16, 1990. The Board approved amendments to the Basin Plan on February 11, 1994 and September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan incorporates State Board plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.
11. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of Gazos Creek and Gazos Creek Lagoon/Estuary that could be affected by the discharge include:
  - a. Agricultural Water Supply,
  - b. Municipal Water Supply,
  - c. Ground Water Recharge,
  - d. Water Contact Recreation,
  - e. Non-contact Water Recreation,
  - f. Wildlife Habitat,
  - g. Cold Freshwater Habitat,
  - h. Warm Freshwater Habitat,
  - i. Fish Migration,
  - j. Fish Spawning,
  - k. Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance,
    - l. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species,
    - m. Estuarine Habitat, and
    - n. Freshwater Replenishment,
    - o. Commercial and Sport Fishing, and
    - p. Shellfish Harvesting.

12. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge include:
- Domestic and Municipal Supply
  - Industrial Supply
  - Agricultural Supply
13. The Basin Plan does not contain specific water quality objectives for groundwater near the Facility.

#### CEQA

14. These waste discharge requirements are for an existing facility and are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14, of the California Administrative Code.

#### GENERAL FINDINGS

15. Discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and authorization to discharge is conditional upon the discharge complying with provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent nuisance. Compliance with this Order should assure this and mitigate any potential adverse changes in water quality due to the discharge.
16. On **June 15, 2000**, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with a copy of the proposed order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments.
17. After considering all comments pertaining to this discharge during a public hearing on **July 13, 2001**, this Order was found consistent with the above findings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority in Section 13263 of the California Water Code, Money's Foods US, Inc., its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge waste at the Pacific Mushroom Farm, 6150 Cabrillo Highway, Pescadero, San Mateo County, California, providing compliance is maintained with the following:

Throughout these requirements footnotes are listed to indicate the source of requirements specified. Requirement footnotes are as follows:

BP = Basin Plan  
CWC = California Water Code

All other requirements are based on "Best Professional Judgement."

#### A. PROHIBITIONS

- Discharge of wastes other than the oxidation pond, evaporation/percolation pond, and spray fields, as shown in Attachment A of this Order is prohibited.
- Discharge of inadequately treated waste to drainage ways, surface waters, and ground waters is prohibited.<sup>BP</sup>
- Bypass of the treatment system and discharge of untreated or partially treated wastes directly to the spray field and evaporation/percolation pond is prohibited.
- Discharge and/or storage of waste in a manner promoting nuisance and vector development are prohibited.
- Creation of a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code is prohibited.<sup>CWC</sup>

#### B. SPECIFICATIONS

- Daily flow averaged over each year shall not exceed 72,000 gallons per day (273 m<sup>3</sup>).
- Waste discharge shall be limited to the types described in Finding No.3 of this Order.
- The uppermost one-foot of wastewater in the oxidation pond shall have a dissolved oxygen concentration greater than 1.0 mg/l.
- Effluent discharged to the evaporation/percolation pond and spray

- fields shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.<sup>BP</sup>
5. Extraneous surface drainage shall be excluded from the oxidation pond and evaporation/percolation pond.
  6. By October 15 of each year, all necessary runoff diversion measures shall be in place and operable, and the spent compost storage area shall be graded to minimize storm water quality impacts.
  7. Freeboard shall exceed one foot in the oxidation pond and evaporation/percolation pond at all times.
  8. Wastewater shall not be applied closer than 300 feet from any drainageway or well. Distances to drainageways shall be measured horizontally to the closest point of a defined channel.
  9. The evaporation/percolation pond, oxidation pond, and spray disposal field shall be posted in English and Spanish to warn the public that wastewater is being stored and disposed.
  10. Application of wastewater to the spray irrigation field shall be at rates that are reasonable for the crop, soil, climate, management system, and condition of waste, and shall assure that wastewater percolation meets the terms of this Order. Land application of plant nutrients (nitrogen compounds, potassium and phosphorus) shall not exceed the agronomic rates of the vegetation established in the spray disposal areas.
  11. Wastewater discharged to irrigation areas shall not adversely affect vegetation.
  12. All irrigation areas shall be managed to permit access for inspection and to permit proper operation and maintenance. Excessive vegetative growth shall not exist along irrigation piping.
  13. All ponds, plus irrigation disposal areas under the control of the operator, shall be maintained to have capacity to retain all facility wastewater and runoff from processing areas during any 25-year, 24-hour storm.
  14. All wastewater process ponds shall be fenced to exclude the public.
  15. All holding ponds shall be sufficiently lowered following each storm to maximize storage capacity of the system, as permitted by disposal field conditions.
  16. Spray irrigation shall not take place during rain events.
  17. Spray irrigation shall be managed to minimize percolation to ground water.
- C. GROUND WATER LIMITATIONS**
1. The discharge shall not cause the quality of water in down gradient monitoring wells to be significantly degraded below naturally occurring background levels.<sup>BP</sup>
  2. The discharge shall not cause concentrations of chemicals and radionuclides in groundwater to exceed limits set forth in Title 22, Chapter 15, Articles 4 and 5 of the California Administrative Code.<sup>BP</sup>
- D. PROVISIONS**
1. Order No. 85-129, "Waste Discharge Requirements for CAMSCO Produce Company, Inc., Pacific Mushroom Farm, San Mateo County," adopted by the Board on October 11, 1985, is hereby rescinded.
  2. Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-101", as specified by the Executive Officer.
  3. Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January, 1984, except item nos. A.4., A.5., A.8., A.17., and C.9.
  4. Pursuant to Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 9, of the California Code of Regulations,

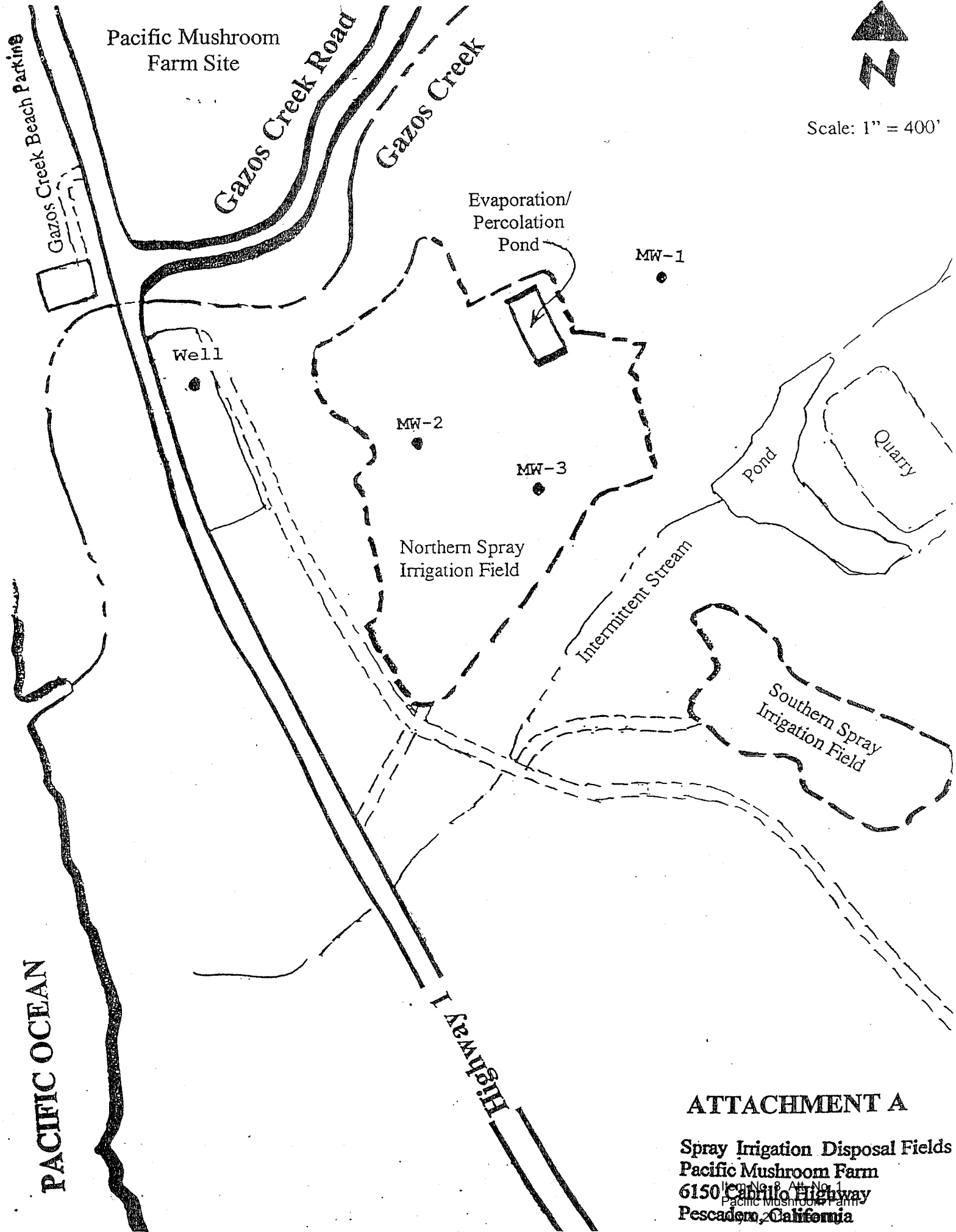
the Discharger must submit a written report to the Executive Officer not later than [February 1, 2011] addressing:

- a. Whether there will be changes in the continuity, character, location, or volume of the discharge; and,
- b. Whether, in their opinion, there is any portion of the Order that is incorrect, obsolete, or otherwise in need of revision.

Ordered by: *Paul Jagg*  
Executive Officer

Date: 8-1-01

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Scale: 1" = 400'

**ATTACHMENT A**

Spray Irrigation Disposal Fields  
 Pacific Mushroom Farm  
 6150 Cabrillo Highway  
 Pacific Mushroom Farm  
 Pescadero, California