

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

CLEANUP OR ABATEMENT
ORDER NO. 97-16

Concerning

SUNRISE MUSHROOM FARM, INC.

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

1. The Sunrise Mushroom Farm, Inc. (hereafter the Discharger) owns the property at 231 Jenson Road, Watsonville, in rural north Monterey County.
2. The Discharger operates a mushroom growing farm and discharges waste (wastewater and storm water runoff) to a holding pond for disposal by subsurface percolation and spray irrigation. The Discharger stores mushroom growing material waste (spent compost with most of the organic material used) for disposal to land.
3. The Board may consider contribution of odors from the holding pond, spray irrigation area, and spent compost area and require abatement of nuisance occurring during or as a result of the disposal of waste.
4. The Board adopted revised Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 90-22 on April 14, 1990, for wastewater discharge from the mushroom farm. Order No. 90-22 incorporates recommendations and prohibitions for mushroom farm operations, as specified in the Basin Plan. Discharge Specification B.2 of Order No. 90-22 requires wastewater treatment and disposal facilities be designed to accommodate wastewater and runoff from a 25 year frequency rainfall season and a 25 year/24 hour storm (approximately 5 inches of rain in 24 hours).
5. The Executive Officer notified the Discharger in writing on eight (8) different occasions of waste discharge requirement violations including holding pond overflows. In addition, the Discharger reported effluent violations fourteen (14) times since 1991. These violations threaten to cause a condition of pollution.
6. The Board has received complaints (six letters from Mr. David Ramirez and four from Mr. Michael Willetts) regarding Discharger's holding pond overflows and odors from waste disposal areas which are offensive to the senses. A May 2, 1996 complaint letter was signed by eighteen people, who reported living in the area. The Discharge has caused or has the potential to cause a condition of nuisance resulting from the disposal of waste which is offensive to the senses (odors) and which affects a considerable number of persons.
7. The Discharger cannot verify the specifications of existing wells used to determine compliance with Order No. 90-22. The hydrogeologic conditions cannot be determined from existing monitoring well configuration.
8. The County's recently approved coastal development permit conditions require the Discharger provide fire protection and an approved source of water. The Discharger will be required to maintain a significant amount of wastewater in the holding pond for fire fighting purposes which increases the likelihood of holding pond overflows.

June 25, 1997

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Sections 13267 and 13304 of the California Water Code, the Discharger, their agents or assigns, shall abate threatened pollution of ground and surface waters and conditions of nuisance resulting from waste disposal, as follows:

1. Forthwith, prevent holding pond overflows from storm events of less than 25 year/24 storm frequency;
2. Submit an engineering technical report by August 7, 1997, including:
 - a) Information regarding existing holding pond capacity and accurate water balance calculations;
 - b) Proposed measures to eliminate roof storm water runoff discharge to waste disposal areas;
 - c) Proposed odor control measures for areas of waste disposal; and,
 - d) Propose a spent compost management plan to confirm compliance with Specification B.12.
3. Investigate and provide a report by November 1, 1997 detailing long-term corrective measures to prevent overflow and contain wastewater discharge and runoff from at least a 25 year/24 hour storm and 90 day wet weather storage capacity.
4. Investigate and provide a report by August 7, 1997 detailing installation of additional treatment systems to reduce pollutant concentrations in holding pond water.

5. Submit a geotechnical report by August 7, 1997 detailing:
 - a) Existing available hydrogeologic conditions of groundwater depth, direction of groundwater flow and existing groundwater quality;
 - b) Investigate installation of approved groundwater monitoring wells;
 - c) Investigate adverse groundwater quality impacts from waste disposal; and
 - d) Verify nitrogen application rates in spray disposal areas to ensure compliance with Specification B.8.
6. Submit a report by August 7, 1997, detailing existing and proposed water supply and quality of water used for structural fire fighting.

All technical and monitoring reports required in conjunction with his order are required pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code and shall include a statement by the Discharger certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the report is true, complete, and accurate. Geological, and hydrogeological reports and plans required by this Order shall be prepared, signed and stamped by a registered Geologist and/or a Certified Engineering Geologist. Engineering reports and plans required by this Order shall be prepared, signed and stamped by a qualified Registered Engineer. All required reports and plans shall include a time schedule for implementing proposed corrective measures which address compliance with Order 90-22.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDER MAY SUBJECT YOU TO FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ASSESSMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY UNDER SECTION 13268 AND 13350 OF THE WATER CODE AND REFERRAL TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY.

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 Executive Officer