

General Order for Wineries

Environmental management of State Water Board's revised general waste discharge requirements for wineries



California's State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is preparing General Waste Discharge Requirements (General Order) for winery process water treatment to streamline statewide permitting of winery process water discharges to land to achieve permitting consistency statewide. The General Order offers over 2,000 winery wastewater systems flexible compliance methods based on their size and potential for process water threat to water quality. The State Water Board anticipates over 1,300 wineries will enroll in this order, which regulates ponds, land application, and subsurface disposal systems.

The California League of Food Processors' Manual of Good Practice for Land Application (CLFP Manual of Good Practice), prepared by Brown and Caldwell (BC), provides precedence for the General Order and was used extensively during its development. Its approaches include compliance tiers; loading rates for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), nutrients, and salts; and standardized reporting and provide efficiency and flexibility for compliance with the General Order. **BC's Ron Crites, senior author of the CLFP Manual of Good Practice, also served as a land application and agronomic loading rates advisor to the State Water Board throughout the development process and suggested a risk-based approach to the tier structure based on the threat to water quality.**

To comply with the General Order, wineries will need to establish monitoring plans for constituent loading rates, pond operations, and groundwater monitoring. Technical reports will be required to expand or construct new treatment ponds, and nitrogen control and salinity control plans may also be required for larger wineries with groundwater monitoring systems.

BC helps you navigate General Order requirements by

- Preparing Notices of Intent
- Writing technical reports on nitrogen loading, BOD loading, and salinity control
- Advising on pond system sealing
- Preparing groundwater monitoring plans
- Enrolling in irrigated lands programs
- Developing pretreatment strategies
- Advising on surface versus subsurface disposal
- Negotiating with Regional Water Boards and local agencies
- Conducting cost-benefit analyses
- Preparing capital improvement plans
- Implementing and designing treatment systems



The General Order has adopted many of the agronomic and sustainable approaches that we developed for the CLFP Manual of Good Practice. These approaches provide flexibility in selecting crops with high nitrogen uptake and salt tolerance. They have served the industry well and have resulted in permits that can be achieved while protecting the environment.”

Ron Crites, PE

Land Application and
Agronomic Loading Rates
Subject Matter Expert
Brown and Caldwell

Office: Davis, California
530.204.5204 | rcrites@brncald.com



Services



Wastewater Treatment and Reuse

- Process design that provides greater value than many packaged systems
- Crop and vineyard irrigation reuse
- Natural systems treatment
- Treatability and feasibility studies
- Pretreatment solutions prior to sewer discharge
- Aerobic, anaerobic, fixed-film, and pond technologies



Groundwater Supply and Sustainability

- Water well design
- Supply water treatment
- Groundwater monitoring



Compliance and Permitting

- Permit applications
- Regulatory negotiations
- Compliance monitoring and reporting
- Air permitting and odor control



Air Quality

- Air permitting
- Odor control
- Greenhouse gas inventory
- Carbon footprinting



Sustainability Certification Assistance

- Metrics and monitoring
- LEED certification assistance
- Envision-based sustainable infrastructure implementation



Stormwater

- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
- Best management practices design and implementation
- Stormwater sampling and reporting



Facility Design and Construction

- Facility planning and design
- Grading
- Design-build
- Construction management

