

INFORMATION SHEET

VON BARGEN RANCH SEPTAGE DISPOSAL AREA GLENN COUNTY

Scott and Sandy Von Bargaen own and operate the Von Bargaen Septage Ranch Septage Disposal Area, located approximately 2 miles southeast of Artois in Glenn County. Septage haulers throughout Glenn County have transported domestic septage / wastewater to the 40-acre disposal area since at least 1975 and possibly since 1950. Historical disposal practices have consisted of lime stabilization to raise the pH to a minimum of 12.0 for one half hour for pathogen and vector prevention, followed by land application. Domestic septage is spread by septic trucks, which drive to the south end of the disposal area, where they turn around and open their discharge valve, and drive north while the septage is released. Current practices also include planting oat crops on half of the land application area each year during the fall. The oats are harvested during the spring and used as animal feed. The area where septage is land applied is moved and tilled with a disc about once every other month. The other half of the land that is planted is rotated each year.

In a 12 August 1975 letter, the Central Valley Water Board notified the Discharger (F.C. Von Bargaen) that submittal of an Application/Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) was waived on the condition that no nuisance or pollution develops and the county sanitarian regulates disposal at the site. On 26 June 1991, Central Valley Water Board staff inspected the Von Bargaen Ranch Disposal Site and concluded that operation of the septage disposal facility is subject to the regulations of Title 23, California Code of Regulations; and therefore requested submittal of an ROWD. The Discharger submitted an Application/ROWD on 10 September 1991, however the Application/ROWD was deemed incomplete, and Central Valley Water Board staff requested additional information by 25 November 1991, which was not received. Central Valley Water Board staff inspected the Von Bargaen Ranch on 18 March 2009 upon transfer of regulatory oversight to the Redding office of the Central Valley Water Board, and again requested an Application / ROWD for continued operation of the septage disposal site. Central Valley Regional Water Board staff received a 15 April 2010 Application / ROWD, which was deemed complete on 29 April 2010, following a 17 March 2010 staff letter stating that continued operations without Waste Discharge Requirements was subject to enforcement by the Executive Officer.

Approximately 700,000 gallons of septage were disposed at the Von Bargaen Ranch Septage Disposal area in 2009, averaging about 58,000 gallons per month. Based on reported nitrogen uptake rates for oats and native grasses (60 lbs N/acre/year), the maximum volume of septage that may be agronomically applied for oat growth equates to 23,000 gallons of septage/acre/year. Native grasses grow in the remaining half of the application area during the year. The nitrogen uptake rate for grasses is assumed to be similar to oats.

Static water level measurements in the on-site irrigations well shows groundwater at 40 feet below ground surface (ft bgs).

The average annual precipitation is 17.92 measured at the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) Willows 6W (WLO) station. The average annual evaporation is 50 to 60 inches according to the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 73-79.