

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 86-69

ORDER TO AMEND ORDER NO. 85-128
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR

MONTEREY MUSHROOMS, INC.
MORGAN HILL, SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter called the Board), finds that:

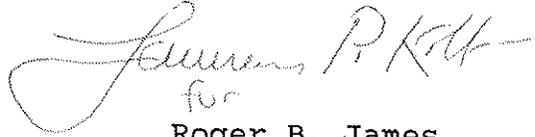
1. The Board, on November 20, 1985, adopted Order No. 85-128 prescribing waste discharge requirements for Monterey Mushrooms Inc., Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County.
2. This Board's Order No. 85-128 requires in Provision C.2 that Monterey Mushrooms Inc. (hereinafter called the discharger) cease, by November 1, 1986, discharge of wastewater containing total dissolved solids in excess of 500 mg/l, unless the discharge is to two evaporation ponds proposed to be constructed.
3. The discharger expected that the cost of the entire wastewater project, as described in the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) filed January 25, 1985 and supplemented by additional submittals of April 4, 1985, May 16, 1985, and August 9, 1985, would be under one million dollars. However, the bids they received for the two evaporation ponds alone are over one million dollars. This expense, when combined with engineering and other project costs, increases the total project cost to over two million dollars, more than twice the original cost estimate. An expenditure of that magnitude could seriously jeopardize the financial stability and existence of the company at this facility.
4. The discharger is requesting an extension of time from the November 1, 1986 compliance deadline to September 1, 1988, for the purpose of reevaluating the costs of alternative waste treatments relative to the cost of the proposed evaporation ponds.
5. Since its aquisition of the facility in 1983, the discharger has taken several steps aimed at preventing the degradation of groundwater by activities at the mushroom farm. The steps taken are as follows: (1) the addition of a wastewater recycling system in the compost production area of the farm, which eliminates high nitrate and TDS process water from the waste stream; (2) the collection, screening and hauling of wastewater (which had been entering Fisher Creek) to the disposal pond (as described in the ROWD); (3) the reduction of wastewater flow rates from 80,000 GPD to 40,000 GPD.

6. Monitoring wells have been installed to obtain groundwater quality data for water entering and leaving the site. The down gradient well is located near the existing wastewater disposal pond. Water quality data indicates that the continued operation of the disposal pond will not seriously impact groundwater quality during the requested extension time for compliance. Monitoring of the site will continue throughout the time extension period according to the Self-Monitoring Program issued with Order No. 85-128.
7. A negative declaration, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), was prepared for the project by the Santa Clara County Planning Department and certified by the Santa Clara County Planning Commission on October 18, 1985.
8. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin on July 1, 1982 and this Order implements the water quality objectives stated in that plan.
9. The Board Notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and to submit their written views and recommendations.
10. The Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 85-128 be amended as follows:

- A. Provision C.2 of Order No. 85-128 is hereby revised to read as follows:
 2. The discharger shall comply with Prohibition A.4 by September 1, 1988.
- B. The following shall be added as Provision C.12 of Order No. 85-128:
 12. The discharger shall, by September 1, 1987, report to the Board their decision either to operate or close the facility, based on an assessment of the feasibility of an economic method for wastewater treatment. This report shall, if necessary, include an amended Report of Waste Discharge that clearly outlines their waste management system, or provides for closure of the existing facilities.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on September 17, 1986.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Kelt", written in dark ink.

for
Roger B. James
Executive Officer