



**Del Monte Foods**  
*Growers of Good®*

## **Our Approach to Water and Effluents**

In many parts of the country, competing demands for water create stress in local and regional watersheds, particularly in the Southwest, western Great Plains, and parts of the Northwest. Our company, part of the food processing industry, relies heavily on water for agricultural products—from plant irrigation to produce washing to manufacturing. Agriculture uses 70% of the world's accessible freshwater supply, and many regions have reached their renewable water limits. Climate instability increases concerns about droughts and water pollution, making water scarcity a critical issue in agriculture. Sustainable water use is essential to maintain productivity and protect water resources.

Through our Double Materiality Assessment process, we identified various impacts, risks and opportunities associated with water and effluents. For example, inadequate management of water withdrawal and effluent discharges can lead to water scarcity, ecosystem degradation, and pollution of water bodies. Failure to manage water use and effluents effectively can result in regulatory non-compliance, legal penalties, and reputational damage.

By implementing sustainable water management practices, Del Monte Foods can enhance water efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and improve ecosystem health. Del Monte can improve water efficiency by optimizing its cleaning processes, reducing the amount of water used to chase products into drains in the processing area.

### **Our Commitments**

We are committed to reducing water consumption and improving water quality at our facilities and on our growers' farms, aiming to reduce water use by 1% annually versus a 2021 baseline. Our environmental health and safety team ensures compliance with policies, regulations, and best practices, focusing on wastewater and stormwater discharge requirements and optimizing water use.

In agriculture, we manage water resources to maximize efficiency, minimize pollution, and protect access to water. We evaluate risk based on water availability and quality, treating effluents to reduce pollution and continuously improving water management practices.

We actively manage water use in producing our products, aiming to reduce consumption and return clean water to watersheds. Our processing plants use water from municipal and well sources to wash and sanitize produce and equipment. With 78% of our facilities in high water stress areas, we capture and reuse water wherever possible, following strict protocols for healthy water use.

In California, where almost 40% of our finished products are produced, we face increased risks from droughts, floods, forest fires, and heat waves due to climate change. Our growers use various irrigation systems, including drip irrigation, to ensure a steady water supply. We promote water efficiency through measures such as selecting drought-resistant seeds.

### **Measuring Effectiveness**

Our processes include regular environmental audits, continuous monitoring of water usage, and collecting feedback from local farming communities. Our goals are to reduce water consumption and achieve specific water quality standards. We report progress, analyze data to assess improvements, and compare performance with baseline data. Lessons from audits refine our policies and procedures for continuous improvement.

**Community and Industry Engagement**

Our facilities manage water use and discharge with local governments and community groups. In agricultural communities, we rely on neighbors to help dispose of wastewater legally and ethically. For example, a local farmer in California uses our wastewater discharge to irrigate his land. Input from local communities and collaboration with environmental agencies ensure compliance and sustainable practices across our supply chain.