CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001738

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

SITE DETAILS

Site: **Liquats Vegetals - Viladrau**
Address: CTRA DE VIC KM 1.23, 17406, Viladrau, SPAIN
Contact Person: Andrea Eguiluz
AWS Reference Number: AWS-000463
Site Structure: Single Site

CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Core
Date of certification decision: 2025-Nov-03
Validity of certificate: 2028-Nov-02

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)
Audit Type(s): Re-Certification Audit
Audit Start Date: 2025-Sep-22
Audit End Date: 2025-Sep-24
Lead Auditor: Juan Gorostidi

Site Participants:
Andrea Eguiluz, Water Resources Manager
David Soler, Other

WSAS
2 Quality StreetNorth Berwick, EH39 4HW, UNITED KINGDOM

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the recertification audit, 1 non-conformity and 4 observations were raised.

The Client is requested to submit a root cause analysis and corrective actions for each of the non-conformities to WSAS within 7 days of receipt of the audit report, by 29 October 2025.

The non-conformities must be closed within 90 days of the end of the audit, by 24 December 2025. In order to meet this timeline evidence is to be submitted to WSAS (within 75 days) by 09 December 2025.

The audit team recommends re-certification of Liquats Vegetals - Viladrau at Core level pending closure of the non-conformity.

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Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the recertification audit for assessing conformity of Liquats Vegetals - Viladrau against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.

Liquats Vegetals is located at Vic Road, km 1.23, 17406 Viladrau, Girona (Spain), and is dedicated to the production and distribution of 100% plant-based beverages.

Its mission is to inspire healthy eating through an honest relationship with ingredients, people, and the environment, and to establish itself as a leading food company offering 100% plant-based and natural products that contribute to the well-being and happiness of its consumers.

The product portfolio includes a wide range of plant-based drinks made from oats, almonds, soy, walnuts, hazelnuts, coconut, and rice.

The facilities, processes, and outputs considered in the assessment include, among others:
- Raw material storage
- Production and packaging lines
- Finished product warehouse
- Well
- Sewage treatment plant
- Storage of chemical products and hazardous waste
- Discharge points
- Water tanks

The climate is Mediterranean mid-mountain with maritime influence, with average temperatures between 10 ºC and 14 ºC. However, in winter they can occasionally drop to -10 ºC, and in summer exceed 30 ºC.

From a hydrogeological perspective, granites have been determined to show permeabilities ranging between 1 and 18 m/day: 1 m/day in unaltered granite and up to 18 m/day in altered granites or saulons. Minimum transmissivity is 270 m²/day and maximum 1500 m²/day. Regarding the storage coefficient, values are 1% for unaltered granites and between 18% and 20% for saulons and alluvial granites.

Piezometry is consistent with the topography, with gradients ranging from 36% to 2%, generally draining towards the river courses.

In terms of surface hydrology, Viladrau's hydrographic network is structured around two main river systems: the Ter River basin (with the sub-basins of the Osor and Major streams) and the Tordera River basin (with the sub-basins of the Santa Coloma and Arbúcies streams). The headwaters of the Riera Major are formed on the northern slopes of Matagalls, and most of the waters flowing through the municipality drain into it. Among its tributaries are: the Vilar, Fàbregues, Font Savellà, and Sant Segimon streams on the left; and the Font de Matagalls, Erola, Coll Pregon, Clot de l'Extraño, and Les Corts streams (the latter receiving the Can Feliu stream) on the right.

Regarding underground hydrology, the municipality is partly included in the Montseny-Guilleries groundwater body (MAS-013), classified as having good quantitative status and predominantly consisting of unlinked free aquifers. It should be noted that Viladrau is not located over any protected aquifer, according to Decree 328/1968. The assessment of this groundwater body indicates more than 80 abstraction permits granted by the Catalan Water Agency, totaling over 740,000 m³/year. There is also evidence of surface water abstraction, mainly for agricultural, supply, and domestic use.

The audit was conducted onsite (field visit) and remotely (document review) on 22 to 24 of September 2025. The onsite site visit included the assessment of the following infrastructures:
- Raw material storage

- Laboratory
- Engineering Department
- Offices
- Water treatment unit
- Production and packaging plant
- Osmosis plant
- Brine tank
- Well water tank
- Boreholes for wells outside the site
- WASH facilities
- Company wastewater treatment plant
- Discharge point to the Riera Major
- Municipal wastewater treatment plant of Viladrau
- Riera Major (IWRA)
- Section of the river (Riera Major) where trout have been released to be used as bioindicators

FINDINGS

NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL

Non-Conformity	1
Observation	4

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001738

FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-020187
Checklist Item No:	Annoucement
Status:	Closed
Finding level:	Non-Conformity
Due date:	2025-Dec-24
Checklist item:	At least eight (8) weeks before the start date of the initial certification audit or the re-evaluation audit, AWS will publish on its website the dates of the assessment of the site(s) with the intention to pursue AWS (Re-)Certification. Stakeholder submissions are accepted from this date and during the entire period of validity of the AWS Certificate. Submissions, comments and/or feedback received by AWS will be shared with the CAB so the audit team may use the information for their investigations during the next audit. The site(s) seeking certification shall complete the Stakeholder Announcement Form found on the AWS website, and release it in at least two outlets: published in local language(s) on the site's website(s) and in a local media outlet (if applicable, economical, practical, and available) that is appropriate for the site and the related stakeholders (for example, local newspaper, radio, or websites).
Findings:	The site did not comply with the AWS Standard requirement regarding stakeholder announcement, which requires publication at least eight weeks in advance on the organization's website and in an appropriate local communication medium. The organization sent the announcement by email to stakeholders before the audit but did not publish it on its website or in any other local communication medium.
Corrective action:	Announcement posted in web site AWS Training done
Evidence of implementation:	https://liquats.com/compromesos/ Certificate of training

Finding No:	TNR-020821
Checklist Item No:	1.6.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.
Findings:	The site has identified a series of water-related challenges and objectives in the Water Management Plan (ver. 4, 2025). However, according to the plan's current structure, these challenges are not clearly distinguished between site-specific (internal) and shared (catchment-level) challenges. While several items —such as product water quality, process optimization, or water-to-product ratio reduction— relate primarily to internal operations, others —such as drought and increasing water scarcity, maintenance of ecological flow and conductivity in the Riera Major, and coordination with ACA and the Municipality— represent shared water challenges that affect the wider catchment. Shared water challenges are about challenges in the catchment that are shared between the site and one or more of its stakeholders. Internal challenges may be water risks.

Finding No:	TNR-020809
Checklist Item No:	2.3.2
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target: - How it will be measured and monitored - Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it - Planned timeframes to achieve it - Financial budgets allocated for actions - Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets - Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.
Findings:	The Water Management Plan defines objectives, actions, responsibilities, timelines, and allocated resources but some objectives lack quantifiable targets that allow the verification of progress in an objective manner.

Finding No:	TNR-020810
Checklist Item No:	2.4.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.
Findings:	A plan to mitigate or adapt to the identified water risks has been identified, developed in coordination with the relevant public sector and infrastructure agencies called PAU LIQUATS VEGETALS v2, but this plan, which is legally required to be updated in 28/04/2027 (approved 28/04/2023), has not included how to act in case of fire in the event of possible discharges into public watercourses. A specific emergency plan for the wastewater treatment plant has been included in the document 3.8_6. P-12.I Versión 3. This finding (which comes from the previous audit cycle) is kept as an observation because next year it would be necessary to check the evolution of this issue.

Finding No:	TNR-020822
Checklist Item No:	5.1.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	The site’s water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.
Findings:	Liquats Vegetals has a clearly defined internal governance structure for water management, including positions accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations. However, this information is not currently disclosed publicly, as required by AWS Indicator 5.1.1.

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WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Juan Gorostidi
Report approved by	Lorenzo Brioschi
Report approved on (Date)	13/10/2024

Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit
2026-Sep-01

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
	Finding No: TNR-020187
03/09/2025	Email sent to stakeholders

Catchment Information

BASIN_2.jpg

Catchment Information
The Liquats Vegetals plant is located in the municipality of Viladrau, in the county of Osona. It lies southwest of the town center of Viladrau, within the hydrological basin of the Torrent del Coll Pregon and the Sot del Noguer, which converge to form the Riera Major.
The waters collected by the Riera Major ultimately flow into the Ter River, becoming part of its hydrographic network.
The site is located within the Riera Major catchment, a sub-basin of the Ter River.
The catchment covers a total area of 13.8 km², draining the northern slopes of the Matagalls peak with an elevation difference of more than 1,000 meters (from 1,697 m to 657 m).
Land use in the catchment is predominantly forest and natural vegetation, with small urban and agricultural areas near Viladrau.
According to the Riera Major Basin Water Balance, the average annual runoff is approximately 2.81 hm³, and the renewable groundwater resources are estimated at 1.85 hm³/year, indicating a relatively well-balanced hydrological system with low anthropogenic pressure.

BASIN_1.jpg

Client Description and Site Details

Client/Site Background

Site Location

The Liquats Vegetals S.A. plant is located in the municipality of Viladrau, Osona County, Girona (Spain), on Vic Road km 1.23 (17406 Viladrau). The site lies within the Montseny Natural Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, in the catchment of the Riera Major.

Site Surroundings

The immediate surroundings are mainly natural and forested, with mountainous relief and elevation differences exceeding 1,000 meters. The Viladrau basin combines forested areas, small agricultural zones, and part of the town center. The site itself is an industrial area, but it is mostly surrounded by natural landscapes.

Production

Liquats Vegetals is dedicated to the production and distribution of 100% plant-based beverages. Its portfolio includes oat, almond, soy, rice, coconut, hazelnut, and walnut drinks. Water is used as a key ingredient in product formulations, and also for equipment and facility cleaning, steam generation in boilers, and cooling through cooling towers.

Water-Related Infrastructure

Water sources: connection to the Viladrau municipal supply network (SOREA-Agbar), own wells (1.3 and 1.4), and, during periods of high demand, complementary supply via external tankers.

Water treatment: in-house potabilization plant with filtration, softening, and chlorination/dechlorination.

Production use: water used as an ingredient, in thermal processes, and in homogenizers.

Energy use: water for boilers and cooling towers, with legionella control plans and biocide treatment.

Wastewater treatment: own WWTP managed by Veolia since late 2024, including tertiary treatment and water regeneration.

Cooling towers: equipped with legionella monitoring and cleaning plans.

Rainwater infrastructure: collection and drainage network connected to the WWTP.

Stormwater management: separation and channeling systems into the Riera Major.

Fire water: hydrant systems and updated self-protection plans.

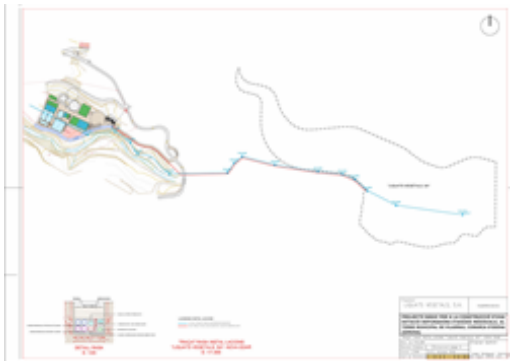
Other: internal storage tanks and SCADA system for flow monitoring and control.

Wastewater and Stormwater Discharge

Process and sanitary wastewater is treated at the on-site WWTP and then discharged into the Riera Major, meeting legal requirements. Stormwater is collected and directed through drainage systems into nearby natural watercourses, with contingency measures in case of incidents.

Short Site Description

The plant employs approximately 250 people. The built-up area covers around 25,000 m², including production, packaging, storage, offices, and auxiliary services. It is a single-site operation, managed under an integrated quality, environmental, and food safety system.



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Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges
Liquats Vegetals has identified ten water-related challenges that guide its water stewardship strategy. These challenges reflect both operational needs at site level and shared issues within the Riera Major catchment, where the company operates.

Challenges have been classified as either site-level, when they relate exclusively to internal operations, or shared water challenges, when they involve other stakeholders within the catchment—such as the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), the Municipality of Viladrau, CERM (Center for the Study of Mediterranean Rivers), suppliers, and local environmental organizations.
Site-level challenges
1. Ensure water quality according to the requirements and needs of our products.

2. Optimization of water consumption. Reduction of the water ratio.

Shared water challenges
3. Increase the capacity for wastewater treatment.

4. Develop and invest in a more sustainable water supply system, prioritizing groundwater supply.

5. Increasing communication regarding water stewardship.

6. Know the status of the aquifer and monitor the impact of LV supply.

7. Have data on water use in the process of cultivation of raw materials.

8. Ensure the good biological status of the stream and nearby ecosystems.

9. Acquire knowledge about important areas in order to identify points for their conservation and improvement.
10. Collaborate in the maintenance and good functioning of the municipal water supply network.

0.0.1	Water Source & Discharge Locations

0.01 *Have any water source or discharge locations been visited during the audit, if so, which and where? If none were visited, please provide justification.*

Yes

Comment

Several water sources and discharge locations were visited during the audit. These included:

The company's water treatment unit and osmosis plant

Brine tank and well water tank

Boreholes for wells located outside the site

The company's wastewater treatment plant

The discharge point to the Riera Major

The municipal wastewater treatment plant of Viladrau

The Riera Major itself (identified as an Important Water-Related Area), including the section where trout have been released as bioindicators

Other facilities visited as part of the site tour included raw material storage, the laboratory, the engineering department, offices, WASH facilities, and the production and packaging plant.

1	STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND

1.1 *Gather information to define the site's physical scope for water stewardship purposes, including: its operational boundaries; the water sources from which the site draws; the locations to which the site returns its discharges; and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and upon which it is reliant.*

1.1.1 *The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including:*
- Site boundaries;
- Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;
- Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;
- Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source;
- Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;
- Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.

Yes

Comment

The Liquats Vegetals site is located in the municipality of Viladrau (Girona), Osona County, within the Montseny Natural Park area. The facility covers approximately 25,000 m², including production, packaging, storage, offices, its own wastewater treatment plant, and auxiliary services.

During this audit, documentation regarding abstractions, internal networks, and facility maps was reviewed, confirming that the site includes:

Water infrastructure: an internal piping network managed by the company, connecting supply sources with production, energy (boilers and cooling towers), cleaning, safety, and wastewater treatment. Water use is monitored via a SCADA control system.

Own sources: two groundwater wells (1.3 and 1.4), authorized by the Catalan Water Agency, available to supplement supply.

Water service provider: the Viladrau municipal network (SOREA-Agbar), which is the primary supply. External tanker supply is available as a contingency measure.

Wastewater treatment and discharge: the on-site WWTP, managed by Veolia since late 2024, treats both industrial and sanitary wastewater before discharge into the Riera Major.

Catchment: the facility is located within the Riera Major catchment, a tributary of the Ter River basin, which it relies on for groundwater supply and treated effluent discharge.

The following documents were reviewed:

Facility maps of supply, wastewater, and stormwater networks

All information required under this indicator was found to be available and up to date.

1.2 *Understand relevant stakeholders, their water related challenges, and the site's ability to influence beyond its boundaries.*

1.2.1 *Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified. This process shall:*
- Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people;
- Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;
- Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges;
- Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups;
- Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence.

Yes

Comment

The process for identifying and managing water-related stakeholders was reviewed. The information was confirmed in the following documents:

The identification process includes:

Inclusive coverage of the main stakeholder groups: public authorities (ACA, Viladrau Municipality), environmental and conservation entities (CERM, associations linked to Montseny Natural Park), local community, suppliers, customers, employees, and service providers (Veolia, SOREA-Agbar).

Consideration of the site's physical scope, including stakeholders connected to the Riera Major catchment (ultimate groundwater supply source and receiving water body for effluent).

Evidence of consultation and regular communication, reflected in the 2025 communication calendar, which establishes meetings, information exchanges, and reporting with the different groups.

Acknowledgement of variable participation, noting that the degree of involvement depends on the interest and capacity of each group (e.g., regulatory authorities with high influence, local community with medium interest, suppliers with specific interest).

Classification by level of interest and influence, enabling prioritization of stakeholder management and engagement type (information, consultation, collaboration).

It is confirmed that the site maintains a structured system for stakeholder engagement in water-related issues, with an inclusive approach and adapted to different levels of interest and influence.

1.2.2 *Current and potential degree of influence between site and stakeholder shall be identified, within the catchment and considering the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body for wastewater.*

Yes

Comment	The identification of the current and potential degree of influence between the site and relevant stakeholders was verified. This assessment considered the physical scope of the site, the Riera Major catchment, groundwater supply, and the receiving body for wastewater. The analysis is based on the stakeholder mapping documents (Ubicació Stakeholders, Stakeholders + Calendari Comunicació 2025) and the Importance Stakeholders file. These establish levels of interest and influence, allowing prioritization of stakeholder relationships. High influence: Public administrations and regulatory bodies such as the Catalan Water Agency, the Viladrau Municipality, and the Montseny Natural Park. These actors have direct decision-making power over concessions, discharges, and environmental regulations. Medium-high influence: Environmental entities and local associations (Grup de Defensa del Ter, Associació Aigua i Natura, Grup Naturalistes d'Osona, CERM, Clúster de l'Aigua), which exert social and technical pressure on the conservation of the Riera Major ecosystem. Medium influence: Service companies (Veolia, SOREA-Agbar), responsible for operations related to water supply and treatment. Low to medium influence: Local community, consumers, and employees, whose influence is indirect but relevant in terms of perception and social legitimacy. Key private stakeholders: strategic clients (Nestlé and other multinational food companies), which set expectations regarding environmental performance and reputation. It is confirmed that the site has mapped and classified stakeholders according to their current and potential degree of influence, ensuring an assessment aligned with the catchment reality and shared water challenges.
1.3	*Gather water-related data for the site, including: water balance; water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, water governance, WASH; water-related costs, revenues, and shared value creation.*
1.3.1	*Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified.* ✓ Yes

Comment

The site has several specific plans for managing water-related incidents, covering both drinking water and wastewater, and integrated into the regulatory self-protection framework (Decree 30/2015 and sector-specific regulations).

The documents reviewed during this audit include:

The reviewed plans include:

Drinking water emergency response: activation protocols, communication with authorities, use of alternative sources (own wells, tankers), water quality monitoring during emergencies, and measures to protect facilities.

Wastewater treatment plant emergency plan: procedures to contain spills, activate valves and redirect flows to the WWTP, with physical containment measures and immediate communication to the Catalan Water Agency and local authorities in case of impact on the Riera Major.

Self-Protection Plan (PAU): a comprehensive document of over 300 pages including risk identification, emergency action manual, communication directories, evacuation maps, action sheets, and safety data sheets. It addresses specific emergencies such as fires, chemical spills, floods, power failures, and water contamination.

Preventive and recovery measures: emergency resource inventory, drills, staff training, continuous communication with key stakeholders, and post-incident recovery plans (damage assessment, post-emergency audit, and plan improvement).

It is confirmed that the site has a structured and up-to-date system of water-related incident response plans, covering both drinking water supply security and wastewater treatment and discharge emergency management.

1.3.2 *Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped*

Yes

Comment

Information on water inflows, losses, storage, and outflows was reviewed. The main documents analyzed were:

Inflows:

Storage:
On-site storage tanks (ACU1 and others) regulate supply and enable blending to ensure quality (e.g., diluting groundwater with municipal water).

Consumption and internal losses:
Water is used as a key ingredient in production, equipment cleaning, boilers, cooling towers, and auxiliary services. Minor losses occur in cooling towers and boiler evaporation.

Outflows:

Overall balance:

It is confirmed that the site has identified, quantified, and mapped its water balance, including inflows, storage, consumption, losses, and outflows.

1.3.3 *Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.*

Yes

Comment	The quantified water balance of the site was reviewed, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows. Data is drawn from internal monitoring and consolidated 2024–2025 balances. Storage: On-site tanks such as ACU1 allow regulation and blending to ensure water quality and supply security. Consumption and losses: Water as the main ingredient in plant-based beverages. Auxiliary processes: boilers, cooling towers, equipment cleaning. Estimated losses: mainly from evaporation in boilers and cooling towers. Outflows: Annual variance: The most significant fluctuations are linked to drought events and reduced municipal network flows, forcing heavy use of external tanker supply and affecting both costs and water footprint. The water balance is quantified, and it highlights both the stability of flows and the variances caused by water- and climate-related risks. The site maintains control over inflows and outflows, but its main challenge remains the high dependence on external supply in summer and the need to increase the reuse of treated wastewater.	
1.3.4	*Water quality of the site's water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be quantified.*	Yes

Comment

Water quality was reviewed for supply sources, on-site provided water, treated effluent, and the receiving body (Riera Major). Reviewed documents included control plans, recent analyses (April–May 2025), monitoring calendars, and specific contaminant studies.

Sources and supply water

Municipal network (SOREA-Agbar): consistently compliant with RD 3/2023 for drinking water, no relevant exceedances.

ACU1 tank (April 2025): compliant with regulatory limits, no significant exceedances.

Process and reclaimed water

Reclaimed water from the WWTP monitoring (2024) confirms compliance with microbiological and Legionella criteria, validating its use in auxiliary services.

Treated effluent (WWTP)

Monitoring in 2024–2025 shows effluent compliant with legal discharge parameters (nutrients, suspended solids, COD), though conductivity values increased under low summer flow conditions.

Receiving body (Riera Major)

Biological monitoring by CERM (2024) shows recovery of ecological status after the 2021–2023 drought, reaching levels similar to pre-drought conditions.

Seasonal stress events remain, with higher nutrient and temperature values downstream of the WWTP discharge point in summer.

Annual and seasonal variances

Most variability occurs in summer, with higher conductivity and temperature in both effluent and the Riera Major.

Groundwater shows stable pH, turbidity, and salts, but geogenic contaminants (uranium, fluoride) remain structurally high, requiring continuous management.

Reclaimed water quality and volumes remain stable, with expansion planned for 2025.

Water quality has been quantified for all sources, provided water, effluent, and the receiving body. The main challenges identified are geogenic contamination in groundwater (fluoride and uranium) and seasonal variability in effluent and Riera Major (temperature, conductivity), both requiring ongoing monitoring and corrective measures.

1.3.5 *Potential sources of pollution shall be identified and if applicable, mapped, including chemicals used or stored on site.*

Yes

Comment

Potential sources of pollution at the Viladrau site were identified and reviewed, covering both internal site activities and external risks in the Riera Major catchment.

On-site sources

Chemical storage: inventory of substances used in cleaning, water treatment, and wastewater operations (sulfuric acid, caustic soda, biocides, coagulants). These are stored in tanks and IBCs with containment bunds and safety signage.

Fuel and gas storage: propane tank and boilers at the WWTP.

WWTP and reclaimed water system: potential pollution from treatment chemicals and by-products.

Cooling towers and boilers: potential chemical pollution (biocides) and biological risks (Legionella).

Hazardous waste management: temporary storage of sludge, oils, and contaminated packaging, handled by authorized waste managers.

External catchment sources

Emerging contaminants: identified in the 2025–2027 Water Strategic Plan and in the Study of contaminants in wastewater. These include pesticides, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, plasticizers, microplastics, and disinfection by-products.

Rising salinity: linked to agricultural, livestock, and industrial activities downstream in the catchment.

Urban wastewater discharges: insufficiently treated sewage identified as a punctual risk in Riera Major monitoring reports.

Control measures

Updated chemical inventories in the Self-Protection Plan (PAU) and emergency plans.

Bunded and secured storage areas with periodic inspections.

Emergency response procedures for spills, leaks, and fires (PAU Liquats Vegetals and WWTP Emergency Plan).

Regular monitoring of process, reclaimed, and receiving waters for pollutants.

It is confirmed that the site has identified and mapped potential sources of pollution, both internal and external, and has specific management and response measures in place. The main challenges identified in 2025 are the presence of emerging contaminants in the catchment and the need to strengthen monitoring of chemical and radiological parameters in groundwater.

1.3.6 *On-site Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified and mapped, including a description of their status including Indigenous cultural values.*

Yes

Comment	During the 2025 recertification audit, Document IWRA was reviewed, where Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs) associated with the Viladrau site are identified and described. The recognized IWRAs are: Riera Major: the stream bordering the plant and the authorized discharge point for treated effluent. It is an area of special interest due to its biodiversity and as habitat for sensitive species such as brown trout (Salmo trutta). Monitoring continues on riparian woodland quality, river habitat quality, and biological water quality through macroinvertebrate studies. Montseny Natural Park: a protected natural area recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1978. Part of the park is included in the Natura 2000 Network, although the Liquats Vegetals site is located outside this boundary. Compared to last year, the information has been updated regarding the ecological status of the IWRAs, with recent monitoring data showing: Riparian woodland: rated as very good quality. River habitat: assessed as good quality. Biological water quality: classified as very good. It is confirmed that the IWRAs have been identified, mapped, and evaluated in terms of conservation status, with updated information provided in 2025.	
1.3.7	*Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, cultural, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be identified and used to inform the evaluation of the plan in 4.1.2.*	Yes

Comment	The identification of water-related costs and revenues was verified, along with the social, cultural, environmental, and economic value generated by the site's water management. Monitoring and compliance: costs associated with sampling programs (SINAC, APPCC, reclaimed, effluent, and receiving body), regulatory compliance, and emergency preparedness. Water-related revenues / benefits Indirect economic value: water security ensures stable production of plant-based beverages, safeguarding business revenues. Efficiency and reuse: reclaimed water use represents potential medium-term savings compared to expensive tanker supply. Water-to-product ratio reduction: improves competitiveness and environmental reputation with strategic clients (Nestlé, multinationals). Social, cultural, and environmental value generated Social: cooperation with Viladrau Municipality in maintaining the public water network, and community benefits through local employment (250 staff). Environmental: monitoring and improvement actions in the Riera Major (nutrient, temperature, and conductivity reduction). Cultural: preservation of local water heritage (springs, traditional uses in Montseny) and participation in conservation projects (e.g., Trout Project). It is confirmed that the site has identified and quantified direct and indirect water-related costs, economic benefits, and the social, cultural, and environmental values generated. This information informs the evaluation of the plan in section 4.1.2 of the AWS standard.
1.3.8	*Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified.* ✓ Yes

Comment	Document WASH was reviewed together with the self-protection plan and SINAC monitoring data. Management maintains an explicit commitment to ensuring access to safe drinking water and maintaining adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities. Access to drinking water Drinking water is supplied by the municipal network and regularly monitored under RD 3/2023. The plant has 8 drinking fountains located in different work areas. Analytical results from 2024–2025 confirm compliance of drinking water quality at points of consumption. Sanitation facilities Regulations require 25 toilets for 35 men and 15 toilets for 21 women employed at the site (including permanent, temporary, and interns). The site provides 7 showers for men and 6 for women, meeting basic requirements though with room for improvement compared to regulatory standards. Toilets and showers are distributed across offices, production, and locker areas, and are maintained in proper sanitary condition. Workplace hygiene The use of masks, sanitizers, and safe toilet conditions was verified during plant visits. Handwashing stations with soap and disposable towels are available in key areas. Hygiene protocols are aligned with IFS and BRC certifications, supported by General Hygiene Plans (pest control, waste management, cleaning, and good manufacturing practices). Added value in WASH Through proper discharge management and prevention of contamination events in the Riera Major catchment, the company contributes to maintaining water quality and hygiene conditions for other resource users. It is confirmed that all employees have safe and adequate access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. The 2025 information updates what was reported in previous years, confirming full compliance with the WASH indicator.	
1.4	*Gather data on the site's indirect water use, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs (where they can be identified); and water used in out-sourced water-related services.*	
1.4.1	*The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level of water risk within the site's catchment, shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

Information on the embedded water use of primary inputs was reviewed. No substantial changes have been identified compared to the previous year.

The company has identified and analyzed its main agricultural raw materials (oats, almonds, soy, rice, coconut, hazelnut, and walnut) in terms of embedded water consumption at origin and risks related to quantity, quality, and availability. Almond and soy continue to be considered the inputs with the highest water footprint and risk at origin.

In addition, regarding the local catchment, the analysis of service and product suppliers within the Riera Major basin, where the site is located, has been reviewed:

On-site service providers: cleaning and maintenance companies (TAC OSONA - PULIT, ADBOSCH), whose consumption is considered direct, as it uses the site's own water.

Product suppliers without water use: companies such as Herogra and Soluciones Eficientes Agua, which supply products but do not manufacture or process within the catchment.

External service providers with water use: laundry service (UNINET SERVICE) and water transport (TRANSPORTS CODINA), which use water in their processes (e.g., tanker cleaning).

Raw material and packaging suppliers: located outside the basin, with significant water consumption in their own processes, but not linked to the Riera Major catchment.

Water supplier: SOREA.

Finally, sanitary water is the only water sent to the Viladrau municipal WWTP, while all other effluents are treated in the site's own WWTP.

The identification of primary inputs and water-related suppliers is documented and up to date. It is confirmed that there have been no substantial changes compared to 2024, and the site maintains its assessment of embedded water use both in agricultural raw materials and in suppliers and services linked to the Riera Major catchment.

1.4.2 *The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site's catchment, quantified.*

Yes

Comment

Indirect water consumption from outsourced services was reviewed. The information is documented in the supplier analysis (Serveis externs consum d'aigua).

It was confirmed that the relevant services within the Riera Major catchment, where the site is located, remain the same as previously identified:

TRANSPORTS CODINA: responsible for water transport by tankers, with consumption linked to periodic cleaning of tanks.

Service providers with indirect water consumption in their operations.

UNINET SERVICE: laundry service for workwear, with its own water use.

For 2025, an improvement action in the laundry service (UNINET SERVICE) was documented, achieving a reduction of approximately 25% in water consumption through the implementation of new efficiency measures.

The site has identified outsourced services with water consumption within the catchment and, in the case of laundry, has quantified and improved efficiency. No changes in the relevant service providers were identified, but a reduction in consumption was confirmed for one of them.

1.5 *Gather water-related data for the catchment, including water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH*

1.5.1 *Water governance initiatives shall be identified, including catchment plan(s), water-related public policies, major publicly-led initiatives under way, and relevant goals to help inform site of possible opportunities for water stewardship collective action.*

Yes

Comment

The main water governance initiatives in the Riera Major catchment and Viladrau area were identified. The review was based on the following documents:

Catchment plans and public policies

Improvement of Puigdot sector surface catchments (Viladrau): project presented by Viladrau Municipality and approved by the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), aimed at optimizing municipal supply and increasing registered volumes. Liquats Vegetals participates together with the municipality and SOREA. A formal agreement was signed on 23/02/2023 between the company and the municipality (Inventari iniciatives públiques gobernança aigua.xlsx).

Ter river basin and Riera Major sub-catchment plans: documented in the water balance and quality reports.

Scientific and collaborative initiatives

Collaboration with the Mediterranean Rivers Study Centre (CERM, University of Vic): launched in 2023 and ongoing in 2025, providing scientific monitoring of water quality, habitats, and biodiversity in the Riera Major (Inventari iniciatives públiques gobernança aigua.xlsx).

Conservation projects in the Riera Major:

Reduction of nutrients, temperature, and conductivity in WWTP effluent.

Trout Project: study of river connectivity and translocation of Mediterranean brown trout in the upper Riera Major.

Relevant goals identified

Improve the ecological status of the Riera Major, with biological quality indicators rated “good to very good”.

Reduce critical parameters in effluent (nutrients, conductivity, temperature) to safeguard sensitive species.

Advance shared water governance with public authorities, service providers, and the scientific community.

It is confirmed that the site participates in public and collaborative governance initiatives at catchment level, including restoration, supply optimization, and ecological conservation projects, aligned with the shared water challenges of the Riera Major.

1.5.2 *Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights.*

Yes

Comment

During the 2025 recertification audit, it was confirmed that the site maintains an updated inventory of legal requirements through the ASECORP database, which centralizes the identification and monitoring of applicable regulations.

No legal non-compliances related to water were detected during the audit. The implemented system enables the company to be notified of new legal requirements and to manage deadlines for compliance, ensuring continuous traceability and conformity.

1.5.3 *The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.*

Yes

Comment

The Balanç hídric Conca Riera Major.pdf and the Viladrau rainfall historical series.pdf were reviewed, providing quantification of the catchment water balance and annual and seasonal variance.

Catchment water balance

The Riera Major catchment, a tributary of the Ter, is characterized by flow regimes dependent on local rainfall.

The historical rainfall series shows average annual values of around 1,200–1,300 mm, with significant interannual variability.

From 2021 to 2023, significant precipitation deficits and low flows were recorded, which affected the river's ecological status.

In 2024, rainfall returned to normal historical levels, with improvement in biological and physico-chemical indicators.

Scarcity and variance

Annual: in 2024 the hydrological balance of the catchment returned close to its long-term mean, following three years of drought.

Seasonal: vulnerability remains highest in summer, with reduced flows, higher temperature and conductivity, directly affecting the Riera Major and sensitive species (e.g., brown trout).

The 2025–2027 strategic plan identifies increasing salinity risk and the persistence of emerging contaminants as additional threats to water balance.

It is confirmed that the catchment water balance is quantified and documented, including annual and seasonal variances. The main risks remain recurrent drought, seasonal flow variability, and increasing pressure on water quality.

1.5.4 *Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be identified, and where possible, quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment	Information on water quality in the Riera Major catchment was reviewed. Physico-chemical and biological status of the Riera Major Physico-chemical parameters: the Riera Major is a low-mineralization catchment (150–200 µS/cm at the headwaters). At the WWTP discharge point, conductivity increases, especially in summer, due to reduced flows. Occasional summer peaks exceed 22 ºC, impacting sensitive species such as brown trout (Salmo trutta). Nutrients: monitoring shows that phosphates, nitrites, and ammonium are generally within acceptable limits, though peaks are observed in summer downstream of the WWTP. Biological status: assessments using IBMWP, IASPT, and IHF indices by CERM rate water biological quality as very good, river habitat quality as good, and riparian woodland as very good quality. Annual and seasonal variances Annual: the 2021–2023 drought reduced flows and affected biological indicators; in 2024, with rainfall recovery, indices returned to pre-drought levels. Seasonal: summer remains the most vulnerable period, with increased temperature, conductivity, and nutrient concentrations, impacting aquatic fauna and river connectivity. Challenges identified in 2025 Managing increased conductivity during low-flow periods. Reducing summer effluent temperature, which exceeds critical thresholds for salmonid species. Mitigating nutrient concentrations in the receiving stretch. Addressing emerging contaminants (pesticides, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, microplastics), identified. It is confirmed that water quality in the Riera Major catchment is identified and quantified in its physico-chemical and biological aspects. The main challenges occur in the summer season, with critical variances in temperature, conductivity, and nutrients, together with emerging risks from non-traditional contaminants. There is no water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment	
1.5.5	*Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped,and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement.*	Yes

Comment	The Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs) in the catchment associated with the site were identified. The two main IWRAs are: Riera Major The stream bordering the plant and the authorized discharge point of the on-site WWTP. Of high ecological and biological value, hosting sensitive species such as brown trout (Salmo trutta) and Mediterranean barbel (Barbus meridionalis). Its status is assessed using water quality, river habitat (IHF), and riparian woodland (QBR) indices, with scientific monitoring by CERM. Ecological status is rated good to very good, although summer brings threats linked to reduced flows, higher temperature, increased conductivity, and occasional nutrient presence. Specific improvement actions are underway, including nutrient, temperature, and conductivity reduction, as well as the Trout Project for connectivity restoration and Mediterranean trout translocation. Montseny Natural Park A protected natural area, recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1978. Part of the park is included in the Natura 2000 Network, although the Liquats Vegetals site is located in the transition zone, outside the Natura 2000 boundary. Considered important due to its ecological, cultural, and hydrological values, with functions of hydrological regulation and ecosystem conservation. Overall status is favorable, though long-term threats include climate change and increasing human pressure. It is confirmed that the site's IWRAs have been identified, mapped, and assessed regarding their conservation status, including current and future threats to both ecosystems and water users.	
1.5.6	*Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.*	Yes

Comment

During the 2025 recertification audit, existing and planned water-related infrastructure at the site and its surroundings was reviewed, including its condition and exposure to extreme events. Information was drawn from emergency and incident response plans (Emergency Response Plan, PAU Liquats Vegetals v2, WWTP Emergency Plan), balances, and strategic plans.

Existing infrastructure

Groundwater wells: wells 1.3 and 1.4 are active, with valid ACA permits.

Water storage tanks (ACU1 and others): ensure storage and blending of waters to guarantee quality and supply continuity.

External supply network: connection to the municipal system (SOREA-Agbar) and complementary supply via tankers.

Drinking water treatment system: chlorination, filtration, and analytical control under the Self-Control and Potable Water Control Plans.

On-site WWTP: operated by Veolia, with biological and tertiary treatment, including reclaimed water production.

Sewage and stormwater networks: updated plant maps identify discharge points, stormwater collection, and chemical storage areas with containment bunds.

Cooling towers and boilers: critical infrastructure for consumption and Legionella risk, managed under monitoring and cleaning protocols.

Firefighting system: firewater network and associated equipment.

Planned infrastructure

Expansion of reclaimed water system: scheduled for 2025.

Municipal project for improvement of Puigdot surface catchments: in collaboration with Viladrau Municipality and SOREA to optimize local supply.

Condition and exposure to extreme events

Infrastructure is in good condition, supported by preventive maintenance programs (tank inspections, WWTP equipment calibration, well monitoring).

Main risks are linked to prolonged droughts, which increase reliance on external tankers and reduce Riera Major flows.

Heavy rainfall events may cause WWTP overflow and stormwater network saturation, addressed in emergency plans.

The location in the transition zone of the Montseny Natural Park lowers flood risks but increases exposure to regulatory and conservation constraints.

The site has identified existing and planned water-related infrastructure, assessed its condition, and evaluated vulnerabilities to extreme events. Systems are robust, though reliance on external supply and drought impacts remain significant risks.

1.5.7 *The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The adequacy of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services available in the catchment was reviewed.

Drinking water supply

Urban supply in Viladrau is managed by SOREA-Agbar, with local catchments and external reinforcements (e.g., tankers loaded at Aiguaneu).

The Puigdot surface catchments improvement project (approved by ACA in 2023 and ongoing in 2025) aims to optimize municipal supply and increase availability.

Supply complies with quality standards established under RD 3/2023 for drinking water, with systematic monitoring through the SINAC system.

Sanitation and wastewater treatment

Viladrau municipality has its own WWTP for urban wastewater, which also treats sanitary water from the site.

Industrial effluents are treated in the Liquats Vegetals on-site WWTP, helping to avoid overloading the municipal system.

Hygiene and public health

Municipal services include supply, sanitation, and health monitoring programs, ensuring adequate hygiene conditions for the local population.

No major structural deficits in WASH coverage have been identified, aside from vulnerabilities during drought periods that require external tanker reinforcements.

WASH services in the catchment are adequate in terms of supply, sanitation, and hygiene, reinforced by ongoing improvement projects (Puigdot). The main limitation remains water availability during drought periods, which affects both the municipality and the site.

1.6 *Understand current and future shared water challenges in the catchment, by linking the water challenges identified by stakeholders with the site's water challenges.*

1.6.1 *Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.*

Obs.

Comment	The Document was reviewed, where shared water challenges are identified and prioritized, based on information gathered at the site, within the catchment, and from stakeholders. Shared water challenges identified and prioritized: Ensuring water quality in line with product requirements, regulations, and consumer needs. Increasing wastewater treatment and reclamation capacity, with the aim of expanding reclaimed water reuse on site. Developing a more sustainable supply system, with greater reliance on local and groundwater resources, reducing dependence on external tankers. Strengthening communication and collaboration in water governance, with authorities, the local community, and the scientific sector. Optimizing water consumption, reducing the water-to-product ratio towards more stringent international benchmarks. Monitoring aquifer status, assessing the impact of abstractions on local availability. Gathering data on water use in raw material cultivation, particularly for high-water-footprint crops (e.g., soy, almond). Ensuring good biological status of the Riera Major and associated ecosystems, with measures on nutrients, temperature, and conductivity. Identifying and conserving areas of high ecological value, such as riparian forest and Montseny Natural Park. Collaborating in the maintenance of the municipal supply network, ensuring proper operation and long-term sustainability. The Water Management Plan ver 4 confirms that shared water challenges have been updated, identified, and prioritized according to their environmental, social, and economic relevance, in coordination with catchment stakeholders.
1.6.2	*Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.* ✓ Yes

Comment

Initiatives implemented and planned by the site to address shared water challenges were identified.

Key initiatives:

Water quality improvement:

Implementation of self-control programs for drinking water (RD 3/2023, SINAC).

Joint monitoring with ACA and CERM of physico-chemical and biological parameters in the Riera Major.

Reduction measures for nutrients, conductivity, and temperature in the WWTP effluent, documented in 360 Water Cycle Liquats.

Increased treatment and reuse capacity:

Expansion of the reclaimed water plant.

Use of reclaimed water for auxiliary services (cooling towers, industrial cleaning), reducing dependence on municipal and tanker supply.

Supply resilience and security:

Puigdot surface catchments improvement project, led by Viladrau Municipality and approved by ACA.

Internal storage tanks (ACU1) used for regulation and blending, ensuring supply continuity and quality.

Water use optimization:

Reduction of the water-to-product ratio.

Efficiency measures in cleaning processes and reuse, documented.

Ecosystem and biodiversity protection:

Development of the Trout Project: river connectivity improvement and Mediterranean trout translocation in the Riera Major.

Conservation of riparian woodland, assessed with QBR and IHF indices, rated as very good quality.

Governance and collaboration:

Agreement with CERM (University of Vic) for scientific monitoring of the Riera Major's ecological status.

Participation in public governance projects identified.

Collaboration with Viladrau Municipality and SOREA in maintaining the municipal water supply network.

The site has identified and implemented multiple initiatives to address shared water challenges, through an integrated approach covering quality, quantity, efficiency, governance, and biodiversity. These actions are documented.

1.7 *Understand the site's water risks and opportunities: Assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 1.6.*

1.7.1 *Water risks faced by the site shall be identified, and prioritized, including likelihood and severity of impact within a given timeframe, potential costs and business impact.*

Yes

Comment

Hazard analyses were reviewed for both reclaimed water and potable water.

The Hazard Analysis of Reclaimed Water identifies microbiological risks (pathogenic bacteria, Legionella, viruses, protozoa), chemical risks (trihalomethanes, chlorates, pesticides, metals, acrylamide, mycotoxins, among others), and physical risks (membrane rupture, machinery parts, human error), as well as intentional sabotage and radiological risks. The likelihood of occurrence in all cases is assessed as very low, while severity can be high in some scenarios. The established control systems (UV, RO, chlorination, AOP, maintenance plans, training, automated alarms) effectively mitigate risks, keeping them at acceptable levels.

The Hazard Analysis of Potable Water concludes that the main risks for municipal supply, own wells, and external tankers are related to microbiological contamination, chemical hazards (heavy metals, pesticides, chlorine residuals), physical hazards (foreign matter), and radiological risks. In all cases, the level of risk is classified as low thanks to preventive measures: drinking water control plans, daily chlorine checks, filtration, preventive and corrective maintenance, closed systems minimizing sabotage, and Food Defense procedures.

Risk prioritization:

Microbiological risks (bacterial growth, Legionella, parasites) → very low likelihood, high severity → minor risk.

Chemical risks (disinfection by-products, agricultural contaminants, metals) → very low likelihood, moderate/high severity → minor risk.

Physical and radiological risks → very low likelihood, moderate severity → acceptable risk.

Sabotage or human error → very low likelihood, very high severity → minor risk.

The site has identified, assessed, and prioritized water risks through HACCP and PRP methodologies, determining that all risks are under control with the preventive measures applied. No uncontrolled significant risks were detected.

1.7.2 *Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.*

Yes

Comment	The document was reviewed, which compiles the identification and assessment of water-related opportunities, including likelihood, impact, significance, treatment, and assigned responsibilities. Main opportunities identified: Optimization of water consumption in cleaning processes (O1): production planning to reduce washes and associated water use. Assessed as high likelihood, low impact, with consumption and cost savings. Water regeneration (O3) and optimization of the recovery plant (O4): expansion and improvement of the water recovery plant, with high impact, enabling reuse for cooling towers and other purposes. Rainwater harvesting (O5): collection for industrial uses, low impact, contributing to reduced dependence on external resources. New groundwater abstractions (O6): exploration of new abstraction points in lower catchment areas, assessed as high likelihood, high impact, aimed at ensuring availability and reducing pressure on surface water. Agreement with Municipality and SOREA (O7): improvement of the municipal supply network, currently suffering from significant losses; moderate impact, under implementation via agreement. AWS certification (O8): improved corporate image and external positioning through certification, with high likelihood and high impact. Improvement of Riera Major ecological status (O43–O45): projects with CERM for monthly monitoring, connectivity improvements, and Mediterranean trout translocation; positive environmental impact, medium-high priority. Forest management and climate change (O47): participation in the Climark project to enhance water infiltration, reduce fire risk, and preserve biodiversity in the catchment; high likelihood, moderate impact. Prioritization and timelines: High priority: water regeneration and plant optimization (O3–O4), new groundwater abstractions (O6), AWS certification (O8). Medium priority: improvement of municipal network (O7), conservation actions in Riera Major (O43–O45). Low/moderate priority: rainwater harvesting (O5), forest management projects (O47). The 2025 document confirms that the site has systematically identified and prioritized water-related opportunities, covering internal efficiency, environmental enhancement, and reputational gains, while integrating stakeholder participation and assigning clear responsibilities and deadlines.	
1.8	*Understand best practice towards achieving AWS outcomes: Determining sectoral best practices having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
1.8.1	*Relevant catchment best practice for water governance shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	Document was reviewed, which identifies and systematizes best practices in water governance, both internally within the organization and in relation to catchment stakeholders. Best practices identified: Monitoring of water indicators: continuous tracking of consumption, water-to-product ratios, and main use points (cooling towers, cleaning, boilers). Regular review in technical meetings: analysis of water indicator results, incident handling, and definition of corrective actions. Staff training: periodic training programs on water management and best practices, including onboarding sessions for new employees. Water efficiency working group: participation in the GDP (Water efficiency working group), monitoring indicators and developing improvement measures. Corporate commitment: integration of water management into corporate principles, environmental policy, and strategic sustainability plan. Stakeholder collaboration: active engagement with authorities, scientists, and local community, including plant visits and direct communication with neighbors. Institutional communication: ongoing dialogue with public administration regarding water needs, infrastructures, and joint projects. Examples of implementation: Registre_bones pràctiques: internal log of best practices applied in production and service areas. Formació benvinguda MA ENVASAT: specific training module for packaging staff. Bones practiques_ENVASAT: operational document with best practices applied in the packaging area. It is confirmed that the site has identified and documented relevant best practices in water governance, aligned with the AWS standard, and that these remain active and updated in 2025.	
1.8.2	*Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance (either through water efficiency or less total water use) shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

Document was reviewed, which compiles best practices related to water balance, aimed at efficiency and total water use reduction.

Best practices identified:

Monitoring of water indicators and main consumers, with specific control of cooling towers, boilers, and cleaning processes.

Regular meetings to monitor indicators and analyze incidents, reviewing deviations and defining corrective actions.

Periodic training of all staff in water management and daily best practices.

Communication of corporate commitment to water, through the company's environmental policy and sustainability principles.

Collaboration with stakeholders, sharing information on consumption and efficiency.

Plant visits for neighbors and stakeholders, to disseminate best practices and show efficiency results.

Communication with public administration regarding new water-related infrastructure needs.

It is confirmed that the site has identified relevant best practices for water balance, focusing on efficiency, consumption reduction, and transparency with stakeholders.

1.8.3 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source.*

Yes

Comment

Document was reviewed, where relevant best practices related to water quality are identified, applied both internally and within the catchment context.

Best practices identified:

Systematic monitoring of water indicators (physico-chemical, microbiological, and biological), with regular meetings to analyze incidents and define corrective actions.

Continuous staff training on water management, hygiene, food safety, and best practices that impact water quality preservation.

Application of control and self-control plans, integrated into potable water management and food safety systems (HACCP, FSSC 22000).

Close collaboration with stakeholders (ACA, CERM, municipality, neighbors) to share water quality data and coordinate preventive actions.

Transparency and communication with the community and public administration regarding water quality management and related infrastructure.

Rationale for data source:
Document consolidates the company's internal procedures with data from competent authorities and stakeholders, ensuring traceability and validation of information from both technical and institutional perspectives.

It is confirmed that the site has identified relevant best practices for water quality, based on monitoring, training, control systems, stakeholder collaboration, and transparent communication.

1.8.4 *Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Document was reviewed, where relevant best practices for the maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs) are identified, particularly Riera Major and Montseny Natural Park.

Best practices identified:

Monitoring of ecological and water quality indicators in the Riera Major, with regular meetings to evaluate results and decide on improvements.

Collaboration with stakeholders (authorities, scientific community, and neighbors) in conservation and restoration projects for aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

Staff training in environmental best practices, ensuring that operation and maintenance activities do not negatively affect IWRAs.

Guided visits and communication with the local community, to raise awareness and foster knowledge on the importance of preserving IWRAs.

Institutional communication with public administration, regarding infrastructure needs and protection measures linked to IWRAs.

It is confirmed that the site has identified and implemented best practices for the maintenance of its Important Water-Related Areas, focusing on scientific monitoring, stakeholder collaboration, internal training, and community awareness.

1.8.5 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Document was reviewed, where relevant best practices for the provision of equitable and adequate WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) services are identified.

Best practices identified:

Ensuring access to safe drinking water in all work areas, through distributed fountains and regular quality monitoring.

Maintenance of sanitary and hygiene facilities (toilets, showers, and handwashing stations) in adequate number and condition, in compliance with applicable regulations.

Staff training on hygiene and best practices, linked to both food safety and occupational health.

Corporate commitment to the right to water and hygiene, reflected in the environmental and sustainability policy.

Communication and collaboration with public administration to ensure adequacy of WASH services at the catchment level.

Awareness-raising and transparency with the local community, through visits and activities related to responsible water management.

It is confirmed that the site has identified and implemented sectoral and catchment best practices for WASH, ensuring equitable and adequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, both for employees and in relation to the community and stakeholders.

2	**STEP 2: COMMIT & PLAN - Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan**	
2.1	*Commit to water stewardship by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary, a suitable individual within the organization head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, the implementation of the AWS Standard and achieving its five outcomes, and the allocation of required resources.*	
2.1.1	*A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified. The statement or document shall include the following commitments:* *- That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes* *- That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans* *- That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way* *- That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard.*	✓ Yes
Comment	Liquats Vegetals' formal statement of commitment to water stewardship was reviewed, documented. This document constitutes the company's official public declaration, signed by Laura Erra (General Manager) and published on the corporate website under "Compromiso/Compromís/Commitment", available in both Spanish and Catalan. A copy of the text can be accessed at the following link: https://liquats.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Compromi%CC%81s-Intern-CAST.pdf The commitment includes: Implementation and disclosure of AWS-aligned water stewardship programs, with regular communication of progress. Alignment with catchment sustainability plans, particularly those established by the Catalan Water Agency (ACA) and local governance initiatives. Open and transparent stakeholder engagement, including authorities, scientific community, neighbors, and catchment users. Allocation of human, technical, and financial resources to ensure proper AWS implementation.	
2.2	*Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance.*	
2.2.1	*The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including:* *- Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure* *- Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.*	✓ Yes

Comment	The system implemented by Liquats Vegetals to ensure compliance with water and wastewater legal obligations was reviewed. Responsible persons and organizational structure The main responsibility lies with the Water Cycle and Analytical Development Manager, with specific functions covering abstraction, discharge, reclamation permits, and self-control plans. The Water Engineer provides technical support for monitoring consumption, quality analyses, indicator tracking, and preparation of documentation for audits and regulatory submissions. The Quality and Environment Director oversees compliance, coordinates internal audits, and acts as liaison with authorities (ACA, Public Health Agency). General Management validates strategic decisions and ensures resource allocation. The organizational structure is shown in the Executive Committee (v18) and Quality Area (v22) charts, where the water cycle function is integrated into first-line management. Process for regulatory submissions The compliance system relies on the ASECORP database to identify and update applicable legal requirements. Abstraction, discharge, and reclamation permits are monitored periodically; reports and renewals are submitted directly to the Catalan Water Agency (ACA). Drinking water self-control results are reported to the National Information System on Drinking Water (SINAC), in compliance with current legislation. Wastewater and reclaimed water monitoring results are reported to ACA via electronic submissions, in line with discharge and reuse authorizations. The Water Cycle and Quality managers consolidate information and prepare regulatory submissions, ensuring traceability through internal records and periodic audits. It is confirmed that Liquats Vegetals has a formal and structured system to ensure compliance with legal requirements for water and wastewater management. The system clearly identifies responsible persons, integrates the function into the organizational structure, and defines processes for reporting and interaction with competent authorities.
2.3	*Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities.*
2.3.1	*A water stewardship strategy shall be identified that defines the overarching mission, vision, and goals of the organization towards good water stewardship in line with this AWS Standard.* — Yes

Comment	The 2025–2027 Sustainability Plan was reviewed, which defines the mission, vision, and overarching goals of Liquats Vegetals in sustainability, aligned with the AWS Standard. Key elements of the strategy: Mission and vision: consolidate a sustainable business model, healthy and environmentally respectful, where water is considered an essential resource to be managed with responsibility and transparency. General commitments: Reduce environmental impact from operations, with emphasis on water use efficiency. Integrate water management into corporate strategy, linked to the transition towards B-Corp and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Reinforce stakeholder transparency by publishing progress and results. Water-specific goals: Optimize the water-to-product ratio. Expand reclaimed water reuse in auxiliary processes. Ensure effluent quality to maintain the good ecological status of the Riera Major. Contribute to catchment resilience by supporting governance and conservation projects in Montseny Natural Park and its surroundings. The water stewardship strategy is defined in the 2025–2027 Sustainability Plan, integrating mission, vision, and overarching goals, aligned with the AWS Standard, linked to catchment plans, and committed to continuous improvement in water management.
2.3.2	*A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target:* *- How it will be measured and monitored* *- Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it* *- Planned timeframes to achieve it* *- Financial budgets allocated for actions* *- Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets* *- Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.*

Obs.

Comment

The Water Management Plan ver 4 was reviewed, which defines water management targets and sets out the actions, indicators, responsibilities, timelines, and resources required to achieve them.

Main elements of the plan:

Measurement and monitoring: all targets include performance indicators (KPIs), such as water-to-product ratio, volume of reclaimed water, effluent quality, number of trainings delivered, etc., measured through internal records, self-controls, and external laboratory results.

Actions to achieve and maintain targets:

Expand reclaimed water capacity.

Optimize water-to-product ratio towards reference levels.

Improve effluent quality by reducing nutrients, conductivity, and temperature.

Strengthen communication and collaboration with stakeholders (ACA, CERM, Municipality).

Maintain periodic staff training on water-related best practices.

Planned timeframes:

Short term (2025): reclaimed water expansion, initial reduction of water-to-product ratio, training campaigns, local governance agreements.

Medium term (2026–2027): consolidate reclaimed water use in cooling towers and cleaning, continue ecological projects in Riera Major.

Long term (>2027): reach international benchmarks and fully integrate reclaimed water in auxiliary processes.

Financial budgets allocated: the plan includes specific budget lines for the expansion of the reclamation plant, outsourcing of external analyses, conservation projects with CERM, and staff training.

Assigned responsibilities:

Technical Management: responsible for reclamation and efficiency projects.

Quality and Environment Manager: indicator monitoring, internal audits, and communication with ACA.

Operations Department: implementation of process and cleaning efficiency measures.

General Management: oversight of strategic commitments and communication with external stakeholders.

Link to best practice and shared water challenges:
Each target in the plan is linked to a shared water challenge identified under indicator 1.6.1.
Examples:

Reclaimed water expansion relates to reduced consumption and water resilience.

Effluent quality improvement contributes to the good ecological status of the Riera Major.

Water-to-product ratio reduction addresses consumption optimization and sectoral competitiveness.

Stakeholder collaboration strengthens catchment-level water governance.

The Water Management Plan ver 4 complies with AWS requirements, defining measurable targets, clear actions, timeframes, budgets, responsibilities, and links to best practices and shared challenges, ensuring an integrated water stewardship approach.

2.4 *Demonstrate the site's responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks*

2.4.1 *A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.* Obs.

Comment

Documentation on Liquats Vegetals' drought and water saving plan was reviewed, developed in coordination with the Catalan Water Agency (ACA) and relevant municipal authorities.

Main elements of the plan:

Water saving plan (2023): describes historical consumption, reliance on municipal supply and own wells, return to the catchment, and reuse of treated water. Includes over €395,000 invested in water efficiency.

ACA drought report: acknowledges consolidated savings of 11.5% and approves reduction percentages applicable in drought scenarios, lower than those set in the Special Drought Plan thanks to company measures.

ACA drought resolution (21/12/2023): officially validates Liquats Vegetals' water saving plan and establishes the authorized reduction percentages, applicable to all water consumption.

Reclaimed water expansion: ACA resolution (10/12/2024) authorizes recirculation of reclaimed water for industrial uses, reducing pressure on external sources in risk scenarios.

New abstractions: January 2025 resolutions authorize the investigation of a horizontal well and two vertical wells in the estate, diversifying supply sources and reducing dependence on the municipal network.

Brine management: a resolution proposal has been submitted to ACA for external brine management, minimizing discharge risks and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

The site has a drought mitigation and adaptation plan formally approved by ACA, integrating water saving, reuse, source diversification, and coordination with public authorities. This plan ensures resilience against drought and other water-related contingencies.

3	**STEP 3: IMPLEMENT - Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts**	
3.1	*Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance.*	
3.1.1	*Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

Documentary evidence and interviews with staff confirmed that Liquats Vegetals actively supports good water governance in the Riera Major catchment, through both consolidated initiatives and new actions implemented in 2024–2025.

Consolidated initiatives (ongoing from previous cycles):

Sustainable supply system: ensuring ecological flow of the Riera Major while guaranteeing supply to all users in the catchment.

Improvement of surface catchment network:

Phase I completed with an investment of €94,219.

Phase II under administrative processing.

Financial and technical collaboration with Viladrau Municipality: including the new Puigdot well (project 696, valued at €34,000) with direct piping improvements.

Agreements with neighbors: e.g., project 824, for well legalization and connection to the supply network.

Institutional relations: continuous engagement with the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), membership of the Catalan Water Partnership (CWP), and participation in governance events.

Internal network optimization: connection of network water to a larger storage tank, avoiding overflow losses and achieving a 27% reduction in tanker consumption.

Drought management: implementation of the Water Saving Plan, with verified reductions according to drought decrees.

Awareness and communication: internal (Liquats Convention), external (clients and media), stakeholder plant visits, and participation in the 2023 Water Board.

New developments 2024–2025:

21/12/2023 – ACA drought resolution: official validation of the Water Saving Plan, authorizing reductions lower than those set in the PES.

10/12/2024 – ACA reclaimed water resolution: authorization of reclaimed water for industrial use (cooling towers, condensers), with strict quality and self-control requirements.

15/01/2025 – ACA new abstraction authorizations:

Horizontal well

Two vertical explorations, aimed at reducing dependence on municipal supply and increasing resilience.

2024 – Agreement with neighbor: signed for joint management and legalization of a well, ensuring regulated use of shared groundwater resources.

2024 – Participation in the 2024 Water Board: reinforcing the company’s active role in catchment governance.

2024–2025 – Continued participation in CWP: active involvement in Catalan Water Partnership assemblies and initiatives, consolidating its role in water governance and innovation in Catalonia.

Liquats Vegetals maintains a solid and documented program of support for good water

governance in the Riera Major catchment, strengthened in 2024–2025 through new administrative resolutions, neighbor agreements, reclaimed water projects, and active participation in governance forums.

3.1.2 *Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals maintains and implements measures to ensure respect for the water rights of others in the Riera Major catchment, including local users, neighbors, and catchment authorities.

Consolidated initiatives (ongoing from previous cycles):

Respect for the ecological flow of the Riera Major, ensuring that abstractions do not compromise ecological balance or access for other users.

Collaboration with Viladrau Municipality and ACA in the improvement of Puigdot surface catchments, ensuring more efficient and sustainable resource distribution.

Agreements with neighbors for domestic well management, for well legalization and regulated connection.

Drought phase management through implementation of the Water Saving Plan, adjusting consumption to ACA decrees.

Participation in governance forums (Water Board, Catalan Water Partnership).

New developments 2024–2025:

21/12/2023 – ACA drought resolution: officially acknowledges Liquats Vegetals' saving measures and approves specific consumption reductions.

10/12/2024 – ACA reclaimed water resolution: authorizes reclaimed water for industrial processes (cooling towers, condensers, closed circuits), under strict quality and self-control requirements. This measure reduces pressure on surface and groundwater abstractions, ensuring greater availability for other catchment users.

15/01/2025 – ACA new abstraction authorizations (horizontal and wells): allow the investigation of new water sources, under ACA supervision to guarantee no negative effect on existing rights.

2024 – Agreement with neighbor: establishes a shared and regulated use of a well, avoiding conflicts over water access.

2024–2025 – Compliance with ACA-approved Water Saving Plan: confirms site adaptation of consumption during drought phases without disproportionate impacts on other users.

It is confirmed that Liquats Vegetals applies effective measures to respect the water rights of others, combining historical commitments (ecological flow, neighbor agreements, municipal collaboration) with new ACA-approved measures in 2024–2025, notably the reclaimed water authorization which frees up resources for the community and strengthens equity in water management.

3.2 *Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.*

3.2.1 *A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals has a structured process to ensure full compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements regarding water and wastewater. Compliance system Legal requirements are managed through the ASECORP database, which identifies new obligations, alerts on deadlines, and ensures regulatory updates. The system covers permits for groundwater abstraction, wastewater discharge and reclamation authorizations, and drinking water self-control plans required by current legislation. Drinking water self-control results are periodically reported to the SINAC (National Information System on Drinking Water). Effluent and reclaimed water analyses are reported to the Catalan Water Agency (ACA) as per valid resolutions. Responsible roles and structure Verification is led by the Water Cycle and Analytical Development Manager, supported by the Water Engineer for technical monitoring of consumption and quality. The Quality and Environment Department centralizes documentation management and communication with authorities. General Management ensures resources and supervises compliance within the corporate strategy framework. Compliance verification The process includes periodic internal reviews, external certification audits (BRCGS, IFS, ISO 14001, B-Corp), and the 2024 management review. In 2025, it is confirmed that no legal non-compliances were detected regarding water. All ACA authorizations (wells, reclamation, discharges, drought plans) are valid and up to date.	
3.2.2	*Where water rights are part of legal and regulatory requirements, measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals implements specific measures to ensure respect for the water rights of others in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements in the Riera Major catchment.

Governance and legal framework
Spain's water governance system is regulated by a broad legal framework that ensures proper management, protection, and conservation of water resources. The Water Law establishes that the use of surface or groundwater requires an administrative concession granted by the competent authority, which legitimizes the use under defined conditions. These concessions are recorded in the Water Register.
Due to water legislation in force until 1985, some groundwater users chose to remain under private property rights, which are included in the Catalogue of Private Waters.

Consolidated measures:

Compliance with all concession resolutions and authorizations related to abstraction, discharge, transport, and use of water issued by ACA.

Implementation of the Water Saving Plan, validated by ACA, adjusting site consumption to drought decrees and avoiding negative impacts on other users.

Agreements with neighbors for regulated and legalized use of domestic wells, integrating private rights into the public governance framework.

Coordination with Viladrau Municipality on improvements to the municipal network and surface catchments.

In previous audits, review of rights and stakeholder interviews confirmed that no water rights non-compliances had been reported.

New developments 2024–2025:

21/12/2023 – ACA drought resolution: approves specific consumption reductions, ensuring fair distribution during critical phases.

10/12/2024 – ACA reclaimed water resolution: authorizes reclaimed water for industrial processes, reducing pressure on natural sources and increasing availability for others.

15/01/2025 – ACA new abstraction resolutions: authorizations for investigating a horizontal well and two estate wells, conditioned on impact studies to ensure no effect on pre-existing rights.

2024 – Agreement with neighbor: regulates shared and legalized use of a domestic well, ensuring compliance with current legal requirements.

It is confirmed that Liquats Vegetals respects water rights recognized under the legal and regulatory framework, complying with administrative concessions and ACA authorizations, applying saving and reclamation measures, and collaborating with neighbors and authorities. No non-compliances or reported infringements of water rights were detected during the audit period.

3.3 *Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.*

3.3.1 *Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment	The status of progress towards water balance targets defined in the Water Management Plan ver 4 was verified. Defined targets: Reduce the water-to-product ratio to reference levels. Expand reclaimed water reuse in 2025, prioritizing use in cooling towers and auxiliary processes. Maintain balance between abstractions, returns, and discharges that respects the ecological flow of the Riera Major. Progress status: Water-to-product ratio: according to the Bridge 2025–2028 and monthly CEO reports, the ratio remained below, with a downward trend due to improvements in cleaning processes and water recovery. The target is considered achievable by 2027–2028 with current projects. Reclaimed water reuse: in 2024 the volume of reused water increased following ACA's authorization (10/12/2024). Installed technical capacity already allows values in line with the 2025 target. Overall water balance: ACA reports and internal monitoring confirm compliance with authorized abstraction limits and that discharges into the Riera Major meet ecological flow and quality standards. Liquats Vegetals demonstrates consistent progress towards its water balance targets, with significant advances in reclaimed water reuse and sustained reduction of the water-to-product ratio. Compliance with ACA resolutions ensures balance compatibility with other users' rights and the good status of the catchment.	
3.3.2	*Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to improve the site's water use efficiency, or if practical and applicable, reduce volumetric total use shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals maintains its strategic objective of reducing the water-to-product ratio to the minimum technically viable level without compromising food safety. This objective is broken down into annual intermediate targets and the implementation of specific water efficiency projects.

Consolidated targets and projects (2023–2024):

Creation of the Water Cycle Area: completed and fully operational.

Project 519 – Recovery of water from TetraPak fillers: completed.

Project 783 – Reuse of NaOH in UHTs: ongoing, with implementation tests in 2024.

Project 655 – Expansion of CIP1 tanks: ongoing, expected to be completed in 2025.

Project 827 – Reverse osmosis for boiler and product water: ongoing, with progress reported in 2024.

Project 733 – Water regeneration for cooling towers, condensers, and homogenizers: ongoing, submitted to ACA on 23/03/2024 and officially authorized on 10/12/2024.

New developments 2024–2025:

WWTP efficiency: VEOLIA audit completed in 2024, with continued study of outsourcing management to improve operational efficiency and reduce treatment costs.

Optimization of water-to-product ratio: according to the Bridge 2025–2028, the ratio was a downward trend.

Expansion of reclaimed water use: following ACA's December 2024 resolution, reclaimed volumes are increasing and already approaching the target in 2025, reducing pressure on external abstractions.

Pipeline projects (2025): rainwater harvesting for industrial uses and new abstractions (horizontal and wells), both authorized in January 2025, subject to environmental impact assessment.

It is confirmed that the site has implemented annual water efficiency targets with specific projects completed and in progress, which have progressively reduced the water-to-product ratio and expanded reclaimed water reuse. The reduction trajectory documented in 2024–2025 demonstrates consistent achievement of efficiency goals, aligned with the shared water challenge of scarcity in the catchment.

3.3.3 *Legally-binding documentation, if applicable, for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Spanish law does not give the site legal competence to reallocate water for social, cultural or environmental needs.

3.4 *Implement plan to achieve site water quality targets*

3.4.1 *Status of progress towards meeting water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment	Progress towards water quality targets defined, were verified. Defined targets: Ensure drinking water meets safety and regulatory standards, through the Pla de control de l'aigua potable. Maintain effluent and reclaimed water quality within ACA authorization limits, avoiding impacts on the Riera Major. Contribute to the improvement of the Riera Major's ecological status by reducing nutrients, temperature, and conductivity. Progress status: Drinking water: the Pla de control de l'aigua potable ver 18 ensures regular microbiological, chemical, and physical controls. In 2024, no regulatory non-compliances were recorded, ensuring safety for workers and products. Effluent and reclaimed water: the ACA resolution of 10/12/2024 authorized reuse of treated water, imposing additional controls (E. coli, Legionella, turbidity, pH, conductivity). In 2024–2025, self-monitoring and external testing protocols were implemented, with compliance achieved. Riera Major: 2024 CERM reports confirm that, although isolated episodes of high conductivity persist, biological and physico-chemical quality parameters remain in good to very good ranges, showing improvement compared to 2022. Progressive reduction in phosphates was verified, though nitrite levels remain elevated during low-flow periods. Liquats Vegetals demonstrates significant progress towards water quality targets, consolidating compliance for drinking water and effluents, expanding reuse with reinforced controls, and contributing to ecological monitoring programs in the Riera Major that reflect gradual improvements in ecosystem quality.
3.4.2	*Where water quality is a shared water challenge, continual improvement to achieve best practice for the site's effluent shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals maintains a continuous improvement system to ensure water and effluent quality, aiming to achieve best practice in the context of the shared water challenge of water quality in the Riera Major catchment.

Certifications and accreditations:

IFS 2025 and BRCGS 2025 certifications, guaranteeing compliance with international food safety and water management standards in production processes.

ISO 14001:2025 certification, ensuring environmental management integration.

B-Corp 2025 certification, reinforcing sustainability and transparency commitments.

Internal laboratory accreditation 1355/LE2150, ensuring reliability of water analyses.

Objectives and progress in continuous improvement:

Network water quality: monitoring plan with daily to annual controls. Confirmed compliance.

Supplier communication: ongoing coordination with Sorea for network volumes and with tanker water suppliers.

Own wells water quality: periodic self-monitoring from daily to annual. In compliance.

Product water softening:

L1 descaling system activated and operational (completed).

Monitoring of product water hardness ongoing.

Brine generation monitoring and external waste management in process (ACA resolution under review).

Reverse osmosis for product and boiler water (Project 827): design, sizing, supplier order, and partial installation completed. Commissioning and monitoring ongoing in 2025.

Buried piping for well 1.3: design, sizing, and permits obtained; work execution ongoing.

Recent improvements (2024–2025):

ACA resolution (10/12/2024): authorization to reuse of reclaimed water for industrial uses, with reinforced controls (E. coli, Legionella, turbidity, pH, conductivity).

CERM reports 2024: confirm gradual improvement in biological and physico-chemical parameters of the Riera Major, though episodes of high conductivity and nitrites persist during low-flow periods.

Brine management: authorization process ongoing with ACA for external management, reducing risks of discharge impacts.

Liquats Vegetals demonstrates continuous progress in water and effluent quality management, supported by international certifications, accredited internal controls, and technical improvement projects (osmosis, reclamation, brine management). The 2024 authorization and ecological monitoring validate the effectiveness of these actions within the shared water challenge of quality.

3.5 *Implement plan to maintain or improve the site's and/or catchment's Important Water-Related Areas.*

3.5.1	*Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site's Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	Implementation of the practices defined in the Water Management Plan ver 4 was verified for maintaining and enhancing Important Water-Related Areas (IWRAs), specifically the Riera Major and the Montseny Natural Park. Actions implemented in the Riera Major: Regular monitoring of ecological and water quality, in collaboration with CERM, using biological indices (IBMWP, ASPT, IHF, QBR) and physico-chemical parameters. Reduction of nutrients, temperature, and conductivity in WWTP effluent, through improvements in treatment and reclamation systems. Trout Project: actions to improve river connectivity and translocation of Mediterranean brown trout in the upper catchment. Riparian forest conservation: monitoring and preservation of native vegetation, rated good to very good quality. Actions implemented in Montseny Natural Park: Collaboration in water governance projects, ensuring that site operations are compatible with the park's conservation objectives (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve). Participation in forest management and climate change adaptation projects (e.g., Climark), focused on improving water infiltration, reducing fire risk, and enhancing ecosystem resilience. It is confirmed that the site has implemented the practices defined in its water management plan to maintain and enhance relevant IWRAs. Actions combine scientific monitoring, effluent quality improvement, habitat conservation, and collaboration with public and community stakeholders.	
3.6	*Implement plan to provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers at all premises under the site's control.*	
3.6.1	*Evidence of the site's provision of adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers onsite shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals ensures adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and hygiene conditions for all workers at the site. Drinking water access: Supply is guaranteed through the internal distribution network and 8 drinking fountains across the facilities. The Pla de control de l'aigua potable ver 18 confirms daily, weekly, monthly, and annual monitoring, with no incidents recorded in 2024 / 2025. The internal laboratory accreditation (1355/LE2150) guarantees the reliability of analyses. Sanitation and showers: In 2025 the workforce includes 35 men and 21 women (permanent, temporary, and interns). Regulations require a minimum of 25 toilets for men, 15 for women, and 10 showers. The site has 35 toilets for men, 21 for women, 7 showers for men, and 6 for women, adequately covering requirements. Hygiene and safety: The use of masks, sanitizers, and sanitary access control was observed during the site visit. Hygiene and food safety are managed under BRCGS and IFS certifications and the General Hygiene Plans, including pest control, waste management, and cleaning. Document confirms full compliance with water, sanitation, and hygiene requirements for workers.	
3.6.2	*Evidence that the site is not impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations, and that traditional access rights for indigenous and local communities are being respected, and that remedial actions are in place where this is not the case, and that these are effective.*	Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals' operations do not infringe on the human right to safe water and sanitation of local communities, nor on the traditional access rights of catchment populations. On the contrary, positive contributions to water availability and sustainability were identified. Verified evidence: In stakeholder interviews, it was communicated that the water assessment confirms there is no infringement of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation; instead, the site contributes to improving access through investments and institutional collaboration. Improvement of surface catchments in the Puigdot sector: Phase I repair completed. Phase II under administrative processing and execution. Collaboration with Viladrau Municipality: Project 696 (ventilation of the Puigdot generator) completed in 2024, reducing noise and fire risks and improving supply reliability. 21/12/2023 – ACA drought resolution: confirms that Liquats' consumption reductions are below those required by the Special Drought Plan, releasing resources for other users. 10/12/2024 – ACA reclaimed water resolution: authorizes reclaimed water for industrial use, reducing pressure on municipal supply and aquifers. 15/01/2025 – ACA new abstraction resolutions: authorize investigation of a horizontal well and two wells, subject to environmental impact conditions to ensure no effect on pre-existing rights. 2024 – Agreement with neighbor: signed for the management and legalization of a private well, reinforcing transparency and preventing conflicts over water use rights.	
3.7	*Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:*	
3.7.1	*Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.*	Yes

Comment

Progress on targets related to indirect water use defined in the 2025 Water Cycle Plan was reviewed. The main objective was to calculate and monitor the indirect water footprint linked to crop cultivation, other inputs, and packaging.

Progress status:

In 2023, the process was initiated with consultancy contacts, quotation requests, and data collection.

In 2024–2025, the first evidences of water footprint calculation were consolidated:

The TetraPak Sustainability Report 2024 provides detailed information on water consumption in packaging production, including reduction measures.

The HARIVENASA Integrated Policy 2024 explicitly includes sustainability commitments in oat cultivation, with water management actions at the source.

Preliminary results of the Water Cycle Plan already allow estimation of indirect impacts and prioritization of reduction actions, especially in packaging and agricultural raw materials.

The 2025–2027 sustainability plan defines as the next step the integration of these data into the Water Management Plan ver 4 to set quantified reduction targets and supply chain improvement actions.

3.7.2 *Evidence of engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as, when applicable, actions they have taken in the catchment as a result of the site's engagement related to indirect water use, shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals maintains active engagement with suppliers and service providers, promoting improvements in water efficiency and sustainability both within and beyond the catchment.

Evidence of supplier collaboration:

Input suppliers without direct water use: suppliers such as Herogra and Soluciones Eficientes Agua remain identified in the catchment, not directly using water in processes for Liquats.

Transports CODINA: service provider responsible for tank cleaning, with direct water consumption in its operations.

UNINET SERVICE (laundry):

In 2024, efficiency was maintained, consolidating the reduction achieved with the new washing programs.

Supplier actions in the catchment:

UNINET SERVICE: implemented changes in chemical products and washing phases as a result of engagement with Liquats, directly improving water use efficiency.

LIFE CLIMARK project (2024): suppliers linked to forest management in the catchment, such as HARIVENASA, participated in actions to enhance water infiltration, reduce fire risk, and preserve biodiversity in the Montseny Natural Park, in coordination with Liquats.

3.8 *Implement plan to engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns the site may have.*

3.8.1 *Evidence of engagement, and the key messages relayed with confirmation of receipt, shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals maintains active coordination with the owners and managers of shared water infrastructure, particularly the Viladrau Municipal Network (managed by SOREA–Agbar) and the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), which regulates surface and groundwater abstractions and the municipal sewer system. Although the site operates its own wells and wastewater treatment plant, it remains partly connected to shared infrastructure: • The plant receives supplementary drinking water from the municipal network of Viladrau, used during drought or maintenance periods. • The final discharge point of treated water flows into the Riera Major, a public watercourse under ACA management. • The site's stormwater network connects with the local drainage system of Viladrau. Engagement and communication with the responsible authorities are continuous and formally documented through: • Regular coordination with ACA regarding drought resolutions, reclaimed water authorizations, and new abstraction permits (horizontal and wells). • Periodic meetings with Viladrau Municipality to align on water supply, infrastructure maintenance (Xarxa repair), and emergency protocols. • Written agreements with neighboring landowners concerning shared use or legalization of private wells, with official acknowledgment of receipt. Key messages shared with infrastructure owners and confirmed during 2024–2025 include: • Coordination with ACA and the Municipality to ensure sustainable use of shared groundwater resources. • Notification of reclaimed water operations and drought plan compliance. • Joint review of maintenance and improvements in municipal and stormwater networks. Through these mechanisms, Liquats Vegetals demonstrates effective engagement with the owners of shared water-related infrastructure, ensuring transparency, regulatory compliance, and shared management of catchment-level resources.
3.9	*Implement actions to achieve best practice towards AWS outcomes: continually improve towards achieving sectoral best practice having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*
3.9.1	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to water governance, as applicable, shall be implemented.* ✓ Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals implements actions consistent with best practices in water governance, aligned with AWS principles and a continuous improvement approach.

Consolidated actions (previous years):

Monitoring of water indicators and main consumers, with monthly reports to the Water Forum and management review.

Regular follow-up meetings to analyze deviations and incidents.

Periodic training for all factory staff on water management and good practices.

Participation in the water efficiency working group (GDP) for consumption and ratio tracking.

Communication of water commitment through corporate principles, environmental policies, and public reports.

Active collaboration with stakeholders (ACA, Municipality, neighbors, CWP).

Plant visits by neighbors and stakeholders to showcase water stewardship measures.

Communication with public administration on new infrastructure needs.

Evidence of best practice implementation:

Formal record of best practices in the Registre_bones pràctiques.

Documentation of the Liquats Team Convention (July 2024) where sustainability and AWS progress were communicated.

Smartsheet records of weekly meetings and incident follow-up.

Initial and periodic training records in environment and occupational health (e.g., good practice trainings in 2024).

Corporate website, internal magazine, and annual environmental report, disclosing achievements and commitments in water management.

Use of presentations, emails, and environmental communications addressed to external stakeholders.

New developments 2024–2025:

In 2024, staff training was reinforced with specific sessions on water efficiency in cleaning processes and reuse, incorporating advances from the reclaimed water project authorized by ACA in December 2024.

In 2024 and 2025, new performance indicators were added in the Water Management Plan ver 4, relating to reclaimed water quality, nutrient reduction, and water-to-product ratio efficiency.

Continued traceability in stakeholder communications (2024 Water Board minutes, agreements with neighbors, ACA resolutions from 2023–2025).

Inclusion of key messages in the 2024 Team Convention and in public communication of B-Corp certification, reinforcing transparency.

3.9.2 *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals implements actions towards best practices in water balance, focusing on reducing the water-to-product ratio, increasing reuse, and diversifying supply sources. Consolidated actions (previous years): Implementation of improvements to reduce consumption in processes and cleaning. Annual analysis of consumption trends and proposal of improvements, integrated into the Water Management Plan. Regular review of the plant's water balance. Monitoring of piezometric levels in wells to ensure sustainable abstraction. Participation in the Catalan Water Partnership (CWP) and in the Water Table with basin entities. Use of the Daily Water Panel for real-time consumption tracking. New developments 2024–2025: ACA resolution (10/12/2024): authorizes reuse of reclaimed water, already applied to cooling towers and auxiliary processes, reducing external abstractions. ACA resolutions (15/01/2025): authorize investigation of new abstractions, diversifying sources and increasing resilience. 2024 Management Review: included specific evaluation of water balance, confirming effectiveness of efficiency and reuse projects. 2024 Water Board: active participation to share balance data and coordinate reductions in drought scenarios.	
3.9.3	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals implements actions to achieve best practices in water quality management, both in process water, effluents, and their impact on the Riera Major. Consolidated actions: Annual controls ensuring compliance with regulations for all network and own well water used for human consumption and processes. Effluent and reclaimed water monitoring: internal and external controls verifying compliance with ACA discharge and reclamation authorizations. Valid certifications (IFS, BRCGS, ISO 14001, B-Corp) and internal laboratory accreditation 1355/LE2150 reinforce measurement reliability. Continuous improvement actions (2024–2025): ACA resolution (10/12/2024): authorizing reuse of reclaimed water, with reinforced quality limits (E. coli, Legionella, turbidity, conductivity, pH). Self-monitoring and external protocols implemented. Project 827 – Reverse osmosis for boiler and product water: partially installed, commissioning ongoing in 2025, directly improving process water quality. Brine management: ACA process underway for external management, reducing discharge risks. Buried piping for well 1.3: under execution to improve security and quality of abstracted water. CERM 2024 report: confirms biological and physico-chemical parameters of the Riera Major remain between good and very good, with phosphate reduction since 2022 and improved biodiversity downstream of discharges. Piezometric and physico-chemical monitoring: 2024 data show systematic control of abstraction and discharge parameters, aligned with sustainability objectives.	
3.9.4	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals implements actions to maintain and improve the Important Water-Related Areas (IWRA) identified in the Riera Major catchment, focusing on protecting surface catchments and the river's ecological quality.

Consolidated actions:

Identification of two main IWRAs:

Surface catchments in the Puigdot sector.

Riera Major and its associated ecosystem.

Financial and technical collaboration in the restoration of surface catchments (Puigdot Phase I completed, Phase II under administrative processing).

Monitoring of physico-chemical and biological parameters of the Riera Major through agreements with CERM (University of Vic).

Continuous improvement actions (2024–2025):

Project 733 (water regeneration): authorized by ACA in December 2024, enabling reuse, reducing pressure on the Riera Major and enhancing sustainability of flows.

Projects 694 and 783: initiatives addressing pollutant reduction and process optimization, decreasing risks to aquatic ecosystems.

Project 827 (reverse osmosis): ongoing, aimed at reducing process water conductivity and consequently potential salt loads in discharges.

Agreement with neighbor (2024): regularizes use of a domestic well, avoiding uncontrolled extractions and contributing to catchment balance.

CERM 2024: monitoring results show improvement in biodiversity parameters downstream and progressive phosphate reduction, although occasional high conductivity episodes persist.

Participation in catchment forums: 2024 Water Board and CWP activities, where progress in reclamation, consumption reduction, and ecosystem maintenance was shared.

3.9.5 *Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.*

Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals maintains and implements actions towards best practices in WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), achieving results that exceed legal requirements and reinforce occupational and community safety. Consolidated actions (previous years): Collaboration with neighbors: sharing information about local springs and establishing cooperation agreements with nearby communities. Regular staff training: HR records confirm trainings on hygiene and safety, including handwashing, PPE use, and cleaning best practices in the plant. Annual planning: analysis of water consumption trends, identification of needs, and proposal of improvements included in the Water Management Plan. Institutional communication: minutes of meetings with Viladrau Municipality and local stakeholders. Continuous improvement actions (2024–2025): Agreement with neighbor: strengthens coordination in sustainable well use and access to resources, avoiding conflicts over drinking water. Updated document: confirms full compliance with access to drinking water, adequate sanitation services, and hygiene measures for all staff. WASH infrastructure onsite: maintenance and monitoring of 8 drinking fountains, 35 male toilets, 21 female toilets, 7 male showers, and 6 female showers, exceeding legal minimums. External certifications (BRCGS, IFS, ISO 14001, B-Corp): reinforce traceability and independent audit of hygiene and safety conditions at the site. 2024 Team Convention and Smartsheet records: include specific training on hygiene best practices and reinforcement of sustainability culture.

4	STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance.

4.1 *Evaluate the site's performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan and demonstrate its contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes.*

4.1.1 *Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated.*

✔ Yes

Comment

Liquats Vegetals systematically evaluates its performance against the objectives set. This evaluation is integrated into the 2024 Management Review, where indicators of consumption, quality, costs, and risks are analyzed.

Results against plan targets:

Reclaimed water reuse: following ACA's December 2024 authorization, reuse capacity has increased significantly.

Water quality: 2024 results confirmed compliance with drinking water, effluent, and reclaimed water limits, with gradual improvements in the Riera Major (phosphate reduction and good biological quality).

Water-related costs: according to the 2024 Water Costs Annex, unit costs remained stable despite drought conditions, thanks to efficiency improvements and increased use of reclaimed water.

Water risks: the risk review (1.7.1 and 2.4.1) showed that main risks (drought, discharge quality, well availability) have specific mitigation plans in place.

Contribution to AWS outcomes:

Good water balance: reduced ratio and greater diversification of sources, respecting the ecological flow of the Riera Major.

Good water quality: regulatory compliance, nutrient reduction, and ecological improvements in the receiving stream.

Good water governance: collaboration with ACA, Municipality, and neighbors (e.g., agreements).

Important Water-Related Areas (IWRA): monitoring and improvement of Puigdot surface catchments and the Riera Major's ecological status.

WASH access: adequate and above-legal requirements for all employees.

4.1.2 *Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.*

✔ Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals systematically evaluates the value created by implementing its Water Management Plan ver 4. This evaluation integrates economic, environmental, social, and reputational aspects. Economic value: According to the 2024-2025 ROI Summary of Water Projects v2, regeneration, reverse osmosis, and process optimization projects deliver measurable returns in water consumption and treatment savings. The use of reclaimed water, authorized by ACA in December 2024, reduces supply costs and provides stability during drought scenarios. The 2024 Water Cost Annex confirms stable unit costs thanks to efficiency improvements and source diversification. Environmental value: Reduced pressure on aquifers and surface catchments due to incorporation of reclaimed water. Gradual improvement in Riera Major's quality parameters (phosphate reduction, increased downstream biodiversity). Systematic monitoring of wells and reduced risks of overexploitation. Social value: Contribution to community water security through joint projects with Viladrau Municipality and agreements with neighbors. Transparency and communication with stakeholders through the 2025 Communication Calendar and participation in the Water Board. Improved onsite WASH conditions, with infrastructure exceeding legal requirements. Reputational and governance value: Strengthened corporate image through external certifications (IFS, BRCGS, ISO 14001, B-Corp). Participation in catchment forums and the Catalan Water Partnership (CWP), positioning the company as a reference in sustainable water management. Water-related costs and savings resulting from the Water Management Plan projects are evaluated annually by the financial department during the Management Review, where investment, savings, and return data are consolidated.	
4.1.3	*The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals identifies and generates shared value benefits in the Riera Major catchment, both for the local community and other users. These benefits are documented in the Water Management Plan ver 4 and reinforced by the Return on Investment (ROI) study conducted for each water-related project 2024–2025, allowing quantification of environmental, social, and economic impacts. Shared environmental benefits: Reduced pressure on abstractions: ACA authorization (10/12/2024) to reuse reclaimed water frees surface and groundwater resources for other users. The associated ROI reflects both direct cost savings and improved catchment sustainability. Improved ecological status of the Riera Major: CERM 2024 reports show phosphate reduction and increased biodiversity downstream, providing benefits to both the ecosystem and the community. Shared social and community benefits: Collaboration with neighbors: agreements with neighbors to regularize and share use of wells, preventing conflicts and ensuring safe domestic water. Municipal supply contribution: collaboration with Viladrau Municipality on surface catchment improvements in the Puigdot sector (Phase I completed, Phase II underway). Compliance with ACA Drought Plan (21/12/2023): consumption reductions beyond required levels, ensuring additional availability of water for the community. Shared economic and governance benefits: The 2024–2025 ROI study confirms that each project (e.g., regeneration, reverse osmosis, process optimization) not only reduces internal costs but also delivers shared value in terms of resource stability and catchment resilience. Cost stability: reclaimed water use reduces pressure on municipal supply and mitigates exposure to restrictions and price fluctuations. Participatory governance: active role in the 2024 Water Board and CWP, building trust and shared knowledge. Water-related costs and savings resulting from the Water Management Plan projects are evaluated annually by the financial department during the Management Review, where investment, savings, and return data are consolidated.	
4.2	*Evaluate the impacts of water-related emergency incidents (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine the effectiveness of corrective and preventative measures.*	
4.2.1	*A written annual review and (where appropriate) root-cause analysis of the year's emergency incident(s) shall be prepared and the site's response to the incident(s) shall be evaluated and proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be identified.*	✓ Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals prepared a written annual review of water-related incidents. The main incident reported in 2024 was linked to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), as documented in Cronologia incidente depuradora.pdf. Reported incident (2024): Description: occasional overloads at the WWTP, leading to temporary alterations in effluent quality discharged into the Riera Major. Immediate response: activation of emergency protocols, reinforced monitoring, operational adjustments in the treatment plant, and coordination with the external manager. Communication: notification to the Catalan Water Agency (ACA) and internal registration in Seguiment.xlsx. Root-cause analysis: Overload due to production peaks and climatic conditions (prolonged drought increasing pollutant concentration in effluent). Insufficient treatment capacity during exceptional load events. Corrective and preventive actions: Technical audit of the WWTP by VEOLIA (2024), identifying opportunities to enhance treatment capacity. Study on outsourcing WWTP management, currently in progress. Reinforcement of preventive maintenance program and increased sampling frequency during risk periods. Implementation of improvements in brine management, under authorization with ACA (2024–2025), to reduce WWTP load. Integration of these measures into the Water Management Plan ver 4 and monitoring through the Water Forum and the 2024 Management Review. Liquats Vegetals complies with the requirement of preparing an annual review of emergency incidents, documenting the root-cause analysis of the 2024 WWTP incident and adopting corrective and preventive measures to mitigate recurrence risks.	
4.3	*Evaluate stakeholders' consultation feedback regarding the site's water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the site's engagement process.*	
4.3.1	*Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals maintains a structured system of consultation and communication with stakeholders regarding its water stewardship performance. Consultation mechanisms: 2025 Communication Calendar: establishes periodic meetings with public administrations (ACA, Viladrau Municipality), clients, neighborhood associations, and catchment entities. Includes annual communication milestones, technical reviews, and training workshops. Institutional meetings: participation in the 2024 Water Board and Catalan Water Partnership (CWP) activities, where progress on the Water Management Plan and projects such as reclamation and efficiency was shared. Communication with neighbors: signed agreements, plant visits, and follow-up meetings. Internal stakeholders: communication sessions during the 2024 Team Convention, Water Forum meetings, and specific training on water efficiency and quality improvements. Public disclosure: publication of the Compromís amb la Custodia de l'Aigua on the corporate website and environmental reports available to clients and the general public. Key topics consulted in 2024–2025: Progress in reducing the water-to-product ratio and reclaimed water reuse. Compliance with the Drought Plan and implemented reduction measures. Water quality results in the Riera Major and ecological improvement actions. Collaboration projects with neighbors and Municipality (Puigdot, wells, agreements). Risk review and mitigation measures at the WWTP after the 2024 incident. Liquats Vegetals demonstrates that it maintains regular, structured, and documented consultations with internal and external stakeholders on its water stewardship performance, integrating their inputs into the Water Management Plan ver 4 and annual planning.	
4.4	*Evaluate and update the site's water stewardship plan, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process in the context of continual improvement.*	
4.4.1	*The site's water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations in this step and these changes shall be identified.*	✓ Yes

Comment	The Water Management Plan ver 4 has been updated to incorporate relevant information and lessons learned from internal evaluations, surveillance audits, and management review. Main modifications and adaptations: Review of objectives and priorities: updated prioritization of shared water challenges (indicator 1.6.1), with key focus on reclaimed water expansion, water-to-product ratio reduction, and effluent quality improvement. Inclusion of new opportunities: incorporated 2025 opportunities (Oportunitats 2025), such as forest management to enhance infiltration and optimization of the municipal network with SOREA. Strengthening of performance indicators: added specific KPIs to measure the effectiveness of reclaimed water use and reduction of nutrients, temperature, and conductivity in effluent. Integration of lessons from 2022–2024 cycle: documented limitations experienced during drought periods, reinforcing resilience measures and alternative supply strategies. Assignment of responsibilities and budget: clarified responsibilities for each target (Technical Management, Quality & Environment, Operations, General Management) and adjusted budget allocations for 2025–2027 projects. It is confirmed that the Water Management Plan has been modified and adapted in version 4, integrating experience from previous audits, indicator monitoring, and strategic review, ensuring a continuous improvement process aligned with the AWS standard.

5	STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts

5.1 *Disclose water-related internal governance of the site's management, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related local laws and regulations.*

5.1.1 *The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.* Obs.

Comment: Liquats Vegetals has a clearly defined internal governance structure for water management, including positions accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations. However, this information is not currently disclosed publicly, as required by AWS Indicator 5.1.1.

5.2 *Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders.*

5.2.1 *The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders.* Yes

Comment: Liquats Vegetals actively and transparently communicates its Water Management Plan and how it contributes to AWS Standard outcomes to different stakeholder groups.

Reviewed evidence:

The Water Stewardship Commitment remains published on the corporate website, in Spanish and Catalan, signed by the General Manager (Laura Erra). Available at: https://liquats.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Compromi%CC%81s-Intern-CAST.pdf

The Water Management Plan ver 4 (2025) defines objectives and targets directly linked to AWS outcomes (water balance, quality, governance, Important Water-Related Areas, and WASH access). These are shared with stakeholders in meetings and sectoral forums.

In 2024–2025, multiple communication actions were carried out:

Catalan Water Partnership (CWP) working group: active participation in sessions on regulation, innovation, and financing, where Liquats presented its water management plan.

CEDO Roundtable (May 2025): participation with the presentation "Commitment to Water and Sustainability", covered in a press release.

CEDO Presentation – May 2025: corporate presentation including data on consumption reduction, regeneration projects, and efficiency improvements.

"Energy and Water" Workshop (2025): Liquats presented progress on reducing the water-to-product ratio, regeneration projects, and process optimization, to a technical and business audience.

Osona en 5 minuts – April 2025: participation in the session "Water, a Strategic Resource" and in the Girafeina roundtable, reinforcing Liquats' positioning in responsible water management.

ACA and Environmental Management Presentation (2025): communicated to the Catalan Water Agency, monitoring with CERM, and WWTP and abstraction improvement projects.

5.3 *Disclose annual site water stewardship summary, including: the relevant information about the site's annual water stewardship performance and results against the site's targets.*

5.3.1 *A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.* Yes

Comment Liquats Vegetals publishes and communicates an annual summary of its water stewardship performance, including quantified results against the Water Management Plan ver 4 targets.

Reviewed evidence:

The 2024 Annual Report includes a dedicated section on water sustainability, reporting:

Improvement of the Riera Major water quality, confirmed by CERM 2024 reports: phosphate reduction and increased biodiversity downstream.

The 2025 Management Presentation communicated these achievements internally, highlighting ongoing projects (reverse osmosis, regeneration, brine management).

The 2025 Communication Calendar confirms that results are shared with stakeholders through meetings with ACA, Municipality, CWP, environmental associations (e.g., Grup Naturalistes Osona), and internal conventions.

External evidence of communication includes:

Presentation in the CWP working group (2024–2025).

Roundtable and presentation at CEDO (May 2025).

ACA presentation (2025) including data on consumption and ratio reduction.

5.4 *Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges, including: associated efforts to address the challenges;engagement with stakeholders; and co-ordination with public-sector agencies.*

5.4.1 *The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed.* Yes

Comment During the 2025 recertification audit, it was verified that Liquats Vegetals discloses the efforts undertaken to address shared water challenges, through transparent communication, participation in sectoral forums, and meetings with key stakeholders.

Efforts and evidence:

Meetings with authorities: meeting with Viladrau Municipality (09/06/2025) and ACA presentation (2025), where progress on abstractions, reclamation, and network improvement projects was shared.

Dialogue with NGOs: meeting with Grup Naturalistes Osona (12/06/2025), focusing on biodiversity, Riera Major water quality, and forest management in Montseny.

Participation in sectoral forums: presentations at the Catalan Water Partnership (CWP), the CEDO roundtable (May 2025), and the "Energy and Water" Workshop (2025), sharing regeneration, efficiency, and consumption reduction projects.

Public disclosure: publication in the 2024 Annual Report and on the corporate website (Commitment to Water Stewardship), where water management efforts are detailed.

5.4.2 *Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies shall be identified.* Yes

Comment	Liquats Vegetals maintains continuous efforts to coordinate with stakeholders and support public agencies involved in catchment water management. Evidence 2024–2025: Viladrau Municipality (09/06/2025): meeting focused on monitoring water prospecting projects (horizontal well) and collaboration on improving surface catchments in the Puigdot sector, essential for securing municipal and industrial supply. ACA – Catalan Water Agency (03/07/2025): Plant and WWTP visit with ACA's Director and Environmental Management officials. Review of Viladrau network situation and justification of Liquats' requested abstractions. Announcement of updated Drought Plans and new water-related grants. Progress on reviewing the discharge permit, with anticipated conductivity limitations and agreement to hold a technical meeting. Follow-up on brine management, with resolution expected by July 2025. Liquats' request for formal closure of the fish mortality incident, accepted by ACA. Discussion of the proposal to move the discharge point downstream, positively received by ACA, pending technical and economic evaluation. Grup Naturalistes Osona (12/06/2025): meeting to review the ecological status of the Riera Major, discuss aquatic biodiversity, and define potential collaboration on environmental monitoring. Montseny Natural Park: technical collaboration in restoration and forest management projects linked to LIFE CLIMARK, with positive effects on water infiltration and catchment health. Forum participation: active presence in the Catalan Water Partnership (CWP) and the 2024 Water Board, sharing experiences on reclamation, water efficiency, and governance.	
5.5	*Communicate transparency in water-related compliance: make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences.*	
5.5.1	*Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed.*	Yes

Comment

In January 2025, an incident occurred at Liquats Vegetals' wastewater treatment plant, involving foam formation in the Riera Major and fish mortality downstream of the authorized discharge point. The event was reported by local residents and associations and was immediately communicated to the Catalan Water Agency (ACA) and the Viladrau Municipality.

As an immediate response, discharges were temporarily suspended while external laboratory analyses were carried out to confirm the recovery of effluent quality parameters. During this period, effluent was retained and internal monitoring controls were reinforced.

Independent analyses confirmed that, within a few days, the effluent returned to within authorized limits. Based on this evidence, discharges were resumed, accompanied by stricter monitoring.

Immediate corrective actions:

Transparent communication to ACA, Viladrau Municipality, and local stakeholders.

Temporary suspension of discharge and retention of effluent until compliant results were available.

Verification through independent analyses confirming compliance restoration.

Operational adjustments at the WWTP to prevent similar episodes.

The incident represented a one-off non-compliance of discharge parameters, resolved within a short period through temporary discharge suspension, external verification of compliance, and immediate corrective measures. No lasting effects were identified, and legal compliance was quickly restored.

5.5.2 *Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.*

Yes

Comment

Following the incident at the wastewater treatment plant in January 2025, Liquats Vegetals implemented a set of corrective and preventive actions to avoid recurrence and reinforce the environmental safety of its discharges:

Corrective and immediate control actions:

Review and adjustment of WWTP operational protocols, to minimize the risk of accumulations or imbalances that could generate foam or alter quality parameters.

Strengthened effluent monitoring, including additional checks on conductivity, nutrients, and solids, with stricter oversight during 2025.

Increased frequency of external sampling, agreed with ACA, to ensure independent validation of analytical results.

Preventive and structural improvement actions:

Technical evaluation of discharge alternatives, including the option to move the discharge point downstream, to reduce environmental risks in case of punctual incidents.

Inclusion of specific protocols in the Emergency Plan (PAU Liquats Vegetals v2) to address WWTP episodes and establish rapid response mechanisms for deviations.

Study on brine and conductivity management, aiming to lower the saline load of the effluent and ensure compliance with future discharge permit conditions.

Enhanced operator training, with specific modules on WWTP emergency management.

5.5.3	*Any site water-related violation that may pose significant risk and threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	During the wastewater treatment plant incident in January 2025, which caused foam and fish mortality in the Riera Major, Liquats Vegetals immediately communicated the situation to the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), the authority responsible for discharge permits and aquatic ecosystem protection. The communication included a description of the event, the measures adopted (temporary suspension of discharge, effluent retention), and the provision of initial analytical data. Subsequently, external laboratory reports confirming restoration of compliance were submitted. Throughout the process, Liquats maintained open communication with ACA, providing regular updates on the evolution of the situation and corrective actions implemented. In follow-up meetings (July 2025), ACA confirmed that the episode had been handled transparently and agreed to move forward with the administrative closure of the incident, while requiring reinforced monitoring and the evaluation of improvement alternatives (including the possible relocation of the discharge point). Liquats Vegetals complied with the requirement to immediately notify ACA of an incident posing potential ecosystem risk, providing detailed information and external verification, and maintaining ongoing collaboration until the case was resolved.	

Previous Findings

	All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.	Yes