

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

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364 Knollcrest Drive #205  
Redding, CA 96002

[Regional Board Website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley) (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>)

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**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER**  
**R5-2021-0039**

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**ORDER INFORMATION**

**Order Type(s):** Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)  
**Status:** ADOPTED  
**Program:** Title 23, Chapter 15 Discharges to Land  
**Region 5 Office:** Fresno  
**Discharger(s):** County of Fresno  
**Facility:** Blue Hills Disposal Facility  
**Address:** California Highway 33, 1 mile North of  
Intersection with Coalinga-Mendota  
Road (Facility is 1 mile West of Hwy 33)  
**County:** Fresno County  
**Parcel Nos.:** 058-180-32ST  
**WDID:** 5D100307008  
**Prior Order(s):** WDRs Order 99-087;  
WDRs Order 90-254;  
WDRs Order 73-058

## **CERTIFICATION**

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 17 June 2021.

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PATRICK PULUPA  
Executive Officer

## **REGIONAL BOARD INFORMATION**

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COUNTY OF FRESNO  
BLUE HILLS DISPOSAL FACILITY  
FRESNO COUNTY  
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## GLOSSARY

<b>Antidegradation Policy</b> .....	Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California, State Water Board Resolution 68-16
<b>Basin Plan</b> .....	<i>Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin</i>
<b>bgs</b> .....	Below Ground Surface
<b>CAP</b> .....	Corrective Action Program
<b>CAMP</b> .....	Corrective Action Monitoring Program
<b>CEQA</b> .....	California Environmental Quality Act
<b>CEQA Guidelines</b> .....	California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15000 et seq.
<b>C.F.R.</b> .....	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>COCs</b> .....	Constituents of Concern
<b>Designated Waste</b> .....	(a) Hazardous Waste subject to variance from management requirements per Health and Safety Code section 25143; and (b) Nonhazardous Waste containing pollutants that, under ambient conditions, could be released in concentrations exceeding applicable WQOs, or that could reasonably be expected to affect beneficial uses of water. (Wat. Code, § 13173.)
<b>DMP</b> .....	Detection Monitoring Program
<b>DTSC</b> .....	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
<b>DWR</b> .....	California Department of Water Resources
<b>EMP</b> .....	Evaluation Monitoring Plan
<b>FEMA</b> .....	Federal Emergency Management Agency

<b>Hazardous Waste</b> .....	Wastes which, pursuant to Title 22, section 66261.3 et seq., are required to be managed in accordance with Division 4.5 of Title 22. (Title 27, § 20164; Title 23, § 2521(a).)
<b>JTD</b> .....	Joint Technical Document
<b>LEA</b> .....	Local Enforcement Agency
<b>Leachate</b> .....	Liquid formed by the drainage of liquids from waste or by the percolation or flow of liquid through waste. Leachate includes any constituents extracted from the waste and dissolved or suspended in the fluid. (Title 27, § 20164.)
<b>MCE</b> .....	Maximum Credible Earthquake
<b>MDB&amp;M</b> .....	Mount Diablo Base and Meridian
<b>MDL</b> .....	Method Detection Limit
<b>µg/L</b> .....	Micrograms per Liter
<b>mg/L</b> .....	Milligrams per Liter
<b>MPE</b> .....	Maximum Probable Earthquake
<b>msl</b> .....	Mean Sea Level
<b>MRP</b> .....	Monitoring and Reporting Program
<b>MSW</b> .....	Municipal Solid Waste regulated under 40 C.F.R. part 258
<b>MSWLF</b> .....	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
<b>MW</b> .....	Monitoring Well
<b>Operative MRP</b> .....	Revised Monitoring & Reporting Program 99-087 (issued 11 December 2020) and any subsequent revisions thereto

**SPRRs** .....Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

**Ss<sub>1</sub> & Ss<sub>2</sub>** .....Sandstone Units

**Subtitle D** .....USEPA-promulgated MSW regulations under RCRA  
(see 40 C.F.R. part 258)

**RCRA**.....Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

**ROWD**.....Report of Waste Discharge

**Title 22**.....California Code of Regulations, Title 22

**Title 23**.....California Code of Regulations, Title 23

**Title 27**.....California Code of Regulations, Title 27

**USEPA**.....United States Environmental Protection Agency

**VOCs** .....Volatile Organic Compounds

**WDRs**.....Waste Discharge Requirements

**WMU** .....Waste Management Unit

**WQOs** .....Water Quality Objectives

**WQPS** .....Water Quality Protection Standard

(findings begin on next page)



## FINDINGS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) hereby finds as follows:

### Introduction

1. The County of Fresno (Discharger) owns and maintains the Blue Hills Disposal Facility (Facility), which is located approximately 9 miles northeast of the City of Coalinga in Fresno County, in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 19 South, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M). The Facility is within the Coalinga Oil Field as it is defined by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), formerly known as the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). The Facility's location is depicted on the Site Location Map in **Attachment A**.
2. The Facility is situated on a 32-acre property comprised of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 058-180-32ST. The address associated with the Facility is one mile west of Hwy 33 and one mile north of the intersection of Hwy 33 & Coalinga-Mendota Road, Coalinga, California.
3. As the Facility's owner and operator, the Discharger is responsible for compliance with this Order, which prescribes Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) regulating post-closure maintenance of the Waste Management Units (WMUs) listed in **Table 1**.

**Table 1—Summary of Waste Management Units (WMUs)  
Permitted under Order**

Unit	Type	Class	Size	Status
WMU 1-4	Landfill	Class III, containing hazardous waste	4.5 acres	Closed

See Glossary for definitions of terms and abbreviations in table.

### Materials Accompanying Order

4. The following materials are attached to this Order, and incorporated herein:

Attachment A—Facility Map  
Attachment B—Facility Layout

Information Sheet for Waste Discharge Requirements Order  
R5-2021-0039 (Information Sheet)

Standard Provisions & Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge  
Requirements for Discharges Regulated by Chapter 15 and/or Part 258,  
September 1993 Edition (SPRRs or Standard Provisions)

Revised Monitoring & Report Program No. 99-087 (Revised on 11  
December 2020)

5. On 11 December 2020, **Revised Monitoring & Reporting Program R5-99-087 (Revised MRP 99-087)** was issued by the Executive Officer (see attached). For the purposes of this Order, the “**Operative MRP**” shall refer to Revised MRP 99-087 and any subsequent revisions thereto, which shall be incorporated herein. Thus, each time the Operative MRP is revised, the new version shall become the Operative MRP (superseding the prior version), and shall be incorporated herein in lieu of the prior version.
6. To the extent there are any material inconsistencies between the provisions of this Order, the Operative MRP and the SPRRs, the provisions of this Order shall be controlling. However, to the extent a revised MRP contains new or different factual findings reflecting changed conditions or circumstances at the Facility, the revised MRP findings shall be controlling.
7. Additional information about the Facility is set forth in the **Information Sheet**, which is incorporated as part of these findings. (See Finding 4.)

### **Facility**

8. The Facility, constructed in 1973, originally operated as a Class I disposal site. The Discharger accepted primarily pesticides, empty pesticide containers, and other agricultural-industry-related hazardous and nonhazardous wastes. Waste disposal occurred in four units at the site covering 4.5 acres, referred to as WMUs 1, 2, 3 and 4, as shown in Attachment B.
9. On 11 June 1999, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order 99-087, which prescribed WDRs for post-closure maintenance. Previous to that, on 28 September 1990, the Board adopted Order 90-254, which prescribed WDRs for closure of the existing WMUs.
10. The Facility has perimeter fencing and gate, no building structures and V-shaped asphalt stormwater diversion channels.

### Waste Classification & Permitting

11. On 28 September 1990, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order 90-254, which prescribed WDRs for closure of the existing WMUs. Due to the siting criteria, the Facility was classified as a Class III landfill containing hazardous waste in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2510 et seq. (Chapter 15), and California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22) division 4, Chapter 30.
12. Between 1973 and 1982, the Facility was used primarily for the disposal of empty and partially empty herbicide and pesticide containers with some residue in liquid and powder forms. In addition, an undocumented amount of liquid wastes in drums, highway spill wastes, wastes from the California Department of Forestry, and wastes from other state and federal agencies were also accepted. These wastes are classified as hazardous pursuant to the provisions of Title 22 and Chapter 15.
13. Hazardous wastes were discharged primarily to WMUs 1 and 2. WMU 3 received uncertified dry, empty pesticide containers in the spring of 1982. WMU 4 received pesticide residual wastes in powder form. All four WMUs are unlined.
14. From spring 1983 to fall 1991, the Facility accepted only certified triple-rinsed, dry pesticide containers, which were discharged to the non-hazardous portion of WMU 3, shown as WMU-3NH on Attachment B. These wastes are classified as non-hazardous. The total volume of bulk solid wastes at the site is approximately 30,000 cubic yards.
15. The Facility was closed in 1993 by placing a cover system over the WMUs. The final closure cover system for the WMUs consists of, in ascending order: a foundation soil layer with a minimum thickness of two feet; an 18-inch thick compacted clay layer with a permeability of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec or less; and a well-established vegetated soil layer with a minimum thickness of 15 inches.
16. The geologic material, known as the Etchegoin Formation, immediately underlying the WMUs does not meet the Chapter 15 prescriptive permeability criterion for Class I units. (See Title 23, § 2531, subd. (b)(1).) The WMUs also lack a liner system. (See *id.*, § 2542.) Therefore, Order 90-254 classified the WMUs as “existing” Class III WMUs containing hazardous waste.
17. This Order updates the WDRs for the Facility’s WMUs or landfills, as part of an administrative policy of periodic review, to incorporate revisions to regulations and policies adopted thereunder, for continued corrective action and post-closure maintenance.

### Site Conditions

18. Topography at the site varies from gentle to steep hillside slopes, with gullies draining towards the northeast. The average slope at the site is approximately 12 percent. Elevations at the site vary from a high of 980 feet above mean sea level (MSL) along the western boundary to a low of approximately 820 feet above MSL at the eastern site boundary.
19. The Facility is located on the eastern slope of the California Coast Range Mountains and on the upturned Etchegoin Formation. The Etchegoin is underlain by the Santa Margarita Formation which is in turn underlain by the oil producing Temblor Formation. The northwesterly trending Etchegoin Formation of Pliocene age directly underlies the site. This geologic formation is composed of permeable sandstones interbedded with less permeable siltstone and claystone units of variable thickness. The units dip approximately 20 degrees to the east, far beneath the alluvial groundwater aquifers of the San Joaquin Valley. Many of the units within this formation are discontinuous, pinching-out to the east and southeast.
20. Land uses within one mile of the Facility include oil field wells and associated oil field operations to the south, west, northwest and east and occasionally livestock grazing. Historically, prior to the Facility siting, the Facility property included active oil wells.
21. An unnamed intermittent drainage traverses the Facility and flows in an easterly direction. Runoff is diverted around the Facility so as to preclude infiltration. The drainage flows only in direct response to rainfall. Total drainage is about 30 acres.
22. According to the Central Valley Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin* (Basin Plan), the designated beneficial uses of surface waters of the Juniper Ridge Hydrologic Area include: agricultural supply (AGR); industrial service supply (IND); industrial process supply (PRO); water contact recreation (REC-1); non-water contact recreation (REC-2); warm freshwater habitat (WARM); wildlife habitat (WILD); rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE); and ground water recharge (GWR).
23. Perched groundwater occurs at the site within two dipping sandstone units Ss<sub>1</sub> and Ss<sub>2</sub>, of the Etchegoin Formation. The depth to perched groundwater in the Ss<sub>1</sub> unit ranged from about 780 feet mean sea level (MSL) at monitoring well B-207 down to about 714 feet MSL at monitoring well E-9. Depth to groundwater in the Ss<sub>2</sub> unit ranged from about 695 feet MSL in monitoring well E-7 down to about 666 feet MSL at monitoring well E-10.

24. The Second Semi-Annual 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report states that groundwater elevation data from groundwater monitoring wells used to monitor the Ss<sub>1</sub> unit were used to prepare a groundwater elevation contour map showing the hydraulic gradient and groundwater flow direction to the northeast. Groundwater flow is contained within the dipping Ss<sub>1</sub> and Ss<sub>2</sub> units.
25. According to the Basin Plan, the designated beneficial use of groundwater at the Facility is municipal (MUN).
26. The background perched groundwater is poor quality, and according to the criteria contained in the Basin Plan, meets the criteria for consideration of an exemption from the MUN beneficial use designation. Naturally occurring organic hydrocarbons have been detected in monitoring wells No. E-1A and E-6. The concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) range from 2,500 to greater than 11,000 mg/l. Electrical Conductance of the groundwater ranges from 2,800 to 8,500 µmhos/cm. Elevated concentrations of sulfates, which range from 1,300 to 9,000 mg/l, also contribute to poor background water quality.
27. There are no known water supply wells within one mile of the Facility.
28. The Discharger's site-specific seismic analysis indicates that an earthquake, occurring along the San Andreas Fault, at a closest rupture distance of 20 miles, would result in the event summarized in **Table 2**.

**Table 2—Seismic Analysis**

Earthquake	Magnitude	Peak Ground Acceleration	Return Period
Max Credible (MCE)	7.7	0.47 g	725 Years

See Glossary for definitions of terms and abbreviations in table.

29. Based on data from the nearest weather station (Coalinga), the Facility has an annual average precipitation of 8.25 inches, and a mean pan evaporation of 112 inches per year. The nearest weather station is reflective of conditions at the Facility.
30. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Precipitation Frequency Atlas 14, Volume 6 (rev. 2014), the Facility's 100-year and 1,000-year, 24-hour rainfall events are estimated to result in 5.9 and 8.6

inches of precipitation, respectively. Source: [NOAA Precipitation Frequency Data Server](https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds) (<https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds>).

31. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [Flood Insurance Rate Map](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>) [number 06019C3050H](#), dated [18 February 2009](#), the Facility is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

### Monitoring Networks

32. As of the date of this Order, the Facility's **groundwater** monitoring network, which appears to be drilled completely within the Etchegoin Formation, consists of the existing monitoring wells listed in **Table 3**.

**Table 3—Groundwater Monitoring Well Network**

Well	Program	Monitored Unit
B-204B	Corrective Action	SS <sub>1</sub>
B-207	Corrective Action	SS <sub>1</sub>
E-2	Corrective Action/Background	SS <sub>1</sub>
E-3	Corrective Action	SS <sub>1</sub>
E-7	Corrective Action	SS <sub>2</sub>
E-9	Corrective Action	SS <sub>1</sub>
E-10	Corrective Action	SS <sub>2</sub>

33. The Etchegoin Formation is known to have crude oil bearing zones within the Coalinga oil field. During groundwater sampling, field notes from Facility groundwater monitoring well network wells have noted the presence of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) odors and crude oil. Specifically wells E-1A and E-6 were abandoned because of crude oil entering their well screens at depths of 82-112 feet and 136-201 feet, respectively. H<sub>2</sub>S odors have been noted from wells E-1A, E-7, E-9, E-10, and B-207.
34. There are no unsaturated zone or surface water monitoring requirements for the Facility.
35. As of the adoption of this Order, the above-described networks comply with the monitoring requirements of Title 23. Subsequent changes to these networks will

be reflected in a further revision to Revised MRP 99-087, which will be issued by the Executive Officer.

### **Water Quality Protection Standard**

36. A Water Quality Protection Standard (WQPS) is the analytical framework through which WMUs are individually monitored for releases and impacts to water quality (Title 23, §2550.2).
37. In accordance with Title 23, this Order, by virtue of its incorporation of the Operative MRP (see Finding 5), establishes a WQPS for each WMU at the Facility.

### **Corrective Action**

38. Historically, localized groundwater degradation had occurred within the northeast area of the site in the vicinity of monitoring well E-3. The herbicide dicamba had been detected in groundwater samples collected from monitoring well E-3. Mecoprop (MCCP) has also been found in samples collected from groundwater monitoring well E-3 and sporadically in samples from well B-204B. Other chlorophenyl herbicides and chlorinated pesticides have occasionally been detected at low concentrations in monitoring wells. The last detections of dicamba and MCCP in well E-3 were in April 2016; and the last detection of MCCP from well B-204B was in October 2015. Neither MCCP nor Dicamba have a federal or California MCL.
39. Historically, the corrective action program for groundwater at the Facility consisted of bioremediation, which utilized an oxygen-releasing compound in monitoring well E-3. The Facility is currently using monitored natural attenuation as their form of corrective action.

### **Post-Closure Maintenance & Financial Assurances**

40. The Discharger's Final Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plan (FCPCMP) is the operative document providing for post-closure maintenance of WMUs 1-4 for the entire post-closure maintenance period. The post-closure maintenance period shall extend as long as the wastes pose a threat to water quality. (See Title 23, § 2580, subd. (a).)
41. The FCPMP includes costs estimates for post-closure maintenance (Title 23 § 2580, subd. (f)), and foreseeable corrective action for releases (§ 2550.12, subd. (b)). As of the date of this Order, these estimates, calculated in accordance with Title 23, are specified in **Table 4**.

**Table 4—Current Cost Estimates (Financial Assurances)**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Post-Closure Maintenance	\$ 1,951,404
Corrective Action	\$ 43,189

**California Environmental Quality Act**

- 42. The issuance of this Order, which prescribes requirements and monitoring of waste discharges at an **existing facility**, with negligible or no expansion of its existing use, is exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (CEQA Guidelines). The discharges authorized under this Order are substantially within parameters established under prior WDRs, particularly with respect to character and volume of discharges.
- 43. This Order implements the provisions of the California Water Code, Title 22, and Chapter 15 and the revisions and policies adopted thereunder for the discharge of the wastes stated herein and for the post-closure maintenance of the Facility.

**Other Regulatory Matters**

- 44. This Order is issued in part pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), which provides as follows:

The regional board, after any necessary hearing, shall prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge..., with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area ... into which, the discharge is made or proposed. The requirements shall implement any relevant water quality control plans that have been adopted, and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of [Water Code] Section 13241.
- 45. This Order implements the Central Valley Water Board’s Basin Plan, which designates beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater and establishes



water quality objectives (WQOs) necessary to preserve such beneficial uses.<sup>1</sup>  
(Wat. Code, § 13241 et seq.)

46. The State Water Board's *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*, Resolution 68-16 (*Antidegradation Policy*) prohibits the Central Valley Water Board from authorizing degradation of "high quality waters" unless it is shown that such degradation: (1) will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of California; (2) will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, or otherwise result in water quality less than as prescribed in applicable policies; and (3) is minimized through the discharger's best practicable treatment or control.
47. Consistent with Title 23, this Order requires the Discharger to maintain the Facility to contain waste within WMUs, thereby preventing degradation of water quality. To the extent that there are releases from Facility WMUs, will be required to address such releases through a Corrective Action Program. (See Title 23, §§ 2550.1, 2550.7, 2550.10.) Because this Order does not authorize any degradation in water quality, it complies with the *Antidegradation Policy*.
48. For the purposes of Title 23, section 2200, the Facility has a threat-complexity rating of **2-A**, where:
  - a. Threat Category "2" reflects waste discharges that can impair receiving water beneficial uses, cause short-term water quality objective violations, cause secondary drinking water standard violations, and cause nuisances; and
  - b. Complexity Category "A" reflects any discharge of toxic wastes; any small volume discharge containing toxic waste; any facility having numerous discharge points and ground-water monitoring; or any Class I waste management unit.

### Reporting Requirements

49. This Order is also issued in part pursuant to Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), which provides that:

[T]he regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or

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<sup>1</sup> Designated beneficial uses surface water and groundwater are discussed in Finding 21 and Finding 25, respectively.

discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region ... shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.

50. The technical reports required under this Order, as well as those required under the Operative MRP, are necessary to ensure compliance with prescribed WDRs, Chapter 15 and other applicable policies and regulations. Additionally, the burdens associated with such reports are reasonable relative to the need for their submission.
51. Failure to comply with the reporting requirements under this Order and the Operative MRP may result in enforcement action pursuant to Water Code section 13268.

#### **Procedural Matters**

52. All local agencies with regulatory jurisdiction over land-use, solid waste disposal, air pollution and public health protection have approved the use of the Facility's site for the discharge of waste to land as provided for herein.
53. The Discharger, interested agencies and interested persons were notified of the Central Valley Water Board's intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order, and provided an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (Wat. Code, § 13167.5; Title 23, § 2592.)
54. At a public meeting, the Central Valley Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharges regulated under this Order.
55. The Central Valley Water Board will review and revise the WDRs in this Order as necessary.

## REQUIREMENTS

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, that the Dischargers shall comply with the following.

### A. Discharge Specifications

Except as otherwise expressly directed below, the Discharger shall comply with all the GENERAL PROVISIONS contained in the SPRRs, which are incorporated herein, as well as the following.

1. The discharge of leachate or waste to surface water, surface water drainage courses, groundwater, and natural geologic materials adjacent to the waste management units is prohibited.
2. The discharge of additional waste to the WMUs is prohibited.

### B. Facility Specifications

The Discharger shall comply with all the STANDARD CONDITIONS contained in the SPRRs, which are incorporated herein.

### C. Post-Closure Maintenance Specifications

Except as otherwise directed below, the Discharger shall comply with all Post-Closure Specifications and closure-related Construction Specifications contained in the STANDARD CONDITIONS section of the SPRRs.

### D. Financial Assurances

Except as otherwise directed below, the Discharger shall comply with Title 23, sections 2580(f) and 2550.12(b), as well as the following.

1. The Discharger shall maintain assurances of financial responsibility for the amounts specified for each category in **Finding 41** adjusted annually for inflation.
2. A report regarding financial assurances shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board annually, no later than **30 April**.
3. Whenever changed conditions increase the estimated costs of post-closure maintenance and corrective action, the Discharger shall promptly submit an updated FCPMP to the Central Valley Water Board.

### **E. Monitoring Requirements**

Except as otherwise directed below, the Discharger shall comply with all applicable Standard Monitoring Specifications contained in the PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING section of the SPRRs and Standard Response to Release Specifications contained in the RESPONSE TO A RELEASE section of the SPRRs, as well as the following:

1. The Discharger shall comply with all provisions of the operative MRP (see Finding 5).
2. The Discharger shall implement the Water Quality Protection Standard (WQPS) set forth in the Operative MRP (see also Title 23, § 2550.2); and shall verify the compliance of each WMU with each subsequent monitoring event.
3. For all WMUs, the Discharger shall implement a groundwater detection monitoring program (DMP) in accordance with Title 23, sections 2550.1, 2550.7, and 2550.8.
4. For each WMU subject to corrective action, the Discharger shall implement a corrective action monitoring program (CAMP) in accordance with Title 23, sections 2550.1, 2550.7, and 2550.8 and the STANDARD CONDITIONS section of the SPRRs.

### **F. Reporting Requirements**

In addition to those Standard Provisions pertaining to notification and reporting obligations (see, e.g., GENERAL PROVISIONS of the SPRRs), the Discharger shall comply with the following provisions.

1. The Discharger shall comply with all Operative MRP provisions pertaining to the submittal and formatting of reports and data.
2. Reports shall be submitted electronically via the State Water Board's [GeoTracker Database](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov). After uploading, the Discharger shall notify Central Valley Water Board staff via email at CentralValleyFresno@WaterBoards.ca.gov. The following information shall be included in the body of the email:

**Attention:** Title 27 Compliance & Enforcement Unit  
**Report Title:** [Title]  
**GeoTracker Upload ID:** [number]  
**Facility:** Blue Hills Disposal Facility  
**County:** Fresno County  
**WDID:** 5D100307008

3. All technical reports submitted under this Order shall be prepared by, or under the direct supervision of, a California-licensed civil engineer or engineering geologist. For the purposes of this section, a “technical report” is a report incorporating the application of scientific or engineering principles.

**G. Other Provisions**

1. The Discharger shall maintain at its Fresno office a copy of this Order (including the attached Operative MRP and the SPRRs), making it available at all times to Facility operating personnel, (who shall be familiar with the contents) and to all regulatory agency personnel.
2. The Discharger shall comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 15 (including those provisions not specifically referenced herein).

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A—Facility Map  
Attachment B—Facility Layout

Information Sheet

Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Non-Hazardous Discharges of Waste Regulated under Subtitle D and/or Title 23, September 1993 Edition (SPRRs or Standard Provisions)

Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program 99-087 (11 December 2020)

**ENFORCEMENT**

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Dischargers fail to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2021-0039  
COUNTY OF FRESNO  
BLUE HILLS DISPOSAL FACILITY  
FRESNO COUNTY

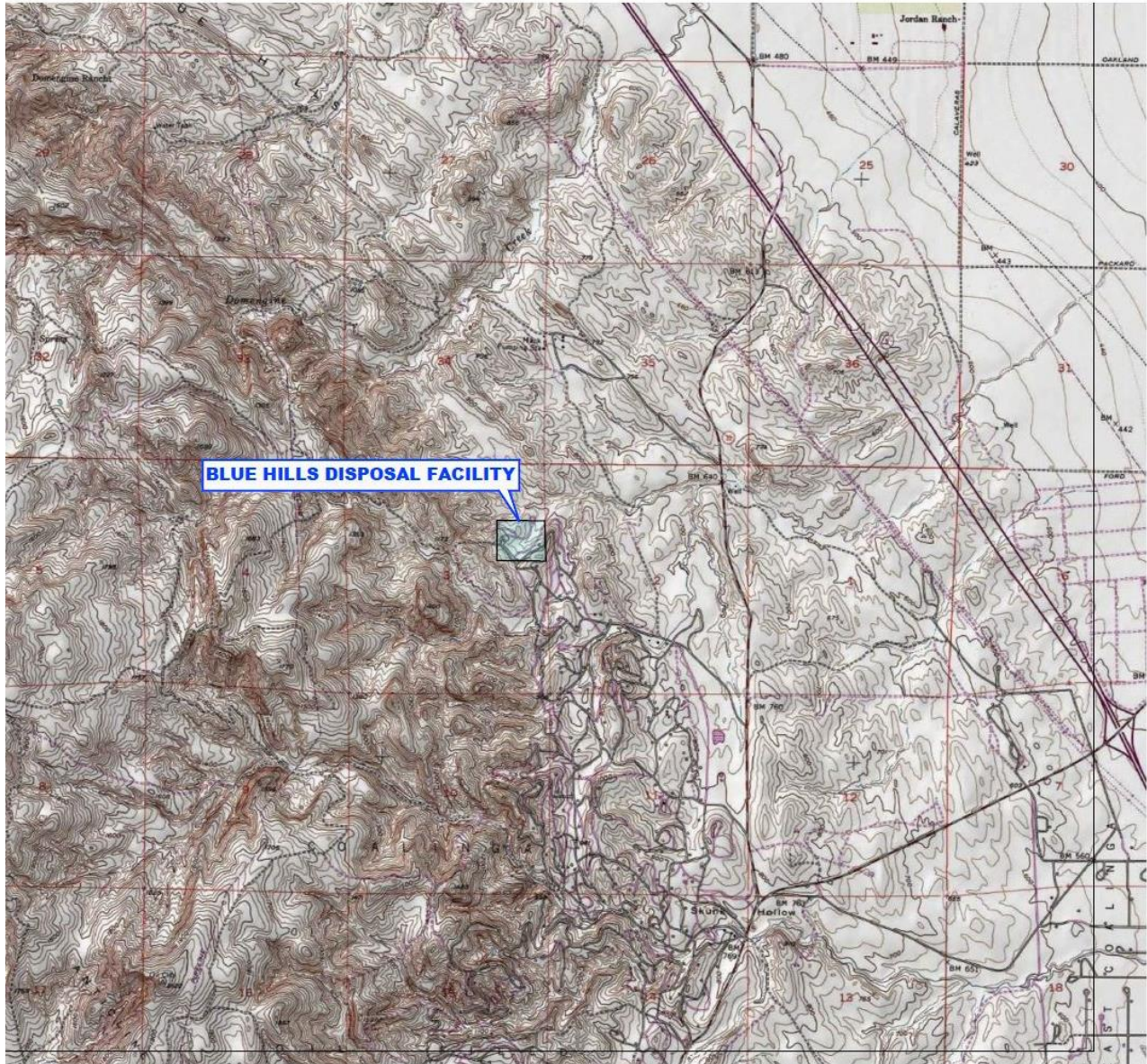
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General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to \$10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13268, 13350 and 13385. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

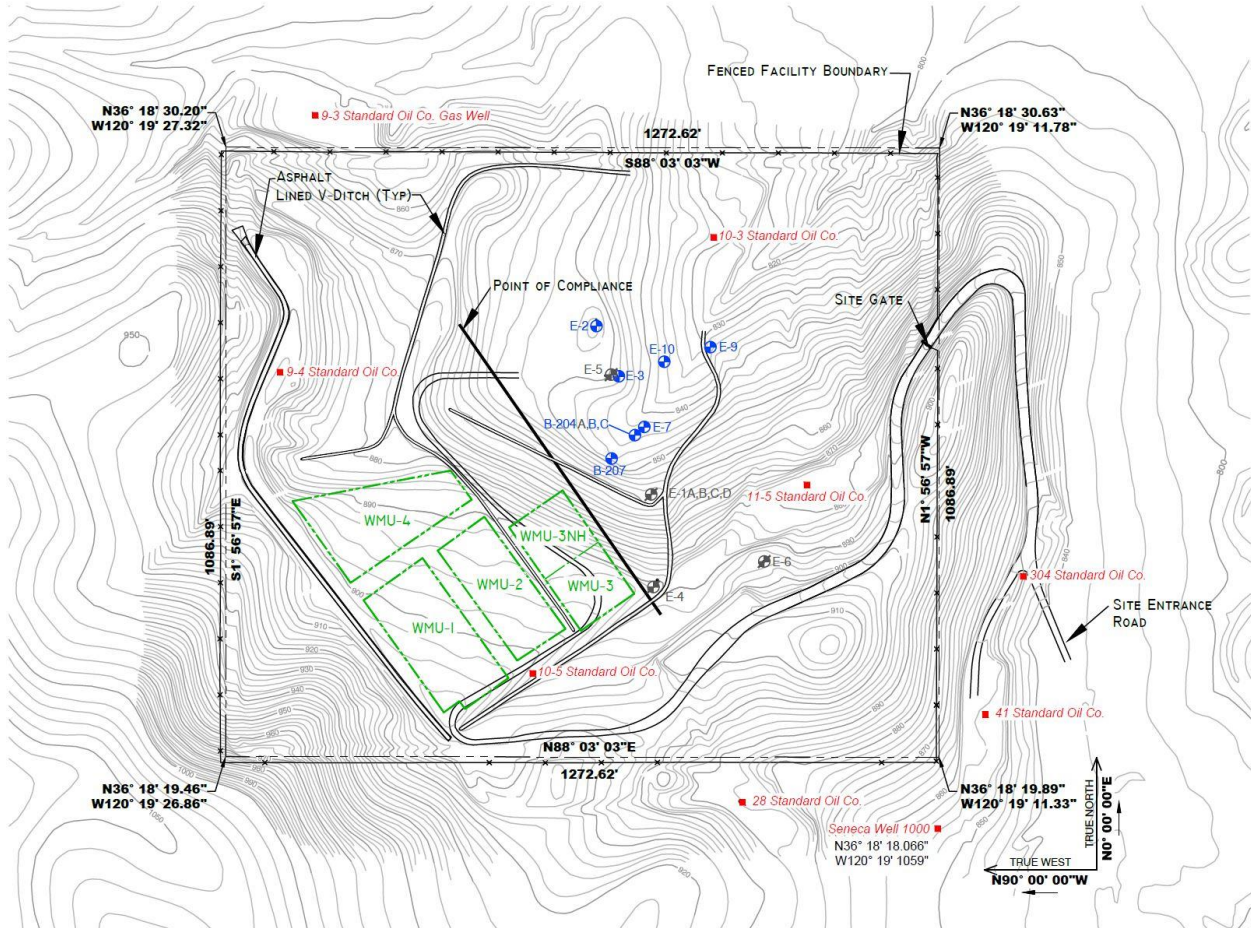
**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

Any person aggrieved by this Central Valley Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. To be timely, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the next business day. The law and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the [State Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)). Copies will also be provided upon request.





**ATTACHMENT A—FACILITY MAP**



**ATTACHMENT B—FACILITY LAYOUT**



**LEGEND:**

-  E-2 GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL
-  E-5 DECOMMISSIONED WELL
-  OIL/GAS WELL
-  WMU-1 WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2021-0039  
FOR  
COUNTY OF FRESNO  
BLUE HILLS DISPOSAL FACILITY  
FRESNO COUNTY

**INFORMATION SHEET**

The County of Fresno (Discharger) owns and maintains the Blue Hills Disposal Facility (Facility), which is located approximately 9 miles northeast of the City of Coalinga in Fresno County. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 99-087 on 11 June 1999, which provided for post-closure maintenance. This Order provides the same, and was updated as part of an administrative policy of periodic review.

The 32-acre facility consists of four unlined WMUs covering 4.5 acres. The Facility was constructed in 1973, originally operated as a "Class I" disposal site. The Discharger accepted primarily pesticides, empty pesticide containers, and other agricultural-industry-related hazardous and nonhazardous wastes. Between 1973 and 1982, the Facility was used primarily for the disposal of empty and partially empty herbicide and pesticide containers with some residue in liquid and powder forms. In addition, an undocumented amount of liquid wastes in drums, highway spill wastes, wastes from the California Department of Forestry, and wastes from other state and federal agencies were also accepted. These wastes are classified as "hazardous" pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), and California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2510 et seq. (collectively, Chapter 15). Hazardous wastes were discharged primarily to WMUs 1 and 2. WMU 3 received uncertified dry, empty pesticide containers in the spring of 1982. WMU 4 received pesticide residual wastes in powder form. From spring 1983 to fall 1991, the Facility accepted only certified triple-rinsed, dry pesticide containers, which were discharged to the non-hazardous portion of WMU 3, designated WMU-3NH. These wastes are classified as "non-hazardous."

The Facility was closed in 1993 with a final closure cover system consisting of (in ascending order) a foundation soil layer with a minimum thickness of two feet, an 18-inch thick compacted clay layer with a permeability of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec or less, and a well-established vegetated soil layer with a minimum thickness of 15 inches.

The Facility is located on the eastern slope of the California Coast Range Mountains and on the upturned Etchegoin Formation. The Etchegoin is underlain by the Santa Margarita Formation which is in turn underlain by the oil producing Temblor Formation. The northwesterly trending Etchegoin Formation of Pliocene age directly underlies the site. This geologic formation is composed of permeable sandstones interbedded with less permeable siltstone and claystone units of variable thickness. The units dip

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**INFORMATION SHEET**

approximately 20 degrees to the east, far beneath the alluvial groundwater aquifers of the San Joaquin Valley. The Etchegoin Formation is an exempt aquifer as classified by the US-EPA for the oil wells operating in the Coalinga oil field around, and previously on, the Facility site. California aquifers exempted by 40 CFR part 146.4 are still subject to the requirements of the Basin Plan. Many of the units within this formation are discontinuous, pinching-out to the east and southeast. Perched groundwater occurs at the site within two dipping sandstone units Ss1 and Ss2, of the Etchegoin Formation. The depth to perched groundwater in the Ss1 unit ranged from about 780 feet mean sea level (MSL) at monitoring well B-207 down to about 714 feet MSL at monitoring well E-9. Depth to groundwater in the Ss2 unit ranged from about 695 feet MSL in monitoring well E-7 down to about 666 feet MSL at monitoring well E-10. The WMUs has historically had a release of the herbicides dicamba and MCPP had also been found in samples collected from groundwater monitoring well. Other chlorophenyl herbicides and chlorinated pesticides have occasionally been detected at low concentrations in groundwater monitoring wells.

Historically, the corrective action program for groundwater at the facility consisted of bioremediation and the Facility is currently using monitored natural attenuation as their form of corrective action. The last detections of dicamba and MCPP in well E-3 were in April 2016; and the last detection of MCPP from well B-204B was in October 2015.

The adoption of this Order exempt from procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), per the "existing facilities" categorical exemption established under the operative CEQA Guidelines. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 15301.)

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**STANDARD PROVISIONS & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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**STANDARD PROVISIONS & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2021-0039  
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**REVISED MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM 99-087**

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**REVISED MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM 99-087**