

## INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2011-XXXX  
FOR MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
FOR OPERATION AND CONSTRUCTION  
BILLY WRIGHT SOLID WASTE LANDFILL  
MERCED COUNTY

The waste management facility is owned by Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (hereafter Discharger) and operated by the Merced County Public Works Department. The facility is approximately eight miles west of the City of Los Banos and 1 mile south of Highway 152.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) adopted Order 5-00-052 on 17 March 2000, which classified the Unit as a Class III landfill as defined in Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20005 et seq. (hereafter Title 27). The proposed Order revises the existing Waste Discharge Requirements to provide for the expansion of the waste management Unit with an engineered alternative composite liner system.

The facility contains one inactive and one active unlined waste management unit (Unit) covering 39.8 acres. The total permitted area of the facility is approximately 172.7 acres, of which approximately 101.8 acres will comprise the proposed expansion area for future Units. Remaining land will be utilized for the scale facility, retention basins, a composting facility, a resource recovery area, a proposed transfer station, and buffer zones.

The facility is underlain by marine sedimentary rocks, which include mudstone with lesser fine-grained sandstone, concretionary and fossiliferous sandstone, and gypsum of the Late Cretaceous Panoche and/or Moreno Formations.

Depth to first encountered groundwater ranges from approximately eight to 44 feet below the native ground surface. Groundwater elevations range from 257 feet mean sea level (MSL) to 294 MSL.

The existing groundwater detection monitoring system consists of eight groundwater monitoring wells. The surface water detection monitoring system consists of three surface water monitoring points.

Several Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been detected in downgradient monitoring wells below water quality criteria on a sporadic basis, including: chloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, dichlorodifluoromethane, dichloromethane, trichloroethylene. In addition, several inorganic constituents of concern have been sporadically detected at concentrations above tolerance limits, including: nitrate, chloride, and sulfate. Concentration of these constituents have been below tolerance limits in recent monitoring events.

Section 20080(b) of Title 27 allows the Central Valley Water Board to consider the approval of an engineered alternative to the prescriptive standard liner design. In order to approve an engineered alternative in accordance with Sections 20080(c)(1) or (2) of Title 27, the Discharger must demonstrate that the prescriptive design is unreasonably and unnecessarily burdensome and will cost substantially more than an alternative which will meet the criteria contained in Section 20080(b) of Title 27, or would be impractical and would not promote attainment of applicable performance standards.

The Discharger demonstrated that the proposed engineered alternative liner system is consistent with the performance goal addressed by the particular prescriptive standard, and provides protection against water quality impairment equivalent to the prescriptive standard in accordance with Section 20080(b)(2) of Title 27.

The proposed waste containment system consists of, from the bottom up for the base liner: a prepared subgrade; a geosynthetic clay liner over subgrade; a double-sided textured 60-mil high density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane; a 12-ounce geotextile cushion; a 9-inch thick LCRS granular drainage layer; an eight-ounce geotextile; and a one foot of protective cover soil. The proposed side slope liner design consists, from bottom up of: a prepared subgrade; a geosynthetic clay liner; a single-sided textured 60-mil high density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane (textured side down); a 16-ounce geotextile cushion; and an 18-inch thick protective cover soil.

The action to revise waste discharge requirements for this existing facility is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resource Code Section 21000, et seq., and the CEQA guidelines, in accordance with Title 14, CCR, Section 15301.

This order updates the waste discharge requirements for the facility in conformance with the California Water Code and Title 27, and the revisions and policies adopted thereunder, for operation and construction.

This order requires full containment of wastes and does not permit degradation of surface water or groundwater. Further antidegradation analysis is therefore not needed. The discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of State Water Resource Control Board Resolution No. 68-16.