



## KERN COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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November 26, 2012

Mr. Dane S. Johnson, P.G.  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
California Regional Water Quality  
Control Board - Central Valley Region  
1685 "E" Street  
Fresno, CA 93706

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RWQCB-CVR  
FRESNO, CALIF.

**RE: McFarland-Delano Sanitary Landfill; Kern County  
Comments on Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

Thank you for providing Kern County Waste Management Department (KCWMD) the opportunity to provide comments on the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) dated November 1, 2012, for the McFarland-Delano Sanitary Landfill.

KCWMD's comments regarding the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements are presented below. For ease of Central Valley Water Board review, each section of specific language as stated in the tentative document is displayed in italics followed by KCWMD's comments. While not specifically addressed below, it is still the KCWMD's position that the Threat and Complexity ranking for this site should not be included in the WDRs.

### WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

#### FINDINGS:

- The facility is on a 106-acre property on Stradley Avenue. The facility contains one closed unlined 37-acre waste management unit (Unit) as shown in Attachment B, which is incorporated herein and made part of this Order by reference. An active landfill gas extraction system with a flare operates at the facility. The facility is comprised of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 521-040-02, 521-040-11, 521-060-01, 521-080-03, 521-080-05.*

Comment: KCWMD purchased additional property as buffer, but would like the area subject to the WDRs to be consistent with the Solid Waste Facility Permit, which covers the fenced landfill facility (see attached map). Therefore, KCWMD requests this finding be revised to read:

The facility is on a 40-acre property on Stradley Avenue. The facility contains one closed unlined 37-acre waste management unit (Unit) as shown in Attachment B, which is incorporated herein and made part of this Order by reference. An active landfill gas extraction system with a flare operates at the facility. The facility is a portion (40 acres) of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 521-040-48, which totals 140 acres.

Attachment B is missing four new groundwater monitoring wells (see attached map for the locations of MD1-31, MD1-32, MD1-33, and MD3-06).

*KCWMD proposes three Additional Findings to read as follows:*

New finding Number 1: The inorganic quality of the groundwater near the McFarland-Delano SLF exhibits wide variations. These variations are attributed to the agricultural environment surrounding the landfill. The principal source of recharge to groundwater in the area is irrigation. Irrigation water applied to crops in excess of crop demand may reach groundwater after the soil capacity is exceeded. Excess irrigation is typically applied to saline and alkali soils to reclaim them for agricultural use by leaching inorganic salts from the root zone. Soil amendments are also often used to aid in this reclamation. These activities result in highly mineralized excess irrigation water reaching groundwater. Since irrigation patterns vary seasonally with crop types and with soil types, these variations will translate into more complex variations of groundwater quality.

New finding Number 2: In a letter dated October 5, 2012, the Central Valley Water Board concluded the EMP and EFS adequately addresses the requirements of CCR title 27 section 20005 et seq. and Items four and five of the CAO.

New finding Number 3: The CAO No. 98-731 and all existing WDRs will be rescinded upon acceptance of Order R5-2013-XXXX.

27. *The existing groundwater monitoring network for the landfill consists of background monitoring wells MD1-11, MD1-26, and MD1-27; detection monitoring wells MD1-22, MD1-23, MD1-24, and MD1-25; and evaluation monitoring wells MD3-01 through MD3-05 as shown on Attachment B.*

Comment: Due to the groundwater gradient change and falling groundwater table which has rendered some wells dry the KCWMD added new compliance wells per a Central Valley Water Board approved workplan dated September 26, 2011. Therefore, please modify this finding to read:

The existing groundwater monitoring network for the landfill consists of background monitoring wells MD1-11, MD1-26, and MD1-27; detection monitoring wells MD1-31, MD1-32, and MD1-33; and evaluation/corrective action monitoring wells MD3-02 and MD3-06.

44. *Title 27, Sections 21840 and 22211 requires a cost estimate for landfill post-closure maintenance. The Final Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plan includes a cost estimate for landfill post-closure maintenance. The amount of the cost estimate for post-closure maintenance in 2012 dollars is \$1,571,900. This Order requires that the Discharger maintain financial assurance with CalRecycle in at least the amount of the post-closure maintenance cost estimate adjusted annually for inflation.*

Comment: In the 2011 Inflation Factor Report submitted to CalRecycle, KCWMD revised the landfill post-closure maintenance cost estimate per Title 27 section 22236; and requests that this finding be revised to read:

Title 27, section 21840 and 22211 requires a cost estimate for landfill post-closure maintenance. The Final Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plan includes a cost estimate for landfill post-closure maintenance. The amount of the cost estimate for post-closure maintenance in 2012 dollars is \$1,604,859. This Order requires that the Discharger maintain financial assurance with CalRecycle in at least the amount of the post-closure maintenance cost estimate adjusted annually for inflation.

45. *Title 27, section 22221 requires a cost estimate for corrective action of all known or reasonably foreseeable releases. The Discharger's cost estimate for corrective action of all known or reasonably foreseeable releases, adjusted for inflation, is \$237,760. This Order requires that the Discharger maintain financial assurance with the CalRecycle in at least the amount of the cost estimate adjusted annually for inflation.*

Comment: In the 2011 Inflation Factor Report submitted to CalRecycle, KCWMD revised the landfill corrective action cost estimate per Title 27 section 22236; and requests that this finding be revised to read:

Title 27, Section 22221 requires a cost estimate for corrective action of all known or reasonably foreseeable releases. The Discharger's cost estimate for corrective action of all known or reasonably foreseeable releases, adjusted for inflation, is \$235,664. This Order requires that the Discharger maintain financial assurance with the CalRecycle in at least the amount of the cost estimate adjusted annually for inflation.

## **ATTACHMENT B**

Comment: Attachment B (Site Map) is missing new groundwater monitoring wells MD1-31, MD1-32, MD1-33, and MD3-06.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

### **A. MONITORING**

*The Discharger shall comply with the detection monitoring program provisions of Title 27 for groundwater, surface water, and the unsaturated zone in accordance with Standard Monitoring Specifications in Section I of the SPRRs and the Monitoring Specifications in Section E of the WDRs. All monitoring shall be conducted in accordance with the approved November 1998 Sample Collection and Analysis Plan, which includes quality assurance/quality control standards.*

Comment: In August 2009, KCWMD submitted an updated Sample Collection and Analysis Plan to the Central Valley Water Board. KCWMD believes the updated plan should be used for monitoring.

**1. Groundwater Monitoring**

*The current groundwater monitoring network shall consist of the following:*

<u>Well</u>	<u>Status</u>
MD1-11	Background
MD1-26	Background
MD1-27	Background
MD1-22	Detection
MD1-23	Detection
MD1-24	Detection
MD1-25	Detection
MD3-01	Corrective Action
MD3-02	Corrective Action
MD3-03	Corrective Action
MD3-04	Corrective Action
MD3-05	Corrective Action

Comment: Due to the groundwater gradient change and falling groundwater table the KCWMD has added wells (MD1-31, MD1-32, MD1-33, and MD3-06) to the monitoring network and would like to see this table revised to include the additional wells and delete wells that have been dry for some time (MD1-22 through MD1-25, MD3-01, and MD3-03 through MD3-05).

<u>Well</u>	<u>Status</u>
MD1-11	Background
MD1-26	Background
MD1-27	Background
MD1-31	Detection
MD1-32	Detection
MD1-33	Detection
MD3-02	Corrective Action
MD3-06	Corrective Action

**4. Facility Monitoring**

**d. Standard Observations**

*The Discharger shall conduct Standard Observations at the landfill in accordance with this section of the MRP. Standard observations shall be conducted weekly during the wet season (1 October to 30 April) and monthly during the dry season (1 May to 30 September).*

Comment: KCWMD believes Standard Observations should be conducted monthly for the following reasons:

- the site is in its seventeenth year of post closure maintenance
- the site is stable and well-vegetated
- the site is located in a dry climate
- monthly monitoring is more than adequate

## **B. REPORTING**

### ***Required Reports***

#### **1. Semiannual Monitoring Report**

- d) *Cumulative tabulated monitoring data for all monitoring points and constituents for groundwater, unsaturated zone, and leachate.*

Comment: KCWMD believes that this statement needs clarification. Item "d)" should be revised to read as follows:

A table containing monitoring data for all monitoring points and constituents detected during the reporting period for groundwater, unsaturated zone, and leachate.

- g) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the leachate monitoring and control facilities, and the run-off/run-on control facilities.

Comment: The site does not have leachate monitoring and control facilities, therefore, KCWMD would like to see this monitoring requirement deleted entirely.

#### **2. Annual Monitoring Report:**

- c) *All historical monitoring data for which there are detectable results, including data for the previous year, shall be submitted in tabular form in a digital file format such as a computer disk. The Central Valley Water Board regards the submittal of data in hard copy and in digital format as "...the form necessary for..." statistical analysis [Title 27, section 20420(h)], that facilitates periodic review by the Central Valley Water Board.*

Comment: KCWMD has not included all historical monitoring data in its annual monitoring reports, nor do we believe this is necessary. The annual reports include a tabular presentation of the previous year's monitoring results and a graphical presentation of the previous ten years' monitoring results for detected constituents. In addition, KCWMD semiannually uploads new monitoring reports and analytical laboratory reports to the State Water Resources GeoTracker data system. KCWMD

believes this requirement is duplicative as the requested historical data has already been submitted.

KCWMD believes this requirement should read:

- c) All monitoring data with detectable results for the reporting period shall be submitted in tabular form as well as in digital file format...
- f) *A map showing the area and elevations in which filling has been completed during the previous calendar year and a comparison to final closure design contours, and include a projection of the year in which each discrete landfill module will be filled.*

Comment: KCWMD requests that this item be deleted entirely from this MRP. The final closure construction was completed in 1995. Filling is no longer occurring at the site.

- h) *The results of the annual testing of leachate collection and removal systems required under Standard Facility Specification E. 14 of the SPRRs.*

Comment: KCWMD requests that this item be deleted entirely from this MRP. The site does not have a leachate collection and removal system.

- i) *Updated concentration limits for each monitoring parameter at each monitoring well based on the new data set.*

Comment: Currently, KCWMD compares values of the monitoring parameters with the concentration limits, and reports upon the results in the Annual Report. KCWMD also prepares periodic WQPS reports proposing revised concentration limits.

KCWMD does not revise concentration limits in our annual monitoring reports, nor do we believe this is necessary. Providing "updated concentration limits for each parameter in each well" in each annual report would be especially cumbersome and wasteful, particularly the added costs for KCWMD to prepare and evaluate the new data. It would also provide another level of review at the Central Valley Water Board, requiring additional resources for review and approval of the limits each year. California Water Code Section 13267 states that "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." KCWMD does not believe that the cost for this is worth the need.

KCWMD requests that this item be deleted entirely from this MRP.

5. **Major Storm Event Reporting:** *Following major storm events capable of causing damage or significant erosion, the Discharger **immediately** shall notify Central Valley Water Board staff of any damage or significant erosion upon discovery and report subsequent repairs within **14 days** of completion of the repairs, including photographs of the problem and the repairs. Refer to Section A of this MRP, above.*

Comment: The words "any" and "significant" are vague and subjective, and should be defined. Notification of Central Valley Water Board staff of "any damage or significant erosion" would cause an undue burden on KCWMD staff, as well as Central Valley Water Board staff. Currently, "major storm event reporting" is included with each semi-annual monitoring report. KCWMD believes that this current level of reporting is adequate. Please revise Item 5 above to read as follows:

**Major Storm Event Reporting:** *Following major storm events capable of causing damage or significant erosion, the Discharger immediately shall notify Central Valley Water Board staff of damage or erosion that could impair the integrity of the waste containment facility. The discharger shall report on the damage or erosion and subsequent repairs in the semi-annual monitoring report covering the period in which the damage occurred.*

## TABLE II

### UNSATURATED ZONE DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM

#### SUCTION LYSIMETERS

Comment: The facility was permitted and in operation before 1 July 1991; therefore, it qualifies for exemption of unsaturated zone monitoring pursuant to Section 20415(d) of Title 27.

## INFORMATION SHEET

*The County of Kern (hereinafter Discharger) owns and maintains the McFarland-Delano Sanitary Landfill (facility) about one and a half miles southwest of Delano. The 106-acre facility contains one closed, unlined 37-acre waste management unit.*

Comment: KCWMD purchased additional property as buffer, but would like the area subject to the WDRs to be consistent with the Solid Waste Facility Permit, which covers the fenced landfill facility. Please revise this paragraph to read:

*The County of Kern (hereinafter Discharger) owns and maintains the McFarland-Delano Sanitary Landfill (facility) about one and a half miles southwest of Delano. The 40-acre facility contains one closed, unlined 37-acre waste management unit.*

Mr. Dane Johnson, P.G.  
Central Valley Water Board

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November 26, 2012

Thank you for providing KCWMD the opportunity to comment on the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements, and Monitoring and Reporting Program dated November 1, 2012, for the McFarland-Delano Sanitary Landfill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Burston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael R. Burston, P.G.  
Supervising Engineer

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Attachment: Site Maps

cc: William O'Rullivan, KCEHSD  
MCF L WQC