

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, March 14, 2013
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM:

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SUBJECT: **Public Hearing** to consider adoption of Order No. R1-2013-0003, Waste Discharge Requirements for Operation, Corrective Actions, New Construction and Closure of the **County of Sonoma Department of Transportation and Public Works Sonoma County Central Disposal Site**, WDID Nos. 1B801490SON and 1B99011RSON (*Diana Henrioulle*)

BOARD ACTION:

The Board will consider the adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2013-0003 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2013-0003.

BACKGROUND:

Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works (SCDTPW) operates two Class III municipal landfill units at the Central Disposal site located in rural Sonoma County just southwest of the town of Cotati. The facility services the County of Sonoma as the sole operating landfill within the District and currently has remaining constructed capacity until late 2013, depending upon out hauling rates. Currently approximately half of the county's waste is out hauled to the Potrero Hills Landfill near Fairfield in Solano County. Upon filling of the remaining airspace, the County will need to rely solely upon disposal to other available landfills. This project proposes to expand the base liner system to provide for additional landfill capacity for the next approximately 20 years. This project also proposes to construct a final cap over approximately 14 acres that have reached final capacity.

The Regional Water Quality Board is the primary agency for permitting new landfill liner construction through implementation of Title 27, California Code of Regulation and Federal Code of Regulation –RCRA Sub-Title D- 40CFR, Part 258.

This project proposes to construct and expand new base liner phases of the Landfill 2 footprint and to overlap the old unlined unit with a Phase V, vertical expansion. The County has proposed to construct a double composite liner system for the base and to construct an engineered alternative liner system for Phase V, which will be constructed over the Landfill 1 sideslope. Future projects include the construction of expansion in the Rock Extraction Area and on the existing compost deck.

The Regional Board initially permitted a 42-acre Landfill 2, East Canyon Expansion Project in 2000. Approximately 20 acres (Phases I/II) of base liner expansion had been constructed and put into operation when landfill gas and leachate were detected within the groundwater underdrain system, necessitating corrective action measures to address the new releases. In 2004, the Regional Board adopted corrective action-based WDRs to address the water quality impacts and to require a more robust liner system for any future base liner expansion. Additional corrective action measures were required for the contiguous landfill, Landfill 1, to dewater accumulated leachate volumes. Corrective action measures considered pursuant to Order R1-2004-0040 have been successful in managing leachate accumulation, collection, and disposal.

Corrective action measures are ongoing at both existing landfills to continue to address removal of leachate and landfill gas buildup and within the waste mass at Landfill 1 and to continue to extract and monitor landfill gas removal at Landfill 2, Phase I/II. This Order proposes several next steps in the corrective action programs to achieve water quality protections at the site.

ISSUES:

Significant issues identified and addressed in the proposed WDRs include the following:

Liner Design for New Units. The Phase III/IV expansion liner is designed as a double composite liner with a mid-liner leak detection system to address any possible releases at the earliest possible time. Because the East Canyon has high groundwater, the Discharger has proposed an underdrain

system to intercept and lower the groundwater table and maintain 5 feet of separation between the highest groundwater and waste.

Discharge Prohibition for Compost Operations. This permit prohibits the discharge of water that has contacted compost materials, and requires submittal of a plan, including a schedule, to cease such discharges.

Comments Received

Regional Water Board staff posted draft Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and Monitoring and Reporting Program for public review and comment from December 7, 2012 through January 22, 2013. We received three comment letters from: 1) William J. Henrich, a neighbor of the Central Disposal Site, 2) the Happy Acres Mutual Benefit Water System, serving the residents of the Happy Acres subdivision, located on Mecham Road northeast of the Central Disposal Site, and 3) the County of Sonoma, the Discharger named in the WDRs.

- SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:** Changes made to the WDRs and MRP in response to comments include the following:
- Acknowledgement of the Happy Acres Mutual Benefit Water System as a sole source water supply located in the general vicinity of the landfill;
 - Clarifications in several places in the WDRs regarding the intent of the Discharger to maintain the operations and performance of the existing corrective action system during construction and operation of new landfill units;
 - Acknowledgement that maintaining the operational characteristics of the corrective action system may require construction through new liner systems overlying existing landfilled waste in the Landfill 1 footprint;
 - Removal of the requirements for monitoring and maintaining mitigation wetlands, which had been created and monitored under the terms of previous permits;

- A provision that the County will comply with CEQA mitigation measures as specified in the CEQA documentation for the project
- A number of clarifying changes to the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Responses to comments on the draft WDRs are described in greater detail in the attached Response to Comments document. The Response to Comments, supporting material received from the County with respect to certain comments addressing issues outside the scope of the WDRs, and comment letters can be found in the associated WDR permit package.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2013-0003 and Monitoring and Reporting Program R1-2013-0003 as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Hearing Procedure
2. Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R1-2013-0003, ~~strikeout~~/underline version
3. Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R1-2013-0003, clean version
4. Proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program, Order No. R1-2013-0003, ~~strikeout~~/underline version
5. Proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program, Order No. R1-2013-0003, clean version
6. Responses to Comments
7. Additional Information submitted by the County of Sonoma in response to comments received
8. Comment Letters received