



**Altamont Landfill & Resource Recovery Facility
10840 Altamont Pass Road, Livermore, CA 94551**

VIA E-mail and US Mail

March 28, 2016

Mr. Andrew Altevogt
Assistant Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Tentative WDRs for Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility

Dear Mr. Altevogt:

Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc. (WMAC) is pleased to provide this summary of major issues identified in the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (TWDR) for the Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility (ALRRF). This summary was prepared at your request at the conclusion our meeting at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQB) on March 24, 2016. As discussed during the meeting, there are numerous significant issues associated with the TWDR and WMAC requests that the TWDR be removed from the April 22-23 Board Hearing date. This will allow additional time to work with CVRWQCB staff to seek resolution on these very important matters.

In general, the document is largely written as an enforcement action, and WMAC is both perplexed and very concerned about this shift in the WDR process. In addition, the excessive level of specificity incorporated into the document makes it extremely difficult to manage from a compliance standpoint, and thus prone to potential failure. This specificity also limits or restricts performance-based standards allowed for under Title 27. Problems identified in the TWDR can be broadly categorized as: (1) inconsistencies with Title 27 regulations; (2) inconsistencies within the TWDR itself; (3) disregard of decisions made in the previous WDR R5-2009-0055; (4) disregard of previous WMAC work products; and (5) deviations from other WDRs in the region.

The list of summary items that follow is not all inclusive of the issues identified, but is provided as requested to identify some of the significant areas of disagreement:

ET Cover Provisions: Although pointed out in previous WMAC communications, the TWDR still contains language that is inconsistent with Title 27 performance-based standards. This language, along with new flux criteria (6.83×10^6 mm/yr) essentially derails the ET cover previously approved by the CVRWQCB in

the 2009 WDRs. This has very significant cost implications for WMAC. In addition, WMAC believes that the previously approved ET cover system provides superior long-term sustainability over prescriptive cover designs, and we believe that prior CVRWQB staff strongly supported the technology. ET covers have been approved at multiple landfills in the Central Valley Region including Fink Road and North County.

Capping Schedule: The capping schedule does not account for achievement of final grades in Fill Area 1 Unit 1, which means that the closure cap would be installed before WMAC is finished placing waste in the unit. In addition, the capping schedule requires installation of the entire Fill Area 1 Unit 1 cover prior to completion of the 4-year performance monitoring period (evaluation period) over the 10-acre initial cover, required in the Tentative WDRs. It is not reasonable to require that WMAC commit to very large expenditures for this capping effort prior to completion of performance monitoring.

Deliverables: The accelerated due date schedule and sheer volume of work efforts required is not feasible. Even if the Board hearing date is moved to June, the first report is due a week after the Board hearing and 11 reports are due between the two-month period of June 30, 2016 and September 1, 2016. WMAC also questions the CVRWQCB's ability to maintain the prescribed schedule given their own man-power issues and the length of time it has taken to receive responses on past WMAC deliverables. Any delay in Board staff review would likely put WMAC out of compliance with the WDRs and subject to enforcement. Lastly, WMAC questions the need for several deliverables based upon previous submittals that WMAC has provided (more below).

Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model: The TWDR largely disregards the history of the conceptual model development dating back to the 2002 WDR. In 2002, CVRWQB required additional detailed investigations to support the model. WMAC understands that the work was completed to the satisfaction of the CVRWQCB as documented in the 2009 WDR. The results of CVRWQB and WMAC efforts over a 10-year period are largely disregarded in the TWDRs, with the removal of important Findings contained in the prior WDR and additional work required due to that omission. Although we continue to work with CVRWQCB staff to promote better understanding of the conceptual model, it is unclear to WMAC why permitting staff have not been a part of those discussions.

Change of Status for Overall Groundwater Monitoring Program: The TWDR essentially concludes that WMAC's Groundwater Monitoring Program is not in compliance with Title 27 in nearly every regard. This is very curious given that it is essentially the same program CVRWQCB incorporated into the 2009 WDR, with the exception of 7 additional monitoring wells added to the Fill Area 2 network. WMAC opposes the position taken in the TWDRs with regard to this issue. This is obviously very troubling to WMAC, and CVRWQCB should be concerned as well given past incorporation of this program into the 2009 WDR. It appears that previous CVRWQCB decisions are being disregarded in the TWDR.

Change of Status Fill Area 2 Detection Monitoring Network: The TWDR questions the adequacy of the first series of detection monitoring wells for the Fill Area 2 Phase 1 cell. It is important to note that a

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work plan submitted in May 2014 described the detection monitoring wells to be installed, and the CVRWQCB subsequently agreed with the well locations in July 2014. WMAC is very concerned about this new position taken by CVRWQCB in March 2016 given the timing needed to install additional wells and develop WQPSs in advance of waste placement.

We appreciate your consideration of these issues and trust that you agree with our request to remove the TWDR from the April 22-23 Board Hearing date. We look forward to working with your staff to adopt a fair and reasonable WDR revision.

Very truly yours,
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Lewis".

Ken Lewis, P.E.
Director of Disposal Operations
Northern California-Nevada

Cc via E-mail: Marty Hartzell
Mark Verwiell
Glen Roycroft
Marcus Netz
Catherine Riegler