

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
COUNTY OF KERN  
FOR  
CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE  
BUTTONWILLOW SANITARY LANDFILL  
KERN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. The County of Kern (hereafter Discharger) owns and maintains a municipal solid waste landfill about one mile north of Buttonwillow, in Section 14, T29S, R23E, MDB&M, as shown in Attachment A, which is incorporated herein and made part of this Order.
2. The facility contains one existing unlined waste management unit (Unit) covering 7.7 acres, as shown in Attachment B, which is incorporated herein and made part of this Order. The facility is comprised of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 101-060-02, 101-060-03, 101-060-09, 101-060-10 and 101-060-11.
3. On 26 June 1970, the Regional Water Board adopted Resolution No. 70-229, in which the facility was classified as a Class II-2 waste disposal site for the discharge of municipal solid wastes in accordance with the regulations in effect when the order was issued.
4. Waste discharge ceased on 8 September 1998. A waste transfer station has been operating at the waste management facility since 1996. Presently, the waste received at the transfer station is transported to the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill.
5. On 14 June 2001, the Regional Water Board issued Order No. 5-01-158 which classified the Unit as a Class III landfill as defined in Title 27, California Code of Regulations, §20005, et seq. (Title 27).
6. This Order revises Order No. 5-01-158 to provide for the construction of a final cover, regulate post-closure maintenance of the facility, and to regulate corrective action for groundwater degradation.

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### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

7. The measured hydraulic conductivity of the native soils underlying the Unit ranges between  $5 \times 10^{-8}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  cm/sec.
8. The closest Holocene faults are approximately five miles to the east and west. Recorded magnitudes of seismic events along these faults range between 2 and 5 on the Richter scale. The San Andreas Fault Zone is located approximately 22 miles west of the landfill. The maximum credible acceleration for the site is 0.173g.
9. Land within 1,000 feet of the facility is used for irrigated agriculture.
10. The facility receives an average of 5.67 inches of precipitation per year as measured at the Buttonwillow Station. The normal year evapotranspiration is 57.8 inches per year as reported by the California Irrigation Management Information System for the Shafter Station.
11. The 100-year, 24-hour precipitation event is estimated to be two inches, based on Department of Water Resources' bulletin entitled *Rainfall Depth-Duration-Frequency for California*, revised November 1982, updated August 1986.
12. The waste management facility is not within a 100-year flood plain based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community-Panel Number 060075 0975 B, dated 29 September 1986.
13. There are 42 domestic and agricultural groundwater supply wells within one mile of the site. No surface springs or other sources of groundwater supply have been observed.

### **SURFACE AND GROUND WATER CONDITIONS**

14. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition* (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation plans and policies for all waters of the Basin.
15. Surface drainage is toward the Eastside Canal in the Semitropic Hydrologic Area (558.70) of the Tulare Lake Basin.
16. The landfill is on the floor of the southern San Joaquin Valley. The designated beneficial uses of Valley Floor Waters, as specified in the Basin Plan, are agricultural supply; industrial service and process supply; water contact and non-contact water recreation; warm fresh water habitat; preservation of rare, threatened and endangered species; and groundwater recharge.

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17. The first encountered groundwater is unconfined and is about 18 to 22 feet below the native ground surface. Groundwater elevations range from 250 feet to 256 feet above mean sea level. The depth to groundwater fluctuates seasonally as much as three feet.
18. Monitoring data indicates background groundwater quality has a specific electrical conductivity (EC) ranging between 2,500 and 11,600 micromhos/cm, with total dissolved solids (TDS) ranging between 1,200 and 2,800 mg/l.
19. The direction of groundwater flow is toward the southwest. The direction of groundwater flow varies seasonally and periodically flows toward the south. The average groundwater gradient is approximately 0.004 feet per foot. The average groundwater velocity is 25 feet per year.
20. The designated beneficial uses of the groundwater, as specified in the Basin Plan, are domestic and municipal, agricultural, and industrial supply.

#### **WASTE AND SITE CLASSIFICATION**

21. The Discharger previously discharged municipal solid wastes, which are defined in §20164 of Title 27. Waste Discharge ceased on 8 September 1998.
22. The site characteristics where the Unit is located (see Finding No. 7) do not meet the siting criteria for a new Class III landfill contained in §20260(a) and (b)(1) of Title 27. As such, the site is not suitable for the containment of Class III wastes without the construction of additional waste containment features in accordance with §20260(b)(2) of Title 27 and State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 93-62.

#### **DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM**

23. The run-off of storm water at the facility constitutes a discharge of waste that has the potential to affect the quality of surface and ground waters of the state. To ensure compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16 and Basin Plan Antidegradation requirements, Facility Specification B.7 of this Order requires compliance with Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and Monitoring Program and Reporting Requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's General Industrial Storm Water Permit (Order No. 97-03-DWQ), Sections A and B. Compliance with Sections A and B of Order No. 97-03-DWQ satisfies the Best Practicable Treatment or Control requirement of Resolution No. 68-16 with respect to storm water discharges.
24. The groundwater detection monitoring system, initiated in August 1989, consists of six monitoring wells. Monitoring wells BT1-01 and BT1-04 are used to collect

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background water quality data. Monitoring wells BT1-09 and BT1-10 are used to collect water quality data on the point of compliance. Monitoring wells BT1-02 and BT1-06 are located in cross-gradient positions.

25. In accordance with Section 20415(d)(5) of Title 27, the Discharger demonstrated that installation of unsaturated zone monitoring devices would require unreasonable dismantling or relocating of permanent structures. Therefore, unsaturated zone monitoring is not feasible and has been waived.
26. The Unit has a passive landfill gas extraction system.
27. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are often detected in a release from a landfill, and are the primary waste constituents detected in groundwater beneath a municipal solid waste landfill. Since volatile organic compounds are not naturally occurring and thus have no background value, they are not amenable to the statistical analysis procedures contained in Title 27 for the determination of a release of wastes from a Unit.
28. Sections 20415(e)(8) and (9) of Title 27 provide for the non-statistical evaluation of monitoring data that will provide the best assurance of the earliest possible detection of a release from a Unit in accordance with §20415(b)(1)(B)2.-4. of Title 27. However, Title 27 does not specify a specific method for non-statistical evaluation of monitoring data.
29. The Regional Water Board may specify a non-statistical data analysis method pursuant to Section 20080(a)(1) of Title 27. Section 13360(a)(1) of the California Water Code allows the Regional Water Board to specify requirements to protect underground or surface waters from leakage from a solid waste site, which includes a method to provide the best assurance of determining the earliest possible detection of a release.
30. In order to provide the best assurance of the earliest possible detection of a release of non-naturally occurring waste constituents from a Unit, this Order specifies a non-statistical method for the evaluation of monitoring data.
31. The specified non-statistical method for evaluation of monitoring data provides two criteria (or triggers) for making the determination that there has been a release of non-naturally occurring waste constituents from a Unit. The presence of two non-naturally occurring waste constituents above their respective method detection limit (MDL), or one non-naturally occurring waste constituent detected above its practical quantitation limit (PQL), indicates that a release of waste from a Unit has occurred. Following an indication of a release, verification testing will be conducted to determine whether there has been a release from the Unit, or there is

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a source of the detected constituents other than the landfill, or the detection was a false detection. Although the detection of one non-naturally occurring waste constituent above its MDL is sufficient to provide for the earliest possible detection of a release, the detection of two non-naturally occurring waste constituents above the MDL as a trigger is appropriate due to the higher risk of false-positive analytical results and the corresponding increase in sampling and analytical expenses from the use of one non-naturally occurring waste constituent above its MDL as a trigger.

### **EVALUATION MONITORING PROGRAM**

32. Organic compounds that are not naturally occurring have been detected in groundwater along the point of compliance. The following organic compounds have been sporadically detected at trace concentrations since the beginning of the Detection Monitoring Program: Chloromethane, 1,1-Dichloroethane, Tetrachloroethene, and Trichlorofluoromethane. Dichlorodifluoromethane (Freon 12) has been consistently detected in monitoring well BT1-10 over the last five years at concentrations ranging from trace to approximately two micrograms per liter.
33. The groundwater evaluation monitoring system consists of five monitoring wells: BT1-03, BT2-01, BT2-02, BT2-04, and BT2-05.
34. A Water Quality Protection Standard has been established for the Unit. The concentration limits for the constituents of concern are listed on Table V of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_.
35. The Discharger completed an Evaluation Monitoring Program for the release of waste constituents to the groundwater. The nature of the release was demonstrated to be volatile organic compounds that originated from landfill gas. The extent of the release is a plume approximately 250 feet wide, 600 feet long, and 90 feet deep. The plume extends from the Unit to the southwest and does not occur beyond the boundaries of the waste management facility.
36. The release consists of Freon 12 from the migration of landfill gas to the groundwater.
37. The Discharger completed an Engineering Feasibility Study in accordance with Section 20425(c) of Title 27. The Engineering Feasibility Study concluded that the most technically and economically feasible corrective action alternative is monitored natural attenuation in conjunction with landfill gas extraction.

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38. The Discharger submitted an amended Report of Waste Discharge to establish corrective action.
39. Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_ requires the Discharger to monitor the release of waste constituents and the progress of corrective action in accordance with a Corrective Action Plan.

### **CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERED ALTERNATIVE**

40. The current interim cover on the landfill consists of a minimum of two feet of soil placed on top of refuse. The current cover does not meet the final cover system requirements of Title 27.
41. Closure and post-closure maintenance requirements for landfills are contained in §21090 of Title 27. The prescriptive standard for the final cover is contained in §21090(a) of Title 27.
42. Section 20080(b) of Title 27 allows the Regional Water Board to consider the approval of an engineered alternative to the prescriptive standard. In order to approve an engineered alternative in accordance with §20080(c)(1) and (2), 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 §20080(b), or would be impractical and would not promote attainment of applicable performance standards. The Discharger must also demonstrate that the proposed engineered alternative cover system is consistent with the performance goals addressed by the particular prescriptive standard, and provides protection against water quality impairment equivalent to the prescriptive standard in accordance with §20080(b)(2) of Title 27.
43. Section 13360(a)(1) of the California Water Code allows the Regional Water Board to specify the design, type of construction, and/or particular manner in which compliance must be met in waste discharge requirements or orders for the discharge of waste at solid waste disposal facilities.
44. The Discharger submitted a design plan for the proposed closure of the landfill in a Final Closure Plan dated October 2003. The Final Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plans were determined to be adequate in a letter from Regional Water Board staff dated 26 March 2004. The plan proposed the construction of an engineered alternative in lieu of the prescriptive cover design specified in §21090(a) of Title 27. The proposed engineered alternative is an evapo-transpirative design consisting of a vegetated soil layer.

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45. The Discharger adequately demonstrated that construction of a Title 27 prescriptive standard cover would be unreasonable and unnecessarily burdensome when compared to the proposed engineered alternative design. There is no clay source on-site or nearby and the cost of importing clay from off-site or mixing on-site soils with bentonite would cost substantially more than the alternative design.
46. The performance of an evapo-transpirative cover design can be adequately predicted by using a computer model that utilizes the Richards Equation and laboratory-derived parameters from samples of soil that will be used in the construction of the cover.
47. An evapo-transpirative final cover constructed according to a design derived in the above manner can be monitored to observe its actual performance. Adjustments can be made to the vegetation or thickness of the soil layer if a trend of under-performance is observed as part of the post-closure maintenance of the cover.
48. The Discharger proposed an evapo-transpirative cover design that was derived using the computer model UNSAT-H. The proposed design utilizes a three-foot thick vegetated soil layer.
49. Section 21090(a)(4)(A) of Title 27 requires that a periodic leak search, including a method for identifying and repairing breaches in “the low-hydraulic conductivity layer”, be a component of the cover maintenance plan.
50. A common way to conduct a leak search on a cover that utilizes a low-hydraulic conductivity layer as part of its design is to monitor the surface of the cover for landfill gas emissions.
51. In an evapo-transpirative cover design, the low-hydraulic conductivity layer is replaced by a vegetated soil layer that is engineered and constructed to absorb moisture during precipitation events and expel moisture by evaporation and transpiration before it flows through the bottom of the cover.
52. Landfill gas emissions do not definitely indicate a leak in an evapo-transpirative cover. A leak in this kind of cover will be detected by using a device that directly measures moisture flux through the cover, such as a pan lysimeter. This Order requires the Discharger to construct a pan lysimeter(s) beneath the final cover.
53. The Discharger must submit the final construction and design plans for the final cover, and the Construction Quality Assurance Plan prior to construction of the final cover. Construction must not proceed until all applicable construction quality assurance plans have been approved.

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### **CEQA AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

54. 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 §21000, et seq., and the CEQA guidelines, in accordance with Title 14, CCR, §15301.
55. This order implements:
  - a. *The Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition*;
  - b. The prescriptive standards and performance goals of Chapters 1 through 7, Subdivision 1, Division 2, Title 27, of the California Code of Regulations, effective 18 July 1997, and subsequent revisions;
  - c. State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 93-62, *Policy for Regulation of Discharges of Municipal Solid Waste*, adopted 17 June 1993.

### **PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

56. All local agencies with jurisdiction to regulate land use, solid waste disposal, air pollution, and to protect public health, have approved the use of this site for the discharges of waste to land stated herein.
57. The Regional Water Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for this discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
58. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
59. Any person affected by this action of the Regional Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with Sections 2050 through 2068, Title 23, California Code of Regulations. The petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812, within 30 days of the date of issuance of this Order. Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to the filing of a petition are available on the Internet at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_laws/index.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html) and will be provided on request.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Sections 13263 and 13267 of the California Water Code, that Order No. 5-01-158 is rescinded, and that the County of Kern, its agents, successors, and assigns, in order to meet the provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and the regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

**A. PROHIBITIONS**

1. The discharge of any additional waste at this facility is prohibited.
2. The discharged wastes shall not cause the release of pollutants, or waste constituents in a manner which could cause a condition of nuisance, degradation, contamination, or pollution of groundwater to occur, as indicated by the most appropriate statistical or nonstatistical data analysis method and retest method listed in this Order, the Monitoring and Reporting Program, or the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements.
3. The discharge of solid waste, liquid waste, leachate, or waste constituents shall neither cause nor contribute to any degradation, contamination, pollution, or nuisance to surface waters, ponded water, or surface water drainage courses.
4. The discharge shall not cause any increase in the concentration of waste constituents in soil-pore gas, soil-pore liquid, soil, or other geologic materials outside of the Unit if such waste constituents could migrate to waters of the State — in either the liquid or the gaseous phase — and cause a condition of nuisance, degradation, contamination, or pollution.

**B. FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS**

1. The Discharger shall, in a timely manner, remove and relocate any wastes discharged at this facility in violation of this Order.
2. The Discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Water Board of any flooding, unpermitted discharge of waste off-site, equipment failure, slope failure, or other change in site conditions that could impair the integrity of waste or leachate containment facilities or precipitation and drainage control structures.
3. Water used for facility maintenance shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary for dust control, fire suppression, and construction.

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4. The Discharger shall maintain in good working order any facility, control system, or monitoring device installed to achieve compliance with the waste discharge requirements.
5. Methane and other landfill gases shall be adequately vented, removed from the Unit, or otherwise controlled to prevent the danger of adverse health effects, nuisance conditions, or the impairment of the beneficial uses of surface water or groundwater due to migration through the unsaturated zone.
6. Surface drainage within the waste management facility shall either be contained on-site or be discharged in accordance with applicable storm water regulations.
7. The Discharger shall maintain a *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and Monitoring Program and Reporting Requirements* in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 97-03-DWQ, or retain all storm water on-site, until closure of the landfill is complete and approved.

### C. CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

1. The Discharger shall submit for Executive Officer review and approval at least **120 days prior to** construction, design plans and specifications for a final cover system that includes a Construction Quality Assurance Plan meeting the requirements of §20324 of Title 27.
2. **By 31 December 2008**, the final cover system shall be constructed with an engineered alternative design known as an evapo-transpirative or monolithic design. The cover shall, at a minimum, consist of a three-foot thick vegetated soil layer. The soil layer shall be placed in such a manner that vegetative growth is assured while structural integrity is maintained.
3. One or more pan lysimeters shall be constructed on the upper deck of the Unit beneath the vegetated soil layer to monitor the effectiveness of the final cover in accordance with a plan approved by the Executive Officer.
4. The Discharger may propose changes to the final cover system design prior to construction, provided that approved components are not eliminated, the engineering properties of the components are not substantially reduced, and the proposed final cover system results in the protection of water quality equal to or greater than the design prescribed by Title 27 and this Order. The proposed changes may be made following approval by the Executive Officer. Substantive changes to the design require reevaluation as an engineered alternative and approval by the Regional Water Board.

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5. Construction shall proceed only after all applicable construction quality assurance plans have been approved by Executive Officer.
6. **By 31 March 2009**, following the completion of construction of the final cover system, the final documentation required in §20324(d)(1)(C) of Title 27 shall be submitted to the Executive Officer for review and approval. The report shall be certified by a registered civil engineer or a certified engineering geologist. It shall contain sufficient information and test results to verify that construction was in accordance with the design plans and specifications, with this order, and with the standards and performance goals of Title 27.
7. A third party independent of both the Discharger and the construction contractor shall perform all of the construction quality assurance (CQA) monitoring and testing during the construction of a liner system. The CQA program shall be supervised by a registered civil engineer or a certified engineering geologist who shall be designated the CQA officer.

#### D. MONITORING SPECIFICATIONS

1. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_, which is incorporated into and made part of this Order. Groundwater monitoring shall include corrective action monitoring.
2. The Discharger shall provide Regional Water Board staff a minimum of **one week** notification prior to commencing any field activities related to the installation, repair, or abandonment of monitoring devices. At the beginning of each sampling period, in accordance with B. Reporting in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_, a schedule shall be submitted listing anticipated sampling dates for that reporting period. If Regional Water Board staff wishes to observe sampling activities, the Discharger will be notified at least one week prior to the scheduled date.
3. The Discharger shall comply with the Water Quality Protection Standard (as defined in §20390 of Title 27) which is specified in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements, dated April 2000.
4. The Water Quality Protection Standard for organic compounds which are not naturally occurring shall be taken as the detection limit of the analytical method used (i.e., US-EPA methods 8260 and 8270). The presence of non-naturally occurring organic compounds in samples from detection monitoring wells is evidence of a release from the Unit unless the Discharger can demonstrate that the Unit is not the cause pursuant to §20420(k)(7) of Title 27.

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5. The concentrations of the constituents of concern in waters passing the Point of Compliance shall not exceed the concentration limits established pursuant to Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. For each monitoring event, the Discharger shall determine whether the landfill is in compliance with the Water Quality Protection Standard using procedures specified in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_ and §20415(e) of Title 27.
7. For any given monitored medium, the samples taken from all monitoring points and background monitoring points to satisfy the data analysis requirements for a given reporting period shall all be taken **within a span not to exceed 30 days**, unless the Executive Officer approves a longer time period, and shall be taken in a manner that ensures sample independence to the greatest extent feasible.
8. Specific methods of collection and analysis must be identified. Sample collection, storage, and analysis shall be performed according to the most recent version of USEPA Methods, such as the latest editions, as applicable, of: (1) *Methods for the Analysis of Organics in Water and Wastewater* (USEPA 600 Series), (2) *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste* (SW-846, latest edition), and (3) *Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes* (USEPA 600/4-79-020), and in accordance with the approved Sample Collection and Analysis Plan.
9. If methods other than USEPA-approved methods or Standard Methods are used, the exact methodology shall be submitted for review and approval by the Executive Officer prior to use.
10. **The methods of analysis and the detection limits used** shall be appropriate for the expected concentrations. For the monitoring of any constituent or parameter that is found in concentrations which produce more than 90% non-numerical determinations (i.e., "trace" or "ND") in data from Background Monitoring Points for that medium, the analytical method having the lowest method detection limit (MDL) shall be selected from among those methods which would provide valid results in light of any matrix effects or interferences.
11. **"Trace" results** - results falling between the MDL and the practical quantitation limit (PQL) - shall be reported as such, and shall be accompanied both by the estimated MDL and PQL values for that analytical run.
12. **MDLs and PQLs** shall be derived by the laboratory for each analytical procedure, according to State of California laboratory accreditation procedures.

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These MDLs and PQLs shall reflect the detection and quantitation capabilities of the specific analytical procedure and equipment used by the lab, rather than simply being quoted from USEPA analytical method manuals. In relatively interference-free water, laboratory-derived MDLs and PQLs are expected to closely agree with published USEPA MDLs and PQLs.

13. If the laboratory suspects that, due to a change in matrix or other effects, the true detection limit or quantitation limit for a particular analytical run differs significantly from the laboratory-derived MDL/PQL values, the results shall be flagged accordingly, along with estimates of the detection limit and quantitation limit actually achieved. **The MDL shall always be calculated such that it represents the lowest achievable concentration associated with a 99% reliability of a nonzero result.** The PQL shall always be calculated such that it represents the lowest constituent concentration at which a numerical value can be assigned with reasonable certainty that it represents the constituent's actual concentration in the sample. Normally, PQLs should be set equal to the concentration of the lowest standard used to calibrate the analytical procedure.
14. The **QA/QC data** shall be reported, along with the sample results to which they apply, including the method, equipment, and analytical detection and quantitation limits, the percent recovery, an explanation for any recovery that falls outside the QC limits, the results of equipment and method blanks, the results of spiked and surrogate samples, the frequency of quality control analysis, and the name and qualifications of the person(s) performing the analyses. Sample results shall be reported unadjusted for blank results or spike recoveries. In cases where contaminants are detected in QA/QC samples (i.e., field, trip, or lab blanks), the accompanying sample results shall be appropriately flagged.
15. **Unknown chromatographic peaks** shall be reported, along with an estimate of the concentration of the unknown analyte. When unknown peaks are encountered, second column or second method confirmation procedures shall be performed to attempt to identify and more accurately quantify the unknown analyte.
16. The statistical method shall account for data below the practical quantitation limit (PQL) with one or more statistical procedures that are protective of human health and the environment. Any PQL validated pursuant to §20415(e)(7) of Title 27 that is used in the statistical method shall be **the lowest concentration (or value) that can be reliably achieved** within limits of precision and accuracy specified in the WDRs for routine laboratory operating conditions that are available to the facility. The Discharger's technical report, pursuant to §20415(e)(7) of Title 27, shall consider the PQLs listed in Appendix IX to

Chapter 14 of Division 4.5 of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, for guidance when specifying limits of precision and accuracy. For any given constituent monitored at a background or downgradient monitoring point, an indication that falls between the method detection limit (MDL) and the PQL for that constituent (hereinafter called a “trace” detection) shall be identified and used in appropriate statistical or nonstatistical tests. Nevertheless, for a statistical method that is compatible with the proportion of censored data (trace and ND indications) in the data set, the Discharger can use the laboratory’s concentration estimates in the trace range (if available) for statistical analysis, in order to increase the statistical power by decreasing the number of “ties”.

17. The Discharger may propose an alternate statistical method [to the methods listed under 27 CCR §20415(e)(8)(A-D)] in accordance with §20415(e)(8)(E) of Title 27, for review and approval by the Executive Officer. Upon receiving written approval from the Executive Officer, alternate statistical procedures may be used for determining the significance of analytical results for common laboratory contaminants (i.e., methylene chloride, acetone, diethylhexyl phthalate, and di-n-octyl phthalate). The analytical results involving detection of these analytes in any background or downgradient sample shall be reported and flagged for easy reference by Regional Water Board staff.
18. The Discharger shall use the following nonstatistical method specified in Detection Monitoring Specification D.19 for all constituents which are not amenable to the statistical tests above (i.e., less than 10% of the data from background samples that equal or exceed their respective MDL). This includes all constituents in the Monitoring Parameters and for all Constituents of Concern (COC) found in groundwater and unsaturated zone (in soil-pore liquid or -gas). Each constituent at a monitoring point shall be determined to meet this criterion based on either:
  - a. The results from a single sample for that constituent, taken during that reporting period from that monitoring point; or
  - b. If more than one sample has been taken during a reporting period from a monitoring point, the results from the sample which contains the largest number of qualifying constituents shall be used.

Background for water samples shall be represented by the data from all samples taken from applicable background monitoring points during that reporting period (at least one sample from each background monitoring point). The Discharger may propose an alternate statistical method [to the methods listed under 27 CCR §20415(e)(8)(A-D)] in accordance with §20415(e)(8)(E) of Title 27, for review and approval by the Executive Officer.

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19. The nonstatistical method shall be implemented as follows:

- a. For every compliance well, regardless of the monitoring program, the Discharger shall use this data analysis method, jointly, for all monitoring parameters and COCs that are detected in less than 10% of background samples. Any COC that triggers a discrete retest per this method shall be added to the monitoring parameter list.

Triggers — From the monitoring parameters and COC list identify each constituent in the current sample that exceeds either its respective MDL or PQL. The Discharger shall conclude that the exceedance provides a preliminary indication [or, for a retest, provide a measurably significant indication] of a change in the nature or extent of the release, at that well, if either:

- 1) The data contains two or more qualifying monitoring parameters and/or COCs that are detected in less than 10% of background samples that equal or exceed their respective MDLs; or
- 2) The data contains one qualifying monitoring parameter and/or COC that equals or exceeds its PQL.

b. Discrete Retest [27CCR §20415(e)(8)(E)]:

- 1) In the event that the Discharger concludes (pursuant to paragraph 19.a., above) that there is a preliminary indication, then the Discharger shall immediately notify Regional Water Board staff by phone or e-mail and, within 30 days of such indication, shall collect two new (retest) samples from the indicating compliance well.
- 2) For any given compliance well retest sample, the Discharger shall include, in the retest analysis, only the laboratory analytical results for those constituents indicated in that well's original test. As soon as the retest data are available, the Discharger shall apply the same test [under 19.a.], to separately analyze each of the two suites of retest data at that compliance well.
- 3) If either (or both) of the retest samples meets either (or both) of the triggers under 19.a., then the Discharger shall conclude that there is a measurably significant increase at that well for the constituent(s) indicated in the validating retest sample(s).

20. If the Executive Officer determines, after reviewing the submitted report, that the detected constituent(s) most likely originated from the Unit(s), the

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Discharger shall **immediately** implement the requirements of XI. Response To A Release, C. Release Has Been Verified, contained in the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements.

#### **E. FINAL COVER MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING**

1. The Discharger shall monitor the final cover in accordance with the Post-Closure Maintenance Plan and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Monitoring of the final cover shall include inspecting and recording the volume of moisture collected by the pan lysimeter(s) (see Construction Specification C.3).
3. The Discharger shall submit a report for Executive officer review and approval by **31 March 2009** proposing the amount of moisture that would constitute significant infiltration through the final cover as measured by the pan lysimeter(s) with supporting documentation.
4. In the event the pan lysimeter(s) detect significant moisture infiltration, then, **within 120 days**, the Discharger shall submit a plan and time schedule, for Executive Officer review and approval, to evaluate the problem, and recommend and implement corrective measures.

#### **F. PROVISIONS**

1. In the event the Discharger does not comply or will be unable to comply with any prohibition or limitation of this Order for any reason, the Discharger shall notify the appropriate Regional Water Board office by telephone **as soon as** it or its agents have knowledge of such noncompliance or potential for noncompliance, and shall confirm this notification in writing **within two weeks**. The written notification shall state the nature, time, and cause of noncompliance, and shall describe the measures being taken to prevent recurrences and shall include a timetable for corrective actions.
2. The Discharger shall maintain a copy of this Order at the offices of the County of Kern Waste Management Department, and make it available during working hours to facility maintenance personnel, who shall be familiar with its contents, and to regulatory agency personnel.
3. The Discharger shall comply with all applicable provisions of Title 27 that are not specifically referred to in this Order.

**TENTATIVE**



4. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_, which is incorporated into and made part of this Order.
5. The Discharger shall comply with the applicable portions of the *Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonhazardous Solid Waste Discharges Regulated by Title 27 and/or Subtitle D (27 CCR §20005 et seq. and 40 CFR 258 et seq.)*, dated April 2000, which is hereby incorporated into this Order.
6. All reports and transmittal letters shall be signed by persons identified below:
  - a. For a corporation: by a principal executive officer of at least the level of senior vice-president.
  - b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor.
  - c. For a municipality, state, federal or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected or appointed official.
  - d. A duly authorized representative of a person designated in a, b or c above if;
    - 1) the authorization is made in writing by a person described in a, b, or c of this provision;
    - 2) the authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a Unit, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position); and
    - 3) the written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board.
  - e. Any person signing a document under this Section shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.”

TENTATIVE

7. The Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to the waters of the State resulting from noncompliance with this Order. Such steps shall include accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature, extent, and impact of the noncompliance.
8. The owner of the waste management facility shall have the continuing responsibility to assure protection of waters of the state from discharged wastes and from gases and leachate generated by discharged waste during the active life, closure, and post-closure maintenance period of the Unit(s) and during subsequent use of the property for other purposes.
9. If the Discharger or the Regional Water Board determines that the corrective action program is not adequate (i.e. does not satisfy the provisions of Section 20430 of Title 27), the Discharger shall, within 90 days of making the determination, or of receiving written notification from the Regional Water Board of such determination, submit an amended report of waste discharge (RWD) to make appropriate changes to the program. The amended RWD shall include the following:
  - a. A discussion as to why existing corrective action measures have been ineffective or insufficient.
  - b. A revised evaluation monitoring plan if necessary to further assess the nature and extent of the release.
  - c. A discussion of corrective action needs and options.
  - d. Proposed additional corrective action measures, as necessary, for:
    - 1) Source control,
    - 2) Groundwater cleanup, and/or
    - 3) Landfill gas control
  - e. A plan to monitor the progress of corrective action measures consistent with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. Cost estimates for implementing additional corrective action, including monitoring.
  - g. An implementation schedule.

TENTATIVE

10. The fact that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with this Order shall not be regarded as a defense for the Discharger's violations of the Order.
11. To assume ownership or operation under this Order, the succeeding owner or operator must apply in writing to the Regional Water Board requesting transfer of the Order **within 14 days** of assuming ownership or operation of this facility. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the State of incorporation if a corporation, the name and address and telephone number of the persons responsible for contact with the Regional Water Board, and a statement. The statement shall comply with the signatory requirements contained in Provision E.6 and state that the new owner or operator assumes full responsibility for compliance with this Order. Failure to submit the request shall be considered a discharge without requirements, a violation of the California Water Code. Transfer of this Order shall be approved or disapproved by the Regional Water Board.
12. The Discharger shall conduct an annual review of the financial assurance for initiating and completing corrective action, and submit a report for Executive Officer review and approval by **30 April of each year**. The assurances of financial responsibility shall provide that funds for corrective action shall be available to the Regional Water Board upon the issuance of any order under California Water Code, Division 7, Chapter 5. The Discharger shall adjust the cost annually to account for inflation and any changes in facility design, construction, or operation.
13. The Discharger shall conduct an annual review of the financial assurance for closure and post-closure maintenance, and submit a report for Executive Officer review and approval by **30 April of each year**. The assurances of financial responsibility shall provide that funds for closure and post-closure maintenance shall be available to the Regional Water Board upon the issuance of any order under California Water Code, Division 7, Chapter 5. The Discharger shall adjust the cost annually to account for inflation and any changes in facility design, construction, or operation.
14. The Discharger shall complete the tasks contained in these waste discharge requirements in accordance with the following time schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Compliance Date</u>
<b>A. Construction Plans</b>	
Submit construction and design plans for Executive Officer review and approval. (see Construction Specification C.1)	<b>At Least 120 Days Prior to Construction</b>
<b>B. Final Cover Construction</b>	
Complete final cover construction in accordance with approved construction plans. (see Construction Specification C.2)	<b>31 December 2008</b>
<b>C. Construction Report</b>	
Submit a construction report upon completion demonstrating construction was in accordance with approved construction plans for Executive Officer review and approval. (see Construction Specification C.6)	<b>31 March 2009</b>
<b>D. Infiltration Report</b>	
Submit a report proposing what amount of moisture would constitute significant infiltration through the final cover as measured by the pan lysimeter(s) for Executive Officer review and approval. (See Monitoring Specification D.4)	<b>31 March 2009</b>
<b>E. Financial Assurance Review</b>	
1. Annual Review of Financial Assurance for initiating and completing corrective action (see Provision E.12.)	<b>30 April each year</b>
2. Annual Review of Financial Assurance for closure and post-closure maintenance (see Provision E.13.)	<b>30 April each year</b>

TENTATIVE

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY OF KERN  
FOR CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE  
BUTTONWILLOW SANITARY LANDFILL  
KERN COUNTY

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If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provision of this Order, the Executive Officer may apply to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement or issue a complaint for Administrative Civil Liability.

I, PAMELA CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on \_\_\_\_\_.

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PAMELA CREEDON, Executive Officer

REH:

TENTATIVE