

INFORMATION SHEET

SIERRA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
LOYALTON LANDFILL
CLASS III LANDFILL
OPERATION, CLOSURE, POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE AND CORRECTION ACTION
SIERRA COUNTY

Background

The Loyalton Landfill is a 76-acre facility, with a 10.5-acre waste management unit about 1.25 miles east-southeast of Loyalton. The landfill facility has been active since 1977, accepting primarily household and commercial wastes. As a small rural facility, the landfill was historically exempt from liner requirements otherwise applicable to it as a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills under federal Subtitle D regulations. In March 2003, groundwater impacts were confirmed at the site, causing the landfill to lose its liner exemption under federal regulations. Since then landfill development has been limited to vertical expansion over the existing 10.5 acre landfill footprint. No future landfill expansion is proposed and closure construction is scheduled to be completed by October 2018.

Groundwater

The depth to groundwater beneath the site has historically ranged from about 30 feet below ground surface (bgs) to about 80 feet bgs. The upper water-bearing zone at the site occurs in sand and gravel lenses interbedded with low permeability silts and clays. Due to the limited connectivity and the presence of fine-grained strata, the upper water-bearing zone is believed to be confined or semi-confined in some locations. The direction of groundwater flow is generally northwest.

There are currently nine groundwater monitoring wells at the site, including MW-2, MW-3, MW-5, MW6, MW-7, MW-8, MW-9, MW-10, AND MW-MY. Low concentrations of VOCs have been detected in groundwater at the site since 1999. The current groundwater monitoring configuration at the site meets Title 27 performance standards for background, detection and corrective action monitoring.

Unit Design and Closure

The unlined LF-1 landfill unit at the site pre-dated Chapter 15 (Title 27) regulations and were constructed without a base liner and leachate collection and recovery system (LCRS). The containment systems for the units are therefore limited to the clay soil natural geologic materials on which they were sited and, after closure as landfills, the landfill covers. There are no plans for future expansion of the landfill and the Discharger estimates that the landfill will reach capacity in October 2017. The WDRs include requirements for closure of the existing landfill unit, and prohibits the construction of new landfill units. The WDRs approve the Discharger's proposed evapotranspiration final cover.

WMH