

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. R7-2002-0127

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, OWNER/OPERATOR
LANDERS WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY
CLASS III LANDFILL
CLASS II SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS
Northwest of Joshua Tree – San Bernardino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. The County of San Bernardino Waste System Division (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 222 West Hospitality Lane, Second Floor, San Bernardino, California 92415-0017, owner and operator of Landers Waste Management Facility (WMF) submitted an Application Form 200, on April 13, 2002, to update the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs).
2. Definition of terms used in this Board Order:
 - a. Waste Management Facility (WMF) – The entire parcel of property where waste discharge operations are conducted.
 - b. Waste Management Unit (WMU) – An area of land, or a portion of a waste management facility, where waste is or was discharged. The term includes containment and ancillary features for precipitation and drainage control and monitoring.
 - c. Landfill – A waste management unit where waste is discharged to land. It does not include surface impoundments, waste piles, or land and soil treatment.
3. The WMF is located in Southern California, San Bernardino County, approximately 10 miles northeast of Yucca Valley and four (4) miles east of Highway 247, in the SE ¼ of Section 20, SW ¼ of Section 21, NW ¼ of Section 28 and NE ¼ of Section 29, T2N, R6E, SBB&M, as shown in Attachment A and B.
4. On November 3, 2000, the United States Government, with Administration by the Bureau of Land Management, transferred the ownership of the WMF property to the County of San Bernardino.
5. The site is 640 acres and contains four (4) separate portions as follows and as shown in Attachment C:
 - a. The Inactive Landfill: This two (2)-acre unlined portion was used as a burn site from 1965 to 1972. From 1972 to 1974, it was used for refuse disposal. It stopped receiving waste in 1974.
 - b. The Active Landfill: This 42-acre portion started accepting waste in 1965. It is unlined and has no leachate control and removal system. Approximately 1.1 million cubic yards (yd³) of refuse and cover have been placed in this Active Landfill. It presently receives up to 381 tons-per-day (tpd) of refuse. It has a total capacity of approximately three (3) million yd³ and is scheduled to close in year 2006 – 2007.

- c. The Old Septage Disposal Area: This portion consists of eight (8) unlined septage ponds that were constructed on 3.7 acres in 1965. These ponds were classified as Class II surface impoundments and permitted to receive the following types of wastes:
1. Septic tank pumpings
 2. Chemical toilet wastes
 3. Pumpings from grease traps
 4. Pumpings from garage and service station oil traps
 5. Crankcase oil

These unlined ponds ceased operating in November 1995 and were clean closed in accordance with combined State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)/California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) Regulations, Division 2, Title 27 (hereinafter referred to as Title 27), Section 21400(a) and (b)(1) in 1998.

- d. New Septage Disposal Area: Two (2) new Class II surface impoundments (West Pond and East Pond) were constructed on a three (3)-acre portion of the site in October 1995. These ponds are lined, have leachate collection and removal systems, and receive up to 96 tpd of sewage.
6. The types of waste accepted at the Landfill are as follows:
- a. Residential
 - b. Commercial
 - c. Demolition/Construction
 - d. Agricultural
7. The discharger has a load-checking program for identifying and removing hazardous and prohibited wastes from the municipal waste stream coming to the Landfill. Specific components of the program include the following:
- a. Customer notification by signs, notices and verbal inquiries,
 - b. Surveillance through visual inspection of waste loads and questioning customers by entrance station personnel, and
 - c. Waste inspection conducted on randomly-selected loads at the working face.
8. Any hazardous materials found at the Landfill will be stored in a hazardous materials storage shed and will be removed within 90 days by a hazardous waste hauler licensed by the State of California.
9. The area-fill method is used for waste disposal operations at the Landfill. Refuse is spread upward in layers approximately two (2) feet thick by a landfill compactor. The working face of the Landfill is typically 10 to 15 feet high and 150 to 200 feet wide. Refuse placed during the working day is covered with soil, which is then compacted to form a minimum six (6)-inch cover. The cover materials are from an on-site borrow source.
10. The type of waste accepted at the two (2) new lined Class II surface impoundments are as follows:
- a. Septic tank pumpings

b. Chemical toilet wastes

11. The following WDRs were issued to the discharger:

Board Order No. 72-034, adopted in 1972
Board Order No. 83-037, adopted in 1983
Board Order No. 88-071, adopted in 1988
Board Order No. 91-028, adopted in 1991
Board Order No. 93-071, adopted in 1993 (an amendment to Board Order No. 91-028)
Board Order No. 98-003

12. This Board Order updates Board Order No. 98-003 to reflect changes requested by the discharger.
13. The site lies on the eastern side of the San Bernardino Mountains, approximately 20 miles from the crest and four (4) miles from the foothills of these mountains. The site is near the apex of a large alluvial fan that extends from the foothills across the Twentynine Palms United States Marine Corps Base. The alluvial fan is approximately 21 miles long and 198 miles wide. In the vicinity of the site, the slope of the alluvial fan is approximately 130 feet per mile. Site elevation ranges from approximately 3,200 to 3,600 feet above mean sea level.
14. The site is located in the west-central portion of the Mojave Desert geomorphic province of California. This geomorphic province consists of a wedge-shaped fault block, referred to as the "Mojave Block". The fault block is bounded by the Garlock Fault on the north and the San Andreas Fault zone on the southwest.
15. The Landfill is located in an area that is generally seismically active. Numerous active or potentially active faults occur within 30 miles of the site.
16. Bedrock beneath the site is Mesozoic and is essentially gneissic metamorphosed sediments and intrusive biotite quartz monzonite. The gneissic bedrock is fractured and jointed, with preferential weathering. Bedrock beneath the site is not only fractured and jointed, but to a lesser degree, faulted as well. A fault identified beneath the site parallels the northwest-striking faults that transect much of the Mojave Desert Region. The discharger is in the process of investigating the extent and age of this fault.
17. The surface water in the area is derived from snowmelt and rainfall runoff in higher elevations to the west. Due to orographic effects, the greatest amount of precipitation occurs in the higher elevations of San Bernardino Mountains. These higher elevation mountains may act as rain barriers, diminishing the amount of precipitation that may otherwise occur near the site from the typical westerly winter storms that pass through the area.
18. A surface water drainage system for the site is designed to minimize erosion and inhibit the potential infiltration of surface run-on onto the disposal area. Engineered drainage channels are designed to contain run-off from a 24-hour 100-year storm event.
19. Land adjacent to the Landfill is zoned as rural living and rural conservation.
20. There are no springs and there is only one (1) domestic well within a one (1)-mile radius of the Landfill.
21. The Landfill is located in the Emerson Hydrologic Unit.
22. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993, and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.

23. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Emerson Hydrologic Unit are:
 - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
 - b. Agricultural supply (AGR)
24. Three (3) ground water basins are adjacent to the site: the Ames Valley Ground Water Basin to the northwest, the Deadman Valley Ground Water Basin on the east and the Copper Mountain Valley Ground Water Basin on the southeast. The Ames Valley Ground Water Basin and Deadman Valley Ground Water Basin are separated by the Reche Barrier. The Reche Barrier is related to a series of northwest-trending regional faults and passes through the northeastern third of the site. The Reche Barrier is an effective barrier to ground water flow with ground water elevation differences on the order of several hundred feet across the barrier.
25. Ground water occurs within fractured bedrock blocks. Also an apparent ground water mound occurs in the vicinity of the old septic ponds at a depth of approximately 216 feet below ground surface (bgs).
26. Depth to ground water ranges from 216 to 730 feet bgs at the site.
27. A localized ground water mound in the vicinity of the old septic ponds exists underneath the west-portion of the site. North of this mound divide, ground water is estimated to flow west-northwest. South of this divide, ground water flow direction is south southeast.
28. The discharger submitted a final Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) on July 5, 1989. As part of the SWAT investigation, the discharger constructed five (5) ground water monitoring wells at the site. Well L-1 and Well L-8 are upgradient and Well L-3 is downgradient for the Active Landfill. Well L-6 is upgradient and Well L-7 is downgradient for the Inactive Landfill.
29. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these waste discharge requirements, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.).
30. Federal regulations for storm water discharges were promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (40 CFR, Parts 122, 123, and 124). The regulations require that specific categories of facilities, which discharge storm water associated with industrial activity, obtain a NPDES Permit and implement Best Conventional Pollutant Technology (BCPT) to reduce or eliminate industrial storm water pollution.
31. The SWRCB adopted Order No. 97-03-DWQ (General Permit No. CAS000001), specifying WDRs for discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities, excluding construction activities, and requiring submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) by industries to be covered under the Permit.
32. The discharger has submitted to this Regional Board, and to the CIWMB, evidence of Financial Assurance for Closure and Post-Closure, pursuant to Section 22207 and 22212 of Title 27.
33. The monitoring and reporting requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127 are necessary to determine compliance with these WDRs and to determine the facility's impacts, if any, on ground water.

34. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
35. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 98-003 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Specifications

1. The treatment of disposal at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Section 13050 of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Waste materials shall be confined to the existing footprint of the WMF as defined in Finding No. 4a and described on the attached site maps.
3. Waste materials shall not be discharged on any ground surface which is less than five (5) feet above the highest anticipated ground water level.
4. The discharger shall maintain two (2) feet of free board at the two (2) lined surface impoundments.
5. The discharger shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
6. Surface drainage from tributary areas, and internal site drainage from surface or subsurface sources, shall not contact or percolate through the wastes discharged at the site.
7. The exterior surfaces of the disposal area, including the intermediate and final Landfill covers, shall be graded and maintained to promote lateral runoff of precipitation and to prevent ponding.
8. The discharger shall use the constituents listed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127 and revisions thereto, as "monitoring parameters". These monitoring parameters are subject to the most appropriate statistical or non-statistical test under Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127, Part III, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
9. The discharger shall implement the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127 in order to detect, at the earliest opportunity, any unauthorized discharge of waste constituents from the WMF, or any unreasonable impairment of beneficial uses associated with (caused by) discharges of waste to the WMF.
10. The discharge shall not cause the concentration of any Constituent of Concern or Monitoring Parameter to exceed its respective background value in any monitored medium at any Monitoring Point assigned to Detection Monitoring pursuant to Part II.B.4. of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127.
11. The dischargers shall follow the water quality protection standards (WQPS) for detection monitoring established by the Regional Board in this Board Order pursuant to Title 27. The following are five parts of WQPS as established by the Regional Board (the term of art used in this Board Order regarding monitoring are defined in Part I of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127, and revisions, thereto, which is hereby incorporated by reference):

- a. The discharger shall test for the monitoring parameters.
 - b. Concentration Limit - The concentration limits for each monitoring parameter and constituents of concern, for each monitoring point (as stated in detection Monitoring Program Part II), shall be its background value as obtained during that reporting period.
 - c. Monitoring points and background monitoring points for detection monitoring shall be in Part II.B. of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
 - d. Points of Compliance – (Section 20405, Title 27) shall be those Monitoring Points listed in Part II.B of attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127.
 - e. Compliance Period - The estimated duration of the compliance period for this Landfill is six (6) years. Each time the Standard is not met (i.e. releases discovered), the Landfill begins a compliance period on the date the Regional Board directs the dischargers to begin an Evaluation Monitoring Program. If the dischargers' Corrective Action Program (CAP) has not achieved compliance with the standard by the scheduled end of the Compliance Period, the Compliance Period is automatically extended until the Landfill has been in continuous compliance for at least three (3) consecutive years.
12. The discharger shall remove and relocate any wastes that are discharged at this site in violation of these requirements.
 13. Water used for site maintenance shall be limited to the amount necessary for dust control.
 14. The discharger shall maintain a hazardous waste load-checking program at the Landfill. The discharger shall report the results in accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127 and revisions thereto.
 15. The Landfill shall be designed to prevent any washout or erosion of wastes or covering material, and from any inundation which could occur as a result of floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
 16. The discharger shall not cause the release of pollutants, or waste constituents in a manner which could cause a condition of contamination, or pollution to occur, as indicated by the most appropriate statistical (or non-statistical) data analysis method and retest method listed in Part III of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127.

B. Prohibitions

1. The discharge of hazardous waste as defined in Title 27 at this site is prohibited.
2. The discharge or deposit of designated waste as defined in Title 27 at this site is prohibited unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
3. The co-disposal of incompatible wastes is prohibited.
4. The direct discharge of any waste to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
5. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.

6. The discharge of liquid or semi-solid waste (i.e., waste containing less than 50 percent solids) to the Landfill is prohibited unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
7. The discharge of septic waste or grease trappings containing Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) is prohibited at the WMF.

C. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0127, and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any modifications in this facility which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of liquid waste discharged at the Surface Impoundments, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
3. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
6. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
 - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order;
 - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
7. The discharger shall neither cause nor contribute to the contamination or pollution of ground water via the release of waste constituents in either liquid or gaseous phase.
8. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
9. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the USEPA.
10. All regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.

11. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
12. The discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in modification or revocation of these WDRs by the Regional Board.
13. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
14. All containment structures and erosion and drainage control systems shall be designed and constructed under direct supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer or Certified Engineering Geologist, and shall be certified by the individual as meeting the prescriptive standards and performance goals of Title 27.
15. The Regional Board considers the property owner to have a continuing responsibility for correcting any problems, which may arise in the future as a result of this waste discharge.
16. The discharger shall, within 72 hours of a significant earthquake event, submit to the Regional Board a detailed post-earthquake report describing any physical damages to the containment features, groundwater monitoring and/or leachate control facilities and a corrective action plan to be implemented at the Landfill.
17. The discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Board of any flooding, slope failure or other change in site conditions, which could impair the integrity of waste containment facilities or of precipitation and drainage control structures.
18. The discharger shall maintain legible records on the volume and type of each waste discharged at the site. These records shall be available for review by representatives of the Regional at any time, during the Landfill operation hours. At the beginning of the post-closure maintenance period, copies of these records shall be sent to the Regional Board.
19. The discharger shall maintain visible monuments identifying the boundary limits of the entire waste management facility.
20. The discharger shall comply with the existing load checking program.
21. The discharger shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the SWRCB to be covered under the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001. The discharger shall comply with all the discharge prohibitions, receiving water limitations, and provisions of the General Permit.
22. The discharger shall submit a sampling and monitoring plan for storm water discharges to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for review and approval no later than 90 days after the adoption of this Board Order. The plan shall meet the minimum requirements of Section B, Monitoring and Reporting Requirements of the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001.

23. Within 180 days of the adoption of this Board Order, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, in accordance with Section 20380(b) of Title 27, assurance of financial responsibility acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for initiating and completing corrective action for all known or reasonable foreseeable release for the Landfill.
24. One (1) year prior to the anticipated closure of the facility or any unit (portion) thereto, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, for review and approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, a final closure and post-closure maintenance plan in accordance with Title 27. The final closure and post-closure maintenance plan shall include seismicity studies.
25. This Board Order is subject to Regional Board review and updating, as necessary, to comply with changing state or federal laws, regulations, policies, or guidelines, or changes in the discharger characteristics.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on June 26, 2002.

Executive Officer