San Francisco Bay Water Board Takes Swift Action After Calistoga Landfill Violation

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Following up on its Notice of Violation after contaminated water was spotted flowing from the Clover Flat Landfill in Calistoga, the San Francisco Bay Water Board has issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) that require the owners and operators of the facility to take immediate action.

Issued on April 10, the order compels the landfill to clean up and prevent additional releases of contaminated water leaking from the landfill and flowing into Dutch Henry Creek, a tributary of the Napa River. Water Board staff is monitoring the cleanup activities at the landfill. The CAO also requires the landfill to present a plan for corrective action to prevent this potential environmental hazard from happening again.

The extent of the contamination remains to be seen and testing is ongoing. The Napa County Public Health Office issued a notice that water contaminated with chemicals and metals had flowed to the creek and advised the public not to consume, use or contact the water.

The Napa County Department of Planning, Building and Environmental Services ordered the landfill to close the facility to members of the public, manage its disposal of commercial solid waste to prevent contact with drainage and to correct operations to prevent ongoing contaminated releases from the landfill.

Local and state agencies (the Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife) are in close coordination on the landfill’s responses to the orders. A recent inspection showed the discharger is cooperating and making progress cleaning up.

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