

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION

**DRAFT TECHNICAL REPORT**

**PROPOSED TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT:  
TENTATIVE ADDENDUM NO. 5 TO ORDER NO. 97-11**

FOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13263

SURVIVAL, EVASION, RESISTANCE, AND ESCAPE (SERE) CAMP  
LANDFILL  
INSTALLATION RESTORATION (IR) SITE 1  
WARNER SPRINGS, CA

FEBRUARY 14, 2007

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

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**To request copies of Tentative Addendum No. 5 to Order No. 97-11**, for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Post-Closure Maintenance of Inactive Hazardous and Nonhazardous Waste Landfills within the San Diego Region, please contact Mrs. Amy Grove, Engineering Geologist, at (858) 637-7136, [agrove@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:agrove@waterboards.ca.gov).

Documents are also available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>.

**TENTATIVE ADDENDUM NO. 5 TO  
ORDER NO. 97-11**

**FOR**

**TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT OF  
SURVIVAL, EVASION, RESISTANCE, AND ESCAPE (SERE) CAMP  
LANDFILL  
WARNER SPRINGS, CA**

**Draft Technical Report**

Adopted by the  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
On February 14, 2007

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Technical Report provides the rationale and factual information supporting the findings and directives of Tentative Addendum No. 5 to Order No. 97-11.

## 2. BASIS FOR FINDINGS AND DIRECTIVES

This section provides the rationale and factual information supporting the findings of tentative Addendum No. 5. The text of each finding is presented first, followed by a summary of the rationale and factual evidence supporting the finding.

### A. FINDING NO. 1 STATES:

1. The United States Navy (the “Discharger”) terminated the discharge of waste into the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Camp Landfill (the Unit) in 1982.

### BASIS FOR FINDING NO. 1

On July 26, 2006 the Discharger provided the Regional Board with a Removal Action Closeout Report. Based on the information provided to the Regional Board:

- a.) The Discharger has provided the Regional Board with information that approximately 2,700 tons of waste were disposed of at the Unit during its operational history.
- b.) The Unit has not received waste since 1982.

### B. FINDING NOS. 2 AND 3 STATE:

2. On April 9, 1997, this Regional Board adopted Order No. 97-11, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Post-Closure Maintenance of Inactive Landfills Containing Hazardous and Nonhazardous Wastes Within the San Diego Region*. Order No. 97-11 established landfill maintenance requirements and water quality monitoring for landfills that ceased operation prior to 1984.
3. The SERE Camp Landfill was added to general waste discharge requirements (WDRs) adopted by the Regional Board as Order No. 97-11 on April 9, 1997. The Order requires that Dischargers conduct, and report results from, regular maintenance and monitoring at the enrolled landfills.

**BASIS FOR FINDING NOS. 2 AND 3:**

The SERE Camp Landfills was formerly designated as a Class-II (under the California Administrative Code) waste management Unit, located on land owned by the Department of Forestry, and operated by the Department of the Navy (the “Discharger”). The Unit was not under regulation during its time of operation from 1978 to 1982, as it pre-dated State landfill regulations. (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 23, Chapter 15) became effective in 1984.)

Under Water Code §§13273 to 13273.3; the SERE Camp Landfill was identified and included in rank no. 15 on the State Water Board’s Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) List published in 1990. The SERE Camp Landfill was added to general waste discharge requirements (WDRs) adopted by the Regional Board as Order No. 97-11 on April 9, 1997. The Order requires that Dischargers conduct, and report results from, regular maintenance and monitoring at the enrolled landfills.

The Navy implemented monitoring and maintenance requirements of Order 97-11 via the Installation Restoration (I.R.) Program, pursuant to requirements of the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

**C. FINDING NO. 4 STATES:**

4. The Discharger conducted field sampling and clean closure activities at the Unit from February 2005 through December 2005. Based on the information provided to the Regional Board, the Unit meets the applicable State requirements for clean closure of a landfill, pursuant to State requirements promulgated as California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 27, §21090(f).

**BASIS FOR FINDING NO. 4**

Because SERE Camp Landfill is part of the Navy’s Installation Restoration (I.R.) Program, which implements the requirements of the Federal CERCLA/Superfund Statute. The Discharger chose to clean close<sup>1</sup> the landfill utilizing a time-critical removal action under the I.R. Program.

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<sup>1</sup> **Clean Closure** is defined by CCR Title 27 §21090(f): (1) all waste materials, contaminated components of the containment system, and affected geologic materials — including soils and rock beneath and surrounding the Unit, and ground water polluted by a release from the Unit — are either removed and discharged to an appropriate Unit or treated to the extent that the RWQCB finds they no longer pose a threat to water quality; and (2) all remaining containment features are inspected for contamination and, if contaminated, discharged in accordance with section (f)(1).

Clean closure activities began in February, 2005 and were completed in December, 2005. Final closure activities included the following:

- (a) Abandonment of Monitoring Wells;
- (b) Collection and analysis of 10 background samples and 1 duplicate sample;
- (c) Removal of ~2,700 tons of landfill waste;
- (d) Collection and analysis of 20 landfill soil stockpile samples and two duplicate soil stockpile samples;
- (e) Post-landfill removal activities including digging 10 trenches to verify landfill boundaries and removal of all former waste; and collection and analysis of 10 confirmation samples and 1 duplicate sample from excavation area.
- (f) Excavated soil, totaling ~500 tons were removed from the site and taken to the Chemical Waste Management Facility in Kettleman City, CA.

On July 26, 2006 the Discharger provided the Regional Board with a Removal Action Closeout Report. Analytical results from confirmation soil sampling, as well as ground water samples collected from the former landfill area verify that elevated levels of residual volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, semi-volatile organic compounds, and poly-chlorinated biphenols (PCBs) are not present at the site. The report demonstrates that the Unit is in compliance with the applicable clean closure requirements of CCR Title 27 §21090(f).

**D. FINDING NO. 5 STATES:**

5. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested parties of its intent to terminate the enrollment of SERE Camp Landfill under Order No. 97-11.

**BASIS FOR FINDING NO. 5**

A public notice was published in the Regional Board agenda for the meeting held on December 13, 2006. Public notifications were also published by the North County Times December 26, 2006 and the Riverside Press Enterprise December 23, 2007. The draft agenda package was sent to the Discharger via email and by U.S. Mail on January 5, 2007; and the draft agenda package was made available to the public via the Regional Board web page on January 8, 2007.

**E. FINDING NO. 6 STATES:**

6. The Unit is currently an existing facility and therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA, in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Article 19, section 15301.

**BASIS FOR FINDING NO. 6**

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19 provides categorical exemptions for projects or sites that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment, and are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

**F. FINDING NO. 7 STATES:**

7. This action involves the termination of enrollment of the Unit under Order No. 97-11, where the Discharger has ceased the discharge of wastes, and completed clean closure requirements under CCR Title 27, §21090(f).

**BASIS FOR FINDING NO. 7**

The Discharger has terminated discharges of waste at the facility and met the applicable requirements of CCR Title 27 for clean closure. Therefore, waste discharge requirements are no longer necessary for the protection of water quality.