

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 10, 2021**

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Addendum No. 2 to Order No. R9-2010-0004 as amended by Order No. R9-2011-0039, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Las Pulgas Landfill, Camp Pendleton, California* (Tentative Addendum No. 2). (Amy Grove)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Addendum No. 2 is recommended.

KEY ISSUES

1. Tentative Addendum No. 2 (**Supporting Document 1**), if adopted, modifies Order No. R9-2010-0004, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Las Pulgas Landfill, San Diego County* and Order No. R9-2011-0039, *An Order Modifying Order No. R9-2010-0004, Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Las Pulgas Landfill, Camp Pendleton* (collectively Order No. R9-2010-0004).
2. Tentative Addendum No. 2 modifies existing waste discharge requirements (WDRs) to establish the procedures and technical specifications for the removal of the damaged Phase I waste management unit (unit) side slope liner system.
3. Tentative Addendum No. 2 modifies existing WDRs to establish the procedures and technical specification for the construction of the Phase I unit engineered alternative side slope liner system, in accordance with the solid waste regulations promulgated in California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 27, division 2.
4. Tentative Addendum No. 2, if adopted, supports the United States Marine Corps (USMC) efforts to implement corrective actions at the Las Pulgas Landfill (Landfill) and resume waste disposal operations within the Phase I unit.

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Addendum No. 2 is consistent with the goals of the *Strategizing for Healthy Waters* chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.¹ Amending Order No. R9-2010-0004 is necessary to establish the procedures and technical specifications for the removal and replacement of the damaged Phase I unit side slope liner system. These modifications are essential to ensure the containment of solid waste at the Landfill and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of receiving waters in the San Diego Region.

DISCUSSION

The USMC has owned and operated the Landfill since 1971. The Landfill is an 89 acre Class III (non-hazardous) municipal solid waste landfill designed and constructed in accordance with CCR title 27, sections 20240 and 20260, and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 40, parts 258.10 through 258.15. The Landfill is located within the boundaries of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and exclusively accepts waste from the base (**Supporting Document 2**). Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is a groundwater dependent community, and the nearest supply well is located approximately 5 miles from the Landfill.

The USMC notified the San Diego Water Board of a potential failure within the Phase I unit side slope liner system in January 2017. San Diego Water Board staff visited the Landfill in February 2017 and observed bulging and slumping of the side slope liner system. Field investigations conducted by the USMC confirmed the failure of the side slope liner system and determined groundwater seeps hydrated and compromised the integrity of the clay layer, which is the lowermost component of the side slope liner system. The USMC concluded that the seeps were created by a rise in groundwater elevation from a series of large storm events.

The USMC moved daily waste disposal operations from the Phase I unit to the Phase II unit, in response to the initial field investigations. The USMC conducted an engineering feasibility study and prepared a corrective action plan (CAP) to mitigate the Phase I unit side slope liner system failure. The USMC also collaborated with the San Diego Water Board to ensure the CAP, including the proposed engineered alternative liner system, is compliant with applicable State and federal regulations.

The San Diego Water Board accepted the USMC's final CAP in August 2020. The CAP provides the procedures and technical specification for the removal of the existing

¹ Practical Vision: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

Phase I unit side slope liner system and the construction of the new engineered alternative side slope liner system for the Phase I unit, which will include a continuous drainage layer. The USMC anticipates the continuous drainage layer will prevent groundwater seeps from adversely interacting with the overlying side slope liner system materials and avoid future side slope liner system failures.

The San Diego Water Board released the Tentative Addendum No. 2 for public review and comment on November 18, 2020. The San Diego Water Board received two timely comment letters regarding Tentative Addendum No. 2 (**Supporting Document 3**). Based on review of the written comments, staff identified and made several appropriate revisions to Tentative Addendum No. 2 (**Supporting Document 4**). These revisions represent a logical outgrowth of the public comment process and are not considered significant. The San Diego Water Board prepared written responses to the public comment received (**Supporting Document 5**).

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The significant changes to Order No. R9-2010-0004 are:

1. Tentative Addendum No. 2 modifies existing WDRs to establish the procedures and technical specification for the removal of the existing Phase I unit side slope liner system.
2. Tentative Addendum No. 2 modifies existing WDRs to establish the procedures and technical specification for the construction of the engineered alternative Phase I side slope liner system.

COMPLIANCE RECORD

The San Diego Water Board issued two notices of violation for the following violations of Order No. R9-2010-0004:

- Failure to comply with the construction standards specified in CCR title 27, division 2 and CFR title 40, Part 258 in January 2017.
- Failure to submit the required semi-annual monitoring report in April 2017 and July 2018.
- Failure to submit a complete semi-annual report in October 2017, March 2018, and May 2018.
- Failure to submit a complete annual summary report in May 2018.
- Failure to submit quarterly inspection report in May 2018.

Since June 2018, no new violations of Order No. R9-2010-0004 have occurred.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notification of this action was sent to the USMC and known interested parties on November 17, 2020 (**Supporting Documents 6 and 7**). Additionally, the San Diego Water Board posted Tentative Addendum No. 2 on its website on November 18, 2020. These actions satisfy the 45-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code, division 7, section 13167.5, and CCR title 27, section 21730(b).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Addendum No. 2
2. Vicinity and Facility Maps
3. Public Comment Letters
4. Tentative Addendum No. 2: Strikeout/Underline Version
5. Responses to Public Comments
6. Transmittal Letter
7. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period