

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
APRIL 8, 2026**

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT

An overview of landfill containment systems and status update on active landfill operations in the San Diego Region.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Information item only. No staff recommendations.

KEY ISSUES

This item provides the San Diego Water Board and the public an opportunity to learn about landfill containment systems and a status update on active landfill operations in the San Diego Region. This information item will cover how active landfills are regulated, designed, constructed, and maintained in California. This information item will also cover the current capacity and projected lifespan of local landfills to serve the waste disposal needs of the San Diego Region.

PRACTICAL VISION

The San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision chapter [Strategizing for Healthy Waters](#) emphasizes the importance of the Board's efforts to protect and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the waters in the San Diego Region. Landfills serve as the final disposal site for municipal, industrial, and demolition waste, and as such have the potential to pose a significant threat to the environment if not properly designed, constructed and managed. However, the San Diego Water Board's Land Disposal Program staff vigilantly ensure that regulatory and industry standards are maintained to mitigate the threat and protect human health and the environment.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board, and the public, with information on landfilling waste disposal activities in the San Diego Water Board region. Landfills and other waste disposal/treatment facilities are required to design and construct containment systems that are essential for protecting public health and the environment. Statewide, the Water Boards' Land Disposal Program regulates waste discharges to land. These wastes include solid, semi-solid, and liquid wastes that have the potential to impact water quality. Regulated facilities include landfills, mines, surface impoundments, waste piles, and composting operations. These types of facilities contain and monitor waste streams to ensure public health, water quality, and beneficial uses are protected.

The San Diego Water Board's Land Disposal Program regulates seven active landfills, two monofills, fourteen closed landfills, twelve pre-regulatory landfills, three burn sites, and twelve composting facilities. Statewide, the Land Disposal Program also includes the regulation of composting operations, land treatment units, waste piles, surface impoundments, and mining operations. The primary focus of today's agenda item is active landfill operations subject to California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 27, and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 40, parts 257 and 258. These regulations, prescribe requirements for the life of a landfill including the criteria for siting, design, construction, the daily operation of a landfill, maintenance and control measures, monitoring systems, closure of a landfill, and post-closure maintenance and monitoring.

Active landfills collect and consolidate municipal, commercial, and industrial solid waste, creating an environment that manages the degradation for those wastes. These waste streams and their degradation byproducts can, if not properly managed and contained, impact water quality and human health. In response to these threats, all new and expanding landfills since 1993 have been required by CFR title 40 to construct engineered containment structures and systems. In 1997, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle, formerly California Integrated Waste Management Board) jointly promulgated waste disposal and management regulations in Division 2 of CCR title 27. The State and Regional Water Boards, and CalRecycle work collaboratively to provide regulatory oversight at these sites, with the Water Board having primary jurisdiction over the protection of water quality and CalRecycle having primary jurisdiction over daily operations, protection of human health, and identification of potential exposure pathways.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the *Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act* requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.