

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Katie Hart
MEETING DATE: February 11, 2026**

ITEM: 7A

**Martinez Renewable Fuels Facility, Waste Management Unit Restoration Project,
Martinez, Contra Costa County** – Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration and
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Waste Discharge Requirements and
401 Water Quality Certification

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DISCUSSION

The attached Tentative Resolution (Appendix A) would adopt the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Martinez Renewable Fuels Facility (Facility) Waste Management Unit Restoration Project (Project). The Final ISMND has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The MMRP is included as Attachment A to the Tentative Resolution and will be implemented prior to, during, and post construction to demonstrate compliance with the mitigation measures in the Final ISMND.

As the lead agency under CEQA, the Water Board is required to analyze the potential environmental effects of the Project prior to issuing a discretionary approval for the Project. The Final ISMND provides the environmental analysis for the closure work that would be required in the Tentative Order in Agenda Item 7.B and for a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for the Project.

BACKGROUND

The Facility is comprised of 2,100 acres of land, refining and renewable fuels infrastructure, and various historical waste management units. The Facility is located about three miles east of the City of Martinez on the southern shore of Suisun Bay and has been in operation since 1913. The waste management units are inactive features created to treat and manage refinery waste. All units formerly consisted of tidal marsh and were created by placing soil and fill in berms forming containment cells. The containment cells were then used as disposal units for solid and/or liquid wastes. Discharged wastes consisted of oily wastes, ranging from asphaltic semi-solids to liquids and sludges, and in some cases, locally generated dredged sediments. The units are generally low-lying broad basins surrounded by perimeter berms. After cessation of active waste disposal precipitation ponded within the basins, the soils and waste subsided, and wetlands formed within the units.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND CEQA ANALYSIS

The Project will close the waste management units in accordance with the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (Agenda Item 7B). Closure activities will include excavation and consolidation of waste material and associated soils, treatment of contaminated soils, fill placement, groundwater sampling, and construction of a final cover or cap in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 27 requirements. Seasonal wetlands will be reestablished within three of the waste management units after clean closure, pursuant to the requirements of a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification. The certification will be administratively issued by the Executive Officer if the Water Board adopts the ISMND.

The ISMND analyzed the waste management unit closure and identified potentially significant environmental effects associated with implementing planned closure activities for air and biological resources, cultural and tribal resources, and transportation. These potentially significant environmental effects will be avoided or will result in less than significant impacts with the incorporation of mitigation measures as described in the Final ISMND.

Based on the analysis in the ISMND, the Project, as mitigated, will not result in any significant effect on the environment.

Compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts associated with the Project is included in the ISMND and 401 water quality certification that will be issued after adoption of the ISMND.

PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The draft ISMND was circulated for a public review period that began on November 5 and ended on December 4, 2025. We received comments from the Geologic Energy Management Division of the California State Department of Conservation (CalGEM) and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). The full response to comments is included as Appendix B. The comments and our responses are briefly summarized below.

The CalGEM comment letter summarized existing regulations and landowner responsibilities regarding active and abandoned wells. The letter reviewed oil, gas, and geothermal well records within the project boundaries and found no records of known wells. As such, we did not make any edits to the ISMND in response to the CalGEM comment letter.

The CDFW comment letter noted that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve aspects of the Project through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the State Fish & Game Code. CDFW is a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State. The CDFW letter requested modifications to the ISMND's mitigation measures for protection of special status wildlife and plant species, namely Ridgway's rail, salt-marsh harvest mouse, burrowing owl, nesting birds, and special status plants. We made

changes to the mitigation measures to address the comments. The changes are noted in Appendix B and reflected in the Final ISMND.

APPENDICES:

- A. Tentative Resolution to Adopt MND
- B. Comments & Responses
- C. Comment Letters Received

Appendix A

Tentative Resolution

Appendix B

Comments & Responses

Appendix C

Comment Letters Received

For a copy of the comment letters received, please contact Katie Hart via email to Kathryn.Hart@waterboards.ca.gov or at (510) 622-2356.