

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Santa Ana Region

June 19, 2020

STAFF REPORT

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Revised Waste Discharge Requirements for Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, for the closed Double Butte Sanitary Landfill, Winchester Area, Riverside County, Order No. R8-2020-0024

DISCUSSION:

The Riverside County Department of Waste Resources (hereinafter the Discharger) owns and operated the Double Butte Landfill (the Landfill), located at 31710 Grand Avenue in the unincorporated area of Winchester, Riverside County. The Landfill is a closed, unlined Class III, non-hazardous municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill that operated from December 1973 to September 1994. The Landfill is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 72-29, amended by Orders No. 80-196, 98-99 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-99-02.

The Discharger completed site closure construction in May 1997. On March 2, 1998, Regional Water Board staff approved the final closure construction report. Since then, the Discharger has been implementing post-closure maintenance at the Landfill.

The existing WDRs are being revised to include requirements that are consistent with the current federal and State laws and regulations applicable to post-closure maintenance and to reflect current conditions at the Landfill. This Order updates and replaces the existing WDRs for the Landfill and prescribes discharge, monitoring, and reporting requirements for post-closure maintenance and corrective action program implementation.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM

Since 1992, chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), 1,1-dichloroethane, cis 1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride have been detected in compliance groundwater monitoring wells at trace levels or at concentrations exceeding the federal and State Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Levels. Consequently, the Regional Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 94-31, as amended by Order No. 98-83, requiring the Discharger

to investigate and take appropriate corrective action in defining and abating the VOC contaminant plume from the Landfill.

To address the VOC release in groundwater, which is partially caused by diffusion of the landfill gas into the underlying water table, the Discharger has been actively operating a landfill gas extraction and collection system since 1997. The final cover also aids in minimizing water infiltration through waste; thereby, reducing landfill leachate and gas formation and lessening VOC impact to groundwater.

To fulfil the requirements of Cleanup and Abatement Orders, the Discharger implemented an evaluation monitoring program (EMP), spanning from 1996 through 2019, to define the extent of the VOC release. These investigation activities include: 1) site characterization to propose an EMP workplan; 2) installation of additional monitoring wells (both onsite and offsite) to define the extent of the VOC release; 3) acquisition of site access agreements from private property owners to install well(s) or access private wells to collect sampling data; and 4) ongoing evaluation of and optimization of the landfill gas extraction system and/or proposed additional remedial measure(s) in abating VOC impact in groundwater. On March 23, 2018, Cleanup and Abatement Order Nos. 94-31 and 98-83 were rescinded by Order No. R8-2018-0053 after Regional Water Board staff verified that all compliance items have been achieved.

On May 4, 2020, the Discharger submitted the EMP completion report for the Landfill. In the EMP report, the Discharger proposes to evaluate the feasibility of implementing enhanced in-situ bioremediation as an additional corrective action measure for groundwater already impacted by VOCs. An amended Report of Waste Discharge application will be submitted for any new corrective action measures and approval by the Executive Officer prior to implementation.

APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The applicable regulations governing the discharge of MSW to land are contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 27, Division 2, Subdivision 1, "*Consolidated Regulations for Treatment, Storage, Processing or Disposal of Solid Waste*" (Title 27). Title 27 implements the federal regulations, Code of Federal Regulations Subpart D of Part 258 of Title 40 (Subtitle D), for MSW landfills.

The State and Regional Water Boards are authorized to regulate discharges of waste to land under Title 27. Title 27 generally deals with non-hazardous wastes, and it provides regulatory authority to the Water Boards and CalRecycle (formerly called the California Integrated Waste Management Board); it also clearly defines the responsibilities assigned to each agency. The regulations governing the disposal of waste to land include authority for the Regional Water Boards to adopt waste discharge requirements and to establish site-specific requirements for regulatory compliance, closure design,

and post-closure monitoring. The primary purposes of the regulations are to: 1) assure the protection of human health and the environment; 2) ensure waste is properly contained or cleaned up as appropriate; and 3) assure that surface and groundwater are protected from the discharge of waste to land. Title 27, Section 20430 requires the Discharger to implement a corrective action program to remediate releases from the Landfill to ensure that the Discharger achieves compliance with the Water Standards adopted under §20390 for the site.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) lists the beneficial uses and water quality objectives for surface and groundwater bodies in the Region. The receiving water bodies for the Landfill site include Salt Creek and the Perris-South Groundwater Management Zone.

This Order contains waste discharge requirements that are consistent with Title 27 and Subtitle D Regulations, the Basin Plan, and other pertinent federal and State laws and regulations for post-closure maintenance and are considered to be adequate for the protection of the beneficial uses of the waters of the region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2020-0024 as presented.

The draft Order has been sent to the following entities for review and comments:

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