

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

March 18, 2022

STAFF REPORT

ITEM: 8*

SUBJECT: Revised Waste Discharge Requirements for San Bernardino County, Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, for the San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill, City of Redlands, San Bernardino County, Order No. R8-2022-0006

DISCUSSION:

The San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division (hereinafter the Discharger) owns and operates the San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill (Landfill), located at 31 Refuse Road in the City of Redlands. The Landfill is an active, Class III, non-hazardous municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill that began operations in 1980. The Landfill is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 78-151, as amended by Orders No. 98-99 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-99-02.

The existing WDRs are being revised to include requirements that are consistent with the current federal and State laws and regulations applicable to active landfills 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 operations, monitoring, maintenance, and corrective action program implementation.

The Discharger has constructed composite liners in disposal areas constructed since 1993, and actively operates and monitors a landfill gas (LFG) extraction system. These components were constructed in accordance with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27) and to address the potential for vertical and horizontal migration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) generated at STSL. Migration of VOCs could affect groundwater quality, which may be partially caused by diffusion of landfill gas into the underlying groundwater table. In addition, migrating VOCs could be emitted aboveground and affect people, the environment, and air quality near STSL. Currently, the LFG system includes 82 active gas extraction wells, 21,000 linear feet of gas headers (lateral pipes), 53 active perimeter monitoring probes, and an on-site flare station.

In addition to the features described above, the Discharger has constructed a Leachate Collection and Removal System (LCRS) in disposal areas constructed since 1993. The LCRS has been constructed in accordance with Title 27 and to capture and remove excess liquid generated by waste disposal and decomposition, and by infiltration of liquids through overlying materials into the waste.

In July 2020, an updated Joint Technical Document (JTD) was prepared for the Landfill and submitted by the Discharger to the Santa Ana Water Board. The JTD includes a Closure Plan and a Post Closure Maintenance Plan. The closure plan includes steps to construct and maintain an alternative final cover as well as plans for continuing to operate the LFG extraction and collection system following closure. These components will serve as key factors for protecting water quality following closure of the Landfill.

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 Santa Ana Region. The receiving water bodies for the Landfill include San Timoteo Creek and the Bunker Hill B 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. R8-2022-0006 as presented.

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

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 – Steve Wall (wall.steve@epa.gov)

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