

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

CIWQS Inspection ID: 50576404

Facility Name: Tierra Rejada Landfill (CI-4294)

Inspector: Enrique Casas, Engineering Geologist  February 6, 2023

Reviewer: Wen Yang, Senior. Engineering Geologist  February 6, 2023

Summary: Assessed postclosure maintenance conditions following recent severe winter storms.

Date of Inspection: February 2, 2023, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, announced

Weather: Scattered clouds, light to moderate rain in the Region preceding the inspection.

Purpose: A limited scope inspection, the purpose of which was to evaluate compliance with Regional Water Board Order No. R4-2002-0140 and postclosure maintenance condition of environmental control systems at the Landfill.

Also Present: Eddie Pettit (Ventura County Sanitation District), Chris Dragomir, (Dragomir Consulting).

Background: The Tierra Rejada Landfill (Landfill) is a closed municipal solid waste landfill located approximately one mile west of Madera Road on Tierra Rejada Road, at the end of the former Llevarancho Road, Simi Valley, California. Collectively, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Simi Valley County Sanitation District, Ventura Regional Sanitation District (VRSD) and the Ventura County Integrated Waste Management Division comprise the Tierra Rejada Consortium (Consortium) and are responsible parties (Discharger) for the Landfill, which is regulated under waste discharger requirements included in Regional Water Board Order No. R4-2002-0140. The Landfill ceased accepting waste on May 30, 1972 and is now undergoing postclosure maintenance with an open space end use.

On October 30, 2019 the Easy Fire burned the entire Landfill, destroyed the passive landfill gas system and the cover vegetation, and severely exposed landfill cover soil. After the fire the Discharger re-graded the Landfill slopes and re-establish vegetation. The completed repair project included identifying sources of soils, adding soils to thinned cover areas, improving drainage grades, and re-establishing drainage control systems and the vegetative cover.

In November 2021, the City of Simi Valley approved the construction of an agriculture accessory structure located on the parcel immediately adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the Landfill. In 2022, the property owner graded the area for the purposes of constructing the accessory structure. The grading operation included the placement of a large soil fill adjacent to the closed Landfill.

**Observations/
Findings:**

1. There was severe erosion of the soil fill, with substantial amounts of sediment transported onto the Landfill, impacting the recently completed drainage grades, with the potential to damage drainage control and vegetative cover systems along the western perimeter of the Landfill. Because of the proximity of the construction project to the Arroyo Simi, it is reasonable to believe that a significant amount of suspended sediments may have been released to the Arroyo downstream of the Landfill during the recent storms. Moreover, the damaged slopes remain highly susceptible to continued erosion.
2. Staff was informed that VRSD is taking legal actions against the owner of the accessory structure for damages caused by sediment released from the soil fill.
3. See attached photographs.

Figure 1:
Satellite image of the grading project during construction (arrow). Uncontrolled stormwater flows from the project area are conveyed onto Landfill benches then to the downdrain on the western perimeter of the Landfill (dashed arrow) that discharges to the Arroyo Simi.



Figure 2:

View looking west showing the accessory structure (dashed line) and soil fill in relation to the western margin of the Landfill and Arroyo Simi. Sediment eroded from the project area was conveyed onto Landfill (arrows) damaging recently reconstructed bench grades.



Figure 3:

Closed up view of the severely eroded soil fill. The Landfill property boundary in the area is approximately at the slope break (arrow). Note the absence of erosion control measures on the soil fill. The corrugated metal down drain was constructed as part of the Landfill final cover repairs following the Easy fire to capture stormwater run-on from the previously existing canyon in the area. The soil fill partially buried and altered the design conditions for the down drain pipe.



Figure 4:

Closeup views of benches immediately downgradient of the project area. Uncontrolled stormwater run-on flows resulted in erosion and sediment accumulation on Landfill benches. Continued damage may alter the ability of these benches to effectively direct stormwater to the perimeter downdrain as designed.

