



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Diego Region



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August 21, 2006

Mr. Mike Mercereau, Director  
City Public Works Department  
201 Mata Way  
San Marcos, CA 92069-2949

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
7006 0100 0002 8367 2811

In reply refer to:  
**LDU:06-0022.02:agrove**

Dear Mr. Mercereau:

**RE: WORKPLAN FOR INVESTIGATION OF BRADLEY PARK/OLD LINDA VISTA  
LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS: INVESTIGATIVE ORDER NO. R9-  
2006-0044**

On July 17, 2006, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) received the above-referenced report from the City of San Marcos (the Discharger). The work plan was submitted to comply with directives of Investigative Order No. R9-2006-0044, issued to Discharger on April 17, 2006. The Regional Board has determined that **the proposed work plan is incomplete at this time.**

Regional Board Order R9-2006-0044 requires the Discharger to develop an Evaluation Monitoring Program (EMP) for the Bradley Park/Old Linda Vista Landfill (Unit), in accordance with the requirements in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 27, §20080(g), §20385, and §20425. The purpose of the EMP is to assess the nature and extent of a release from the Unit (landfill), develop the information specified in CCR Title 27, §20425; and implement a corrective action program meeting the requirements of CCR Title 27, §20430. The work plan submitted by the Discharger includes the following deficiencies:

1. **Extent and Characterization of Waste Discharge [Section B.1(1)]:** The work plan provided by the Discharger fails to comply with Order R9-2006-0044, which requires a work plan for the *"collection and analysis of all data, necessary to assess the spatial distribution and concentration of solid wastes at the site and each waste constituent throughout the zone affected by the release in soil and ground water to background concentrations."*

**Groundwater:** According to the available historical ground water data, upgradient monitoring well SM-1 contains detectable concentrations of waste constituents and is no longer viable for use as a background monitoring well. Furthermore, impacts to ground water downgradient of well SM-7 have not been delineated. Under the existing conditions, the Regional Board concludes that the impacts of solid waste constituents upon groundwater are not adequately delineated at this time. The work

plan does not include provisions to complete an evaluation of the upgradient ground water quality or the impacts to groundwater downgradient of well SM-7.

*Distribution of Solid Wastes:* Results of previously completed compliance inspections, and a Notice of Violation (NOV R9-2005-0172, dated May 26, 2005) issued to the Discharger; indicate the presence of exposed solid wastes located within the creek channel of the unnamed tributary to San Marcos Creek. The evidence indicates that the spatial distribution of solid wastes have not been adequately characterized at the facility. The work plan must be revised to include provisions to complete a field investigation to determine the lateral and vertical distribution of solid wastes associated with the facility. This information is essential to determine the likely extent of groundwater impacts by waste constituents. In addition this information will help the Discharger comply with Directive C.1(d)(2) of Order R9-2006-0044 requiring the Discharger to develop a corrective action plan, including the removal or containment of solid wastes exposed in the unnamed tributary to San Marcos Creek.

2. **Monitoring Parameters [Section B.1(2)]:** The constituents detected in the seeps and sub-drain pipeline at the Unit (landfill) are consistent with constituents historically detected in both upgradient and downgradient monitoring wells at the site, and indicate a release of waste constituents from the Unit (also see further considerations in comment 4 below). The work plan proposes that only soil and water in the vicinity of the ball field sub-drain discharges will be sampled for verification of a release. Because of the historical detection of contaminants in ground water throughout the site, a complete investigation of the distribution of waste constituents released from the Unit (landfill) must be completed (also see Comment 1 above). The Discharger should consider collecting a complete set of groundwater samples, and soil vapor samples from a monitoring network of soil vapor wells/probes, for a complete analysis of all volatile waste constituents (volatile organic compounds or "VOCs") commonly associated with municipal solid waste landfills (for reference see Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 258, Appendix II).
3. **Hydrogeological Characterization [Section B.1(5)]:** In compliance with Order R9-2006-0044, the Discharger must submit a revised Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the Regional Board by December 18, 2006. Order R9-2006-0044 requires the Discharger to provide the Regional Board with an evaluation of the water-bearing geologic materials, hydraulic conductivity, flow direction, capillary rise, water quality, and background water quality for all applicable monitoring parameters. The requested site-specific information is consistent with the basic information required by CCR Title 27, §21750(g).

The work plan does not contain provisions to collect and report the required information to the Regional Board. Order R9-2006-0044 requires the Discharger to provide the Regional Board with a report documenting the information referenced above to provide technical support for an evaluation of the behavior of ground water and waste constituents released from the Unit (landfill), and evaluate the source of waste constituents that are detected in background well SM-1.

4. **Origination of the Discharges:** According to the work plan, the Discharger asserts that the "seeps" are not produced by the landfill, but by the sub-drain system. The Regional Board reviewed the analytical results of samples collected from the seep, the sub-drain pipe; and upgradient and downgradient monitoring wells for the Unit (landfill). In considering the assertion made by the Discharger, the Regional Board concludes that:
  - a. It is the understanding of the Regional Board that the sub-drain is a closed system, originating at the landfill site, and ending with the discharge of collected irrigation and/or storm water runoff into the storm water conveyance channel.
  - b. According to the data presented, the results indicate the presence of various volatile chlorinated solvents, which are consistent with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) associated with municipal solid wastes and listed in federal regulations for municipal solid waste landfills (see Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Section 258, Appendix II).

The presence of the observed waste constituents in the closed sub-drain system is consistent with our conclusion that there has been a release of waste constituents from the municipal solid wastes located in the landfill.

The Discharger must ensure that the Evaluation Monitoring Program Report (required in Directive B.2 of Order R9-2006-0044) includes a complete evaluation of other contributing factors including, but not limited to, landfill gas as a source for the volatile waste constituents found in ground water, the drainage pipeline and the seep. Further evaluation of the source(s) of the waste constituents in the discharge is required.

5. **Initial Conceptual Site Model Conclusions [Section B.1(7)]:** The Regional Board does not agree with the Discharger's conclusion that there is no relationship between the discharges of waste constituents into the creek via the sub-drain pipeline, and a release of waste constituents from solid wastes at the Unit (landfill).

Mr. Mike Mercereau, Director  
Order R9-2006-0044: Work plan  
for Evaluation Monitoring Program  
at Bradley Park/Old Linda Vista Landfill,  
in the City of San Marcos

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Further evaluation of site characteristics, including impacts from landfill gas, and impacts by waste constituents on ground water is warranted and necessary. The Discharger should update/revise their initial Site Conceptual Model after completing the required investigation of the extent of solid wastes at the facility, and technical evaluation of pathways and impacts by wastes exposed at the facility and waste constituents released from the Unit (landfill).

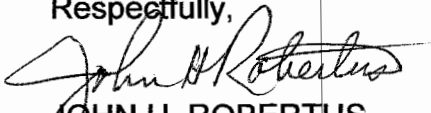
As you are aware, there has been a significant amount of public interest in this site. During the past several weeks, the Regional Board has received a number of contacts from the public and the local newspapers regarding this site. The Discharger should begin work on developing a plan to comply with the public participation requirements of Order R9-2006-0044 [see Directive C.1(e)(4)].

Under the authority of Water Code section 13267, I request that the Discharger provide the Regional Board with a revised work plan that will ensure compliance with all the requirements of section B.1 of Order R9-2006-0044. Please provide the revised work plan to the Regional Board by **September 30, 2006**.

The heading portion of this letter includes a Regional Board code number noted after "In reply refer to:" In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence, please include this code number in the heading or subject portion of all correspondence and reports submitted to the Regional Board pertaining to this matter.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or require further information, please contact Mrs. Amy Grove at (858) 637-7136 or via e-mail at [agrove@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:agrove@waterboards.ca.gov).

Respectfully,



JOHN H. ROBERTUS  
Executive Officer

cc: Mr. Garth Koller, City of San Marcos, 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, CA 92069-2949

Ms. Candace Gibson, County of San Diego, Landfill Management, 5201 Ruffin Road,  
MS 0383, San Diego, CA 92123

Ms. Kerry McNeill, County of San Diego Local Enforcement Agency, 9325 Hazard Way,  
San Diego, CA 92123

*California Environmental Protection Agency*