

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT
STAFF: Keith Roberson
MEETING DATE: August 14, 2013

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Land Disposal Program Update – Status Report

DISCUSSION: The attached report describes the Board’s Land Disposal Program (LDP) and summarizes its purpose, legal authority, regulatory functions, available resources, work elements, achievements, obstacles, and program outlook.

The primary purpose of the LDP is to protect water quality where discharges of waste to land are authorized, such as at municipal solid waste landfills and industrial waste impoundments. This goal is achieved through proper waste containment, which prevents leakage of contaminants to groundwater or surface water. The program enforces the regulations contained in Chapter 15 and title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, as well as the State Water Code.

Five technical staff actively oversee this region’s approximately 100 LDP facilities for an average caseload per staff member of about 20 facilities. Staff evaluate landfill liner and cover design reports, review groundwater and surface water monitoring data, and evaluate post-closure land use proposals for regulatory compliance. In addition to active and closed municipal waste landfills, sites regulated under the LDP include industrial disposal sites at petroleum refineries, chemical plants, and abandoned mines. We typically regulate these facilities with Waste Discharge Requirements and Cleanup and Abatement Orders. A typical annual staff workload includes preparation of 2 Board orders, 15 site inspections, 30 self-monitoring report reviews, and numerous technical report reviews and approvals.

New challenges for the program staff include:

- preparing for the effects of sea level rise on low-elevation landfills in the Bay margin;
- proposals for mixed commercial/residential redevelopments over closed landfills;
- regulation of composting and recycling operations; and
- increased tracking of compliance with CEQA requirements.

LDP funding has declined within our Region and statewide by over 50% over the past decade, even though the workload has not changed appreciably. Workload projections indicate that the program will continue to be underfunded and under staffed relative to its workload. For this reason, staff and management must regularly prioritize workloads to ensure that the

facilities with the most significant water quality impacts, or the greatest threat for such impacts, receive the proper attention.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

This report is presented for information purposes only – no action needed.

APPENDIX A:

Program Report

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