

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT
STAFF: Keith Roberson
MEETING DATE: September 12, 2018

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Land Disposal Program Update – Status Report

DISCUSSION: This item will describe the Board’s Land Disposal Program (LDP) and will summarize its purpose, legal authority, regulatory functions, available resources, work elements, achievements, and current challenges.

The primary goal of the LDP is to protect water quality at sites where solid waste is discharged to land for permanent disposal, such as at municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills and industrial waste impoundments. Staff achieve this goal by reviewing, inspecting, and approving the design and construction of base liners and final covers at active disposal sites, and by evaluating waste isolation and containment through long-term monitoring of groundwater at both active and closed disposal facilities. The program is authorized by title 27 of the California Code of Regulations as well as the California Water Code.

Six full-time technical staff and one scientific aid are assigned to the LDP in Region 2. These staff oversee the Region’s 11 active landfills (including 9 that receive MSW, and 2 that receive only inert construction and demolition debris) as well as 58 closed landfills. 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 landfills, sites regulated under the LDP include abandoned mines, compost operations, and designated waste management units at industrial sites such as petroleum refineries and chemical plants. The LDP does not regulate disposal of hazardous wastes, discharge of waste into water bodies, or unintentional releases or spills unless the releases are from regulated waste disposal facilities. Waste disposal facilities are typically regulated with Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAOs) as needed to address releases from facilities. Over the past five years, this Board has adopted 23 WDR Orders and 5 CAOs generated by the LDP.

New challenges for the LDP staff include:

- preparing for the effects of sea level rise on low-elevation landfills along the Bay margin;
- reviewing increasingly complex proposals for redevelopments over closed landfills, including some with residential units;
- regulation of composting and recycling operations; and
- emergency disposal of disaster-related wastes.

LDP funding has remained steady over the past 5 years, with 3.2 staff positions assigned to Region 2. All staff assigned to the LDP also spend about half of their work time on Site Cleanup Program activities.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

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