

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 7/8 June 2012**

**Response to Written Comments for County of Kern
Taft Sanitary Landfill
Kern County
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

At a public hearing scheduled for 7/8 June 2012, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adopting waste discharge requirements that revise the existing waste discharge requirements to provide for construction of new waste management cells with an engineered alternative composite liner system, acceptance of treated wood waste, and to initiate a corrective action plan. This document contains responses to substantive comments received from interested parties regarding the proposed Order circulated on 6 April 2012. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by noon on 7 May 2012 to receive full consideration. Comments were received by the due date from:

1. County of Kern

The substantive comments are summarized below, followed by Central Valley Water Board staff responses.

COUNTY OF KERN

- COMMENT:** The Central Valley Water Board approved the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD), including the Preliminary Closure/Post-Closure Maintenance Plan, in a letter dated 11 April 2012. Please revise Finding No. 3 to include “approval of an evapotranspirative cover as the final cover system” to the list of reasons to revise the waste discharge requirements (WDRs).
- RESPONSE:** Approval of the ROWD is not approval of a final cover design. Further, the WDRs do not regulate the closure of the waste management unit, so the final cover design is not part of the order. Therefore, Finding No. 3 has not been modified.
- COMMENT:** In March 2002, the Discharger requested to amend the Basin Plan to redesignate the beneficial uses of the groundwater beneath the landfill. In September 2002, Central Valley Water Board staff indicated that the requested amendment would be considered, but received a low priority based on mandated amendments to the Basin Plan and the lack of sufficient staff and budget to take action. We believe that the Basin Plan amendment issue should be reflected in the Tentative WDRs.
- RESPONSE:** Your suggested changes that would remove domestic and municipal supply as a designated beneficial use were not made. Designated beneficial uses of waters of the State can only be changed by amending the Basin Plan, not through WDRs. Even so, changes to the beneficial uses would not change

the prohibitions, specifications, provisions, or monitoring requirements of the order. Characteristics of the quality of groundwater were considered when drafting the monitoring program and approving the corrective action program proposed for the waste management unit.

COMMENT: Detection well TA1-01 does not have a pump and is used for groundwater elevation measurements only. It should be removed from the list of detection monitoring wells.

RESPONSE: Finding No. 34 and the table in Monitoring and Reporting Program Section A.1 have been modified as requested.

COMMENT: The cost estimates listed in Findings 58-60 are subject to frequent modification. Therefore, we request that these findings be revised to exclude the dollar amounts.

RESPONSE: The Findings are worded to show that the dollar amounts are adjusted for inflation. Findings 58-60 have not been modified.

COMMENT: Finding 63 should be deleted for the following reasons:

- The categories are subject to change;
- We disagree with the ratings; and
- A group of stakeholders is working with the State Water Resources Control Board to modify the system.

RESPONSE: The Threat to Water Quality and Complexity ratings contained in Finding 63 are current and appropriate given the methods by which they are assigned. Findings reflect the current state of the waste management facility at the time the WDRs are written and may be changed, if warranted, without having to revise the WDRs. Finding 63 has not been modified.

COMMENT: Monthly monitoring of the pan lysimeters for the presence of liquid is not consistent with similar monitoring at the Discharger's other facilities. Additionally, we disagree with the requirements to notify Central Valley Water Board staff within seven days if any liquid is detected and to immediately sample and test the liquid.

RESPONSE: Monitoring and Reporting Program Section A.2 has been modified to require monitoring of the pan lysimeters quarterly. A release of liquid to the unsaturated zone monitoring system may indicate a leak in the liner system, therefore the requirement to notify Central Valley Water Board staff of such a release within seven days has been retained.