

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2007
Prepared on September 26, 2007

ITEM NUMBER: 12

SUBJECT: Las Flores Landfill Development, Santa Barbara County

INTRODUCTION

The City of Santa Maria (City) is in the planning stages for development of a new regional Class III landfill facility, the Las Flores Landfill. The proposed facility will be located in the Solomon Hills about eight miles southeast of Santa Maria and about one-half mile east of Highway 101 in an unincorporated portion of Santa Barbara County (Figure 1).

Preliminary site characterization information indicates that the proposed facility exhibits better siting conditions (e.g., deeper groundwater, outside of the Santa Maria groundwater basin and river recharge area, lower permeability natural materials beneath the site, etc.) than the existing Santa Maria Landfill. The City estimates that the Santa Maria Landfill has remaining waste capacity through 2014 in the existing lined cell, as a result, the City needs to develop a new landfill site immediately. The proposed Las Flores site is located within the 1,700 acre Las Flores Ranch, which is owned by the City, and resides within the Cat Canyon Oil Field, directly east of the Solomon Hills along Highway 101 (Figure 2).

The City is currently developing an Environmental Impact Report for the project and plans to complete the report by July 2008.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Impact Report will address the potential environmental issues associated with the development of the proposed Las Flores facility, which will be referred to as the City of Santa Maria Solid Waste Disposal Site. The proposed project will include the following:

- A modern, lined landfill on a 395-acre site with 80 to 100 years of capacity, assuming 1,000 tons per day of waste and active waste recycling and reuse programs,
- A composting facility,
- Support facilities, including:
 - Entrance facility, scales, scale house, office,
 - Access roads,
 - Equipment maintenance building,
 - Landfill gas management system,
 - Storm water management facilities, water tanks
 - Soil stockpiles
 - Leachate management system, and
 - Environmental monitoring, including groundwater monitoring wells, surface water monitoring points, and landfill gas probes.

Planned disposal activities will be similar to those at the current Santa Maria Landfill except that canyon fill methods will be employed. Waste accepted at the landfill will include non-hazardous municipal solid waste, and may include non-hazardous hydrocarbon impacted soil. The planned

landfill has an anticipated maximum elevation of 1,400 feet above mean sea level, approximately 150 feet above the local maximum elevation of the surrounding hills. Groundwater beneath the site is encountered at 550 feet below ground surface and flows towards the northeast.

The City plans to submit a joint technical document/report of waste discharge to the California Integrated Waste Management Board and Water Board for the proposed facility in late 2008.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Figure 1, Regional Location Map

Attachment 2 – Figure 2, Site Map

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