Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: Update on the Final Closure of Cummings Road Class III Solid Waste Disposal Site and the Clean-Closure of the (former) Cummings Road Burn Ash Site. *(Jill Duffy, Humboldt Waste Management Authority and Jesse Solorio, Lawrence and Associates*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item only. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.

BACKGROUND: The Cummings Road site, located two miles southeast of Eureka, began operation in 1933 as a community burn dump. In 1969, a portion of the burn dump was converted to a municipal solid waste landfill. In 1974, the Regional Water Board adopted waste discharge requirements for the municipal solid waste landfill and all burn dump areas. Waste discharge requirements were revised in 1979 to regulate only the municipal solid waste landfill and the burn dump area it was built on. The modern landfill area became the Cummings Road Solid Waste Disposal Site (Solid Waste Disposal Site) and the remaining burn dump area became known as the Cummings Road Burn Ash Site (Burn Ash Site). The Burn Ash Site remains unregulated.

Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) has owned and operated the 107-acre Solid Waste Disposal Site and a small portion of the Burn Ash Site since 2000. The remaining portion of the Burn Ash Site is owned by a former owner and operator of the Solid Waste Disposal Site.

The Regional Water Board required closure of the Solid Waste Disposal Site before full use of its capacity after it was discovered that landfill leachate and gas had contaminated groundwater and impacted local water supply. During preparation of the closure plan, an investigation at the Burn Ash Site found that waste from the Burn Ash Site had impacted water quality in the shallow groundwater and an adjacent creek. As a corrective action measure, the Regional Water Board required removal of waste material from the Burn Ash Site, which is an action that is referred to as clean closure. The clean

closure of the Burn Ash Site was conducted under Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2013-0033.

The Solid Waste Disposal Site closure requirements are contained in Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2013-0014 (Order No. R1-2013-0014). This Order authorized a two-phased closure that was designed to protect water quality by avoiding major construction during the rainy season and to accommodate placement of the adjacent Burn Ash Site debris into the Solid Waste Disposal Site for permanent disposal.

The Solid Waste Disposal Site includes one permitted waste management unit of approximately 33.6 acres, and contains approximately 1,450,000 cubic yards of waste and soil that was used for cover during waste disposal. The Solid Waste Disposal Site also contains an additional 91,600 cubic yards of burn ash debris from the Burn Ash Site.

Under terms of the Order No. R1-2013-0014, HWMA will continue to maintain and operate all corrective action systems at the Solid Waste Disposal Site, conduct routine monitoring of the gas and leachate collection systems, and monitor the surrounding groundwater, storm water, and surface water for potential impacts from the Solid Waste Disposal Site. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2013-0033 requires post-closure monitoring of the Burn Ash Site until at least 2020 that includes monitoring for soil erosion and natural vegetation recruitment, and annual debris removal for any larger (>4-inch diameter) metal or glass debris.

DISCUSSION: Regional Water Board staff requested HWMA update the Regional Water Board on the status of closure at these sites. HWMA Executive Director Jill Duffy and consultant Jesse Solorio of Lawrence and Associates will provide an overview of the construction work for the clean closure of the Burn Ash Site and final closure of the Solid Waste Disposal Site.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an informational item. No action will be taken.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: N/A