

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
June 21, 2017

- ITEM: 6
- SUBJECT: WDRs Amendment: San Marcos Landfill, County of San Diego (Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order R9-2003-0003) (Alex Cali)
- PURPOSE: To consider adopting Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2003-0003 (Supporting Document No. 1)
- RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2003-0003 is recommended.
- KEY ISSUES:
1. The Tentative Addendum removes a finding from Order No. R9-2003-0003 that establishes the Threat to Water Quality (TTWQ) and Complexity (CPLX) ranking for the San Marcos Landfill.
  2. Once the Tentative Addendum is adopted, the Executive Officer can take action to revise the TTWQ and CPLX rankings for the San Marcos Landfill. The revision will reduce the annual fee for the San Marcos Landfill by \$32,666 annually.
- PRACTICAL VISION: This Tentative Addendum implements the goal of the Practical Vision to maintain healthy waters in the San Diego Region. Money saved by a reduced annual fee can be used by the County of San Diego to better maintain and monitor the San Marco Landfill to contain solid wastes, and ensure protection of groundwater and surface water quality.
- DISCUSSION: The County of San Diego (County) submitted a technical memorandum,<sup>1</sup> requesting modification of the threat to water quality and complexity (TTWQ and CPLX) ranking for the closed San Marcos Landfill. The location of the landfill is shown in Supporting Document No. 2. Finding No. 10 of

---

<sup>1</sup> *Proposed TTWQ and CPLX Classification Change San Diego County Closed and Inactive Landfills* dated January 2015.

Order No. R9-2003-0003 (Order) sets the ranking at the 1B level.

The Order requires the County to monitor and maintain the San Marcos Landfill. Effective long term containment of solid wastes at the San Marcos Landfill ensures the protection of the beneficial uses of San Marcos Creek, principally recreation and habitat uses, and the beneficial uses of the underlying groundwater, which are municipal and domestic supply, and agricultural supply. The threat to water quality posed by closed landfills, such as the San Marcos Landfill, generally decrease over time, because leachate and gas production from the buried waste decrease with age.

Therefore, San Diego Water Board staff reevaluated the TTWQ and CPLX in its own memorandum<sup>2</sup> (Supporting Document No. 3), which recommended changing the TTWQ and CPLX ranking for 1B to 2B. Staff's recommendation is based on the County's technical memorandum and recent groundwater monitoring data. The modification will save the County of San Diego \$32,666 annually.

The Tentative Addendum removes Finding No. 10 from Order No. R9-2003-0003. With Finding No. 10 removed, the Executive Officer can modify the TTWQ and CPLX rankings for the San Marcos Landfill via letter to the County. Deleting Finding No. 10 is consistent with other closed landfill WDRs in the region, which do not specify the TTWQ and CPLX ranking. Deleting Finding No. 10 will also make subsequent revisions to the TTWQ and CPLX ranking (if appropriate) simpler as the Order need not be amended.

The public comment period on the Tentative Addendum ends on June 19, 2017.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2003-0003
2. Location Map
3. Staff Recommendation for County of San Diego Proposed Threat to Water Quality and Complexity Reclassification for San Marco Landfill
4. Public Notice and Transmittal Letter

---

<sup>2</sup> *Staff Recommendation for County of San Diego Proposed Threat to Water Quality and Complexity Reclassification for San Marcos Landfill* dated June 20, 2016.

**SIGNIFICANT  
CHANGES**

Removing Finding No. 10 from the Order.

**COMPLIANCE**

The County of San Diego Department of Public Works, has been issued two violations since closure. The violations were (1) not providing reasonable access for an inspection and (2) a cracked monitoring well head. The cracked monitoring well head violation was issued June 20, 2012. Corrective action was taken and documentation sent to the San Diego Water Board on July 17, 2012.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Notification of this action was sent to known interested parties on May 3, 2017 (Supporting Document No. 4). The Tentative Addendum was also posted on the San Diego Water Board website May 3, 2017. These actions satisfy the public notification requirements of Water Code, section 13167.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 21730(b) for a 45-day notice.