

Public Comment

From: [John Odermatt](#)
To: Melbourn, Frank@Waterboards
Cc: Grove, Amy@Waterboards
Subject: Tentative CDO Las Pulgas Landfill
Date: Saturday, November 25, 2023 3:40:53 PM

EXTERNAL:

Dear Mr. Melbourn,

Congratulations to the Staff on integrating the water quality elements for protection of groundwater and surface water into this CDO. The findings explain the tortured history of design and construction failures during landfill expansion at Las Pulgas.

Enforcement actions normally contain requirements and due dates for discharges plans to correct compliance deficiencies, the Tent Order is no exception. However the Water Code allows an exception for solid waste facilities in section 13360.

(a) No waste discharge requirement or other order of a regional board or the state board or decree of a court issued under this division shall specify the design, location, type of construction, or particular manner in which compliance may be had with that requirement, order, or decree, and the person so ordered shall be permitted to comply with the order in any lawful manner. However, the restrictions of this section shall not apply to waste discharge requirements or orders or decrees with respect to any of the following:

(1) Discharge of solid waste to disposal sites other than evaporation ponds from which there is no drainage or seepage which requires the installation of riprap, the construction of walls and dikes, the installation of surface and underground drainage facilities to prevent runoff from entering the disposal area or leakage to underground or surface waters, or other reasonable requirements to achieve the above or similar purposes.

It is pretty obvious that there had been a significant seepage of groundwater under past liner systems at Las Pulgas Landfill. In order to capture/manage that water source a gravel/sand blanket sub drain will be required to convey the groundwater seepage away from the new liner system. I understand the board's reluctance to prescribe such a design detail- but under no circumstances should a liner system design be approved without some configuration of that component. A true double liner system may be required and is allowed for Class III solid waste units under certain circumstances by USEPA Guidance (2002).

The board staff should work with the USMC/Navy on the specified schedule of submitting plans for corrective action. The 60, 90 or even 180 days may not be possible for them to meet depending on the work/plan required and the date the board adopts the Order. Consider the timing of the federal fiscal cycle at first glance.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments and your continuing efforts to protect our water quality.

Best Regards,

John R. Odermatt, M.Sc., PG

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