

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
 County Clerk
County of Placer

Return to : County of Placer
Department of Public Works
Environmental Engineering
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 170
Auburn, CA 95603
Sadie Caldas 530-886-1106

Project Title: Loomis Landfill Enhanced Groundwater Cut-Off Trench Study

Project Location: Loomis Landfill at 3660 Ong Place, Loomis, CA 95650 (APN 043-080-029)

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project is for a study to be performed at a 29.5-acre closed landfill facility (Loomis Landfill) to determine the feasibility of installing a trench to reduce groundwater flow under the landfill to improve water quality. The study is in response to Regional Water Quality Control Board direction to modify the site's corrective action program to address existing VOCs and elevated organic impacts to groundwater. To do this, the County is exploring the option of installing an upgradient cut-off trench that would intercept groundwater before it reaches the landfill waste management unit (WMU) and divert the water to the surface—either eliminating groundwater reaching the southwest corner of the landfill, or at least reducing the amount of groundwater that would need to be extracted and hauled offsite.

To evaluate possible installation of the upgradient cut-off trench, the alignment of the trench needs to be determined first by performing a study with exploratory borings to evaluate geological conditions. The study also requires an assessment of water quality to determine if there is any indication of landfill impacts along the proposed trench alignment, and to determine if water quality is suitable for discharge to surface water without treatment. The study involves advancement of 10-12 boreholes to the top of the un-weathered bedrock, approximately 12 to 15 feet below ground surface along the east side of the property outside the waste management unit (WMU). To assess water quality, several borings will be converted into temporary wells by installing temporary well screens and casings. Each temporary well will be minimally developed to reduce sediment and suspended solids in the water. After sampling is completed, the temporary well screens will be removed and the boreholes will be appropriately sealed. Upgradient aquifer testing will be completed by individually testing existing upgradient wells as single well tests. Soil cutting from the boreholes will be contained and tested for VOCs. If the soil is contaminated, it will be properly disposed of at an appropriate facility.

No environmental resources are in the project area. The closest waterway, Secret Ravine, is approximately 200 feet to the northwest. All necessary permits and approvals for the study will be obtained prior to the commencement of work, and a licensed drilling contractor will be retained to perform borehole advancement, abandonment, and temporary well development activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Placer

Entitlement/Action Date: March 12, 2020

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Placer County Department of Public Works

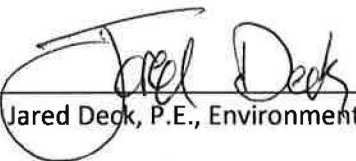
Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301(b), 15303(d), 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: Pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 (New Construction) and Section 15306 (Information Collection) of the CEQA Guidelines, this project is exempt from further CEQA review. Section 15301(b) includes repair, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing public or private facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use. Section 15303(d) includes new construction of utilities (temporary wells) of reasonable length to serve such construction. Section 15306 specifically allows data collection if it does not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project is at an existing facility (closed landfill) that will require boreholes, some with temporary wells, that will be properly sealed once the study is complete. There will be no expansion of use or capacity as a result of this project, and the project is strictly for data collection that will lead to a further action that has not been approved yet.

Lead Agency Contact Person

Jared Deck, P.E., Environmental Engineering Program Manager

Signature  Date 5/7/2020
Jared Deck, P.E., Environmental Engineering Program Manager

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 07 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE