

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research-State Clearinghouse P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	From: Department of Toxic Substances Control P.O. Box 806 Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
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Project Title: Variance TWW-2021-DF-00070 to Allow the Disposal of Treated Wood Waste under Alternate Procedures by Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

Project Location: 7040 N. State Highway 59, Merced, CA 95348

County: Merced

Project Applicant: Patrick Womble, Project Manager, Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Variance

Statutory/Regulatory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Section 25143; CCR Title 22, Section 66260.210

Project Description: The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has issued a variance to Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (CAL000366497) to receive and dispose of treated wood waste from generators, transporters, and/or handler facilities. The variance allows treated wood waste to be managed under procedures different from, but equally protective to human health and the environment to, the provisions of California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Articles 6, 6.5 and 9 of Chapter 6.5 and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, and/or 20. Under the terms and conditions of Variance TWW-2021-DF-00070, Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority will ensure the treated wood waste will be appropriately managed.

Background: Treated wood waste is a fully regulated California-only hazardous waste because it exhibits the hazardous waste characteristic of toxicity. From 2007 to December 31, 2020, treated wood waste was managed under alternative management standards, established in 22 CCR 67386. The legislation that authorized the alternative management standards for treated wood waste expired on December 31, 2020. Without the issuance of the variance, Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority would be required to seek a permit as a hazardous waste disposal facility.

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority is a governmental agency that is the regional waste management authority for Merced County.

Project Activities: Under the variance, the Facility will accept treated wood waste from generators, and authorized handlers and/or transporters for disposal, however it will be managed as a California hazardous waste, under authority of HSC 25200 et seq. Operations generally include unloading and disposal of treated wood waste within Highway 59 Landfill Cells 6A and 6B, which have prepared subgrades with primary liner constructed of 60 mil HDPE. Acceptance and disposal of TWW will be consistent with hazardous waste management and disposal standards specified in the variance. The variance will expire on August 31, 2021 with possibility of extension for an additional six months.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

Exempt Status: Existing Facilities [CCR Title 14, Sec. 15301]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: All analysis conducted included the potential extension of the variance for an additional six months. DTSC has determined none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to this project, as described in Public Resources Code Section 21084(c), (d), and (e), and 14 CCR Section 15300.2. This project consists of the accumulation and storage of the treated wood waste is consistent with the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structure, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact Person Kahui Lim	Contact Title Project Manager	Phone Number (916) 255-3711
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Approver's Signature:

Date:

Robert Irving

March 5, 2021

Approver's Name Robert Irving	Approver's Title Supervising Environmental Planner	Approver's Phone Number (916) 255-3988
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Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: