

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-00103 to Allow the Disposal of Treated Wood Waste under Alternate Procedures by USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill

Project Location: 10910 Dawson Canyon Road, Corona, CA 92883

County: Riverside County

Project Applicant: Stephen J. Dowaliby, Environmental Protection Specialist, USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill

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 USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill (CAD983668039) to receive and dispose of treated wood waste from generators, transporters, and/or handler facilities. Operations related to treated wood waste will be consistent with previous treated wood waste activities conducted by the applicant. 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-00103, USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill 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, USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill would be required to seek a permit as a hazardous waste disposal facility.

USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill is a USA Waste of California, Inc. is the owner and operator of a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill as described in Question 22. The applicant previously conducted treated wood waste management activities under the now expired alternative management standards established at 22 CCR 67386.

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 El Sobrante Landfill in all active cells. The original 90 acre landfill was developed in five planned phases. The initial phases (Phases 1 and 2) were constructed in 1986 and 1987 on excavated bedrock with an inherent permeability of 1×10^{-6} centimeters per second (cm/sec) or less. A clay liner was constructed on the west slope of Phase 1 to meet the then required permeability requirements. In 1991, a clay liner was constructed for Phase 3–Stage 1. Subsequent Phases 3 and 4 were constructed in 1993 through 2000 with composite liner systems designed to meet or exceed the federal and state landfill requirements contained in Subtitle D. The composite liner system in the Phases 3-3B/4-1 and 4-2A areas consist of 2 feet of compacted clay overlain by a HDPE geomembrane and a LCRS layer. The composite liner in the Phase 4-2B area consists of a geosynthetic clay liner (GCL) overlain by a HDPE geomembrane and a LCRS layer. Phase 5 is a vertical expansion above the previous phases. The composite bottom liner in Phases 6 through 11B consists of a composite liner system. Phases 6 through 11B were constructed in 2002 through 2017. An alternative composite liner system will be installed at the base of each of the landfill expansion areas, prior to placement of refuse. The liner system is summarized in the paragraphs below. The composite liner for the landfill bottom consists of:

- Prepared Subgrade. A scarified surface, graded and smoothed prior to placement of liner materials.
- Low Permeability Soil. A 1-foot thick soil layer with a constructed maximum permeability of 1×10^{-7} cm/sec.
- FML/Geosynthetic Clay Liner (GCL). A bentonite needle-punched GCL with nonwoven geotextile underlain with a 40-mil FML or a geomembrane (40-mil) based needle-punched GCL.
- Flexible Membrane Liner (FML). A textured synthetic membrane of at least 40-mil thickness (60 mil if HDPE is used). Cushion Fabric. A geotextile fabric to protect the FML from puncture by the drainage materials.
- LCRS Drainage Layer. A minimum 0.75-foot-thick layer of granular material with a hydraulic conductivity that, in combination with the bottom slope, would prevent more than 1 foot of leachate head from collecting on the

liner system, per regulatory requirements.

- Filter Fabric. A geotextile fabric or properly graded sand placed over the granular drainage material to prevent intrusion of fines.
 - Operations Layer. A 2-foot thick layer of general soil with a maximum particle size of 3 inches to protect the liner system from damage by operations traffic, during construction of the liner system and upon initial refuse placement.
- Other alternative liners may be considered in the future. As previously indicated, use of an alternative liner will be subject to review and approval by the RWQCB. Acceptance and disposal of TWW will be consistent with hazardous waste management and disposal standards specified in the variance. The variance will expire on September 8, 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: USA Waste of California Inc. dba El Sobrante Landfill

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. Operations under the variance will be substantially the same as those as previously conducted under the alternative management standards established at 22 CCR 67386. This variance is consistent with a 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 John Muegge	Contact Title Project Manager	Phone Number (916) 322-0471
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Approver's Signature:

Date:

Robert Irving

March 16, 2021

Approver's Name Robert Irving	Approver's Title Supervising Environmental Planner	Approver's Phone Number (916) 255-3988
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