

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, California 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Project Title: Class 2 Permit Modification for Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC

Project Location: 2500 West Lokern Road, Buttonwillow, California 93206

County: Kern

Project Applicant: Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Permit Modification

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5

Project Description: The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), pursuant to authority granted under California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 20, approved a Class 2 Permit Modification (Permit Modification) to modify the groundwater monitoring program for the Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC (CH Buttonwillow) facility located at 2500 West Lokern Road in Buttonwillow, California 93206. Declining water levels, due to drought conditions and regional decreases of groundwater levels, has resulted in existing groundwater monitoring wells being unable to yield any representative groundwater samples. The Permit Modification will authorize the modification of the groundwater monitoring program to change the status of one monitoring well (MW) 153-RL to a piezometer and install one replacement well (MW-153RRL). Additionally, groundwater monitoring wells will be decommissioned if they no longer yield representative groundwater samples after 15 years. The Permit Modification does not include any other changes in operations, additional construction, or ground disturbing activities.

Background: CH Buttonwillow is a 320-acre commercial hazardous waste management and disposal facility located at 2500 West Lokern Road in Buttonwillow, California 93206. The facility is an existing commercial waste management facility which accepts solid, semi-solid, and liquid, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes for treatment, storage, or disposal. Early operations included the use of surface impoundments for liquid waste storage and disposal. By the mid-1990s, all hazardous waste surface impoundments had been clean closed (i.e., no further actions required), and the facility altered operations to utilize landfills. Hazardous Waste Management Units at the facility include: a

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stabilization and treatment unit; a drum storage area; a truck wash station; dirty water tank system; operational landfill Waste Management Unit (WMU) 34, and cells 6 and 7 of WMU-35, cell 6, and cell 7; and post-closure landfill WMU-28, WMU-33, and WMU-35 cells 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The facility's groundwater monitoring network consists of five interface wells, 30 upper perched zone wells, seven intermediate perched zone wells, and 31 lower water table wells, four of which are located on vacant land in the eastern half of the property within the proposed expansion site boundaries of the 2024 Modifications to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 4, Map 97 approved by the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Project Activities: CH Buttonwillow proposes to modify the groundwater monitoring program to change the status of MW-153RL to a piezometer and to install replacement well MW-153RRL. CH Buttonwillow proposes to install MW-153RRL as follows:

- Proposed well location: The replacement well will be installed within 30 feet of the original well, as conditions allow.
- Proposed well depth: The replacement well will be approximately 30 feet deeper than the original well, as conditions allow.
- Proposed well design: The well will be constructed with a 30-foot-long well screen and a two-foot-long silt trap. Unless unexpected conditions are encountered, wells will be drilled and constructed as specified in Appendix E of the Revised Monitoring System Plan (RMSP). A well construction certification report will be submitted to DTSC within 90 days of the completion of well installation activities. The well construction certification report will include geologic logs, geophysical logs, monitoring well as-built drawings, well development records, and well survey data.

In addition, CH Buttonwillow will decommission groundwater monitoring wells and/or piezometers that are no longer capable of yielding representative groundwater samples after 15 years. This plan will allow the facility to decommission three wells/piezometers in 2025, and up to 33 wells/piezometers. Wells/piezometers will be decommissioned by removing pumps and well heads, removing well casing if possible, sealing the bore hole or well casing with sealing material (such as neat cement), and using a backhoe to excavate the soil around the well to remove the uppermost portion, and backfilling the excavated area with soils.

There will be ground disturbing activities and temporary construction activities related to the construction and decommission work of the groundwater monitoring wells/piezometers. CH Buttonwillow will continue all other activities consistent with current operations authorized under the

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existing Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. The Permit Modification does not include any other changes, operational changes, or new ground disturbing activities at the facility.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: [CCR Title 14 Sec. 15308]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: 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. The operation and modification to the groundwater monitoring program is consistent with the actions taken by a regulatory agency, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment. This approval will ensure the facility is appropriately sampling groundwater to monitor and manage any potential releases.

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

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

| Contact Person | Contact Title | Phone Number |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Randy Snapp | Senior Hazardous Substances Engineer | (916) 255-3644 |

Approver's Signature:

Date:

Mohammed Omer

February 25, 2025

| Approver's Name | Approver's Title | Approver's Phone Number |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| Mohammed Omer | Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer I | (916) 255-3883 |

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