

COUNTY OF MERCED AND CITIES OF ATWATER, DOS PALOS, GUSTINE, LIVINGSTON, LOS BANOS, AND MERCED, FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION, HIGHWAY 59 SOLID WASTE LANDFILL, Merced County

The County of Merced operates the Highway 59 Landfill about six miles north of the City of Merced. The facility is jointly owned by the County of Merced and the cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, and Merced (hereafter jointly referred to as Discharger). The 222-acre waste management facility consists of an existing unlined Class III municipal solid waste management unit (Unit), an existing single-composite-lined Class III Unit, a Class II surface impoundment, and two stormwater retention basins. The Discharger proposes to construct a new Unit in a 140-acre area immediately north of the existing Units. The Discharger has submitted a demonstration that construction of a single-composite engineered alternative liner system will meet the performance standard for a Class III landfill contained in §20310 of Title 27. Therefore, this Order permits the construction of a single-composite liner system. The surface impoundments will require double-composite liner construction. The Discharger has demonstrated that the Unit as proposed avoids on-site wetlands to the maximum extent practicable and where impracticable, the impact is minimized and those impacts are mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetlands. The County has avoided a significant portion of the on-site wetlands and further avoidance is impracticable. The County is required under its federal CWA Section 404 permit and the Biological Opinion to preserve in perpetuity a 168-acre wetland preserve and mitigation area. The County will construct wetland acreage within the mitigation area in compensation for the acreage lost as part of the landfill construction. The Discharger proposes to accept treated wood waste at the landfill. The Discharger has indicated that all treated wood waste accepted at the landfill will be handled and disposed of in accordance with the appurtenant provisions outlined in Sections 25143.1.5, 25150.7, and 25150.8 of the Health and Safety Code. The landfill appears to meet the necessary requirements imposed pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This order, therefore, allows the disposal of treated wood waste in accordance with the conditions imposed pursuant to the Health and Safety Code. (DEE)