



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

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Contact: Angela Blanchette
(510) 540-3732
ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ORDER PROTECTS SAN PABLO BAY FROM RICHMOND LANDFILL

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced a consent agreement with West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill, Inc., West County Landfill, Inc., and Republic Services, Inc., that imposes a \$725,000 fine that will improve the long-term safety of the closed hazardous waste portion of the landfill, keeping toxic waste water out of two tributaries into San Pablo Bay.

The action dates back to a Feb. 2, 2006, enforcement order that DTSC filed against the facility, finding that its lack of control over the leachate at the landfill presented an “imminent and substantial endangerment.” The facility disputed that order. Rather than pursue lengthy and costly litigation, and cause delays in putting key corrections in place, DTSC and the facility negotiated this binding agreement.

“We are pleased that the West County Landfill will step up to the plate to protect San Pablo and San Francisco Bays,” said DTSC Director Maureen F. Gorsen. “The toxic waste water from any landfill can be hazardous but what comes out of a hazardous waste landfill is even worse. Our scientists found that the facility was in danger of releasing toxic hazardous waste leachate, including dangerous metals like lead. We simply cannot allow that waste water into our coastal bays,” Gorsen added.

Among the requirements of the order are that the facility will have to do significant work to upgrade equipment onsite to capture and treat the leachate. The result will be more secure control of this hazardous waste disposal site. DTSC will also work on a new permit for the facility to finalize some of the stop-gap measures the facility put into place after receiving the February 2006 order, and put in place long term protections for the future.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.