

State of California – California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation	From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
State Clearinghouse	Permitting Division
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212	8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	Sacramento, CA 95826

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with § 21108 of the Public Resources Code

Project Title: Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC – Class 1* Permit Modification

State Clearinghouse Number: 2020069034

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

County: Kern

Project Applicant: Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC

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, Section 66270.42 prepared an Addendum to a previously certified 2024 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse Number 2020069034) to evaluate activities associated with a Class 1* Permit Modification request to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) for the Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC (CH Buttonwillow) facility. The Class 1* Permit Modification will authorize CH Buttonwillow to make changes to water quality sampling procedures and statistical evaluation techniques detailed in the facility's groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Revised Monitoring System Plan (RMSP). CH Buttonwillow will continue all other activities consistent with current operations authorized under the Permit. There are no other proposed operational changes or other physical changes for the proposed Permit Modification.

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 stabilization and treatment unit; a drum storage area; a truck wash station; dirty water tank system;

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operational landfill Waste Management Unit (WMU) 34 and WMU-35 cell 7; and post-closure landfill WMU-28, WMU-33, and WMU-35 cells 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The Permit will authorize modifications to the SAP and RMSP contained within the operating Permit. Specifically, these modifications will include:

1. Implementation of low-flow groundwater sampling techniques as the primary sampling method, due to declining water levels and the discontinued availability of high-capacity bladder pumps. If low-flow purging is unachievable at any given well during a sampling event, traditional three-casing-volume purging and sampling will be used as a contingency.
2. Revisions to statistical procedures used in evaluating groundwater data to reflect current regulatory and environmental standards.

The proposed facility modifications are intended to reflect changes in the facility's groundwater conditions and streamline data collection to improve efficiency in groundwater monitoring while reducing unnecessary re-sampling events and addressing challenges posed by declining water levels and changes in equipment availability. These changes will continue to prevent and minimize the release or threat of release of hazardous waste for protection of the environment while ensuring consistency with the most current environmental standards and regulatory requirements.

CH Buttonwillow, formerly Petroleum Waste, Inc., was originally constructed and began operations in 1983. In 1982, an EIR (State Clearinghouse Number 1982012858 and 1982012859) was prepared by Kern County and certified by the Kern County Board of Supervisors prior to approval of the facility's Conditional Use Permit (CUP No. 2, Map No. 97). The California Department of Health Services, predecessor to DTSC, issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit to the facility in May 1983. In November 1994, Kern County prepared a Supplemental EIR (State Clearinghouse Number 1992042028) and was approved by the Kern County Board of Supervisors for various modifications to the DTSC Permit and CUP. In April 1996, DTSC issued an updated/renewed Hazardous Waste Facility Permit to reflect those modifications. The 1996 DTSC Hazardous Waste Facility Permit expired on April 6, 2006. A Permit Renewal application was submitted timely in October 2005 as required by California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66270.10(h). The application was deemed complete by DTSC on December 27, 2005, thereby allowing the facility to operate pending issuance of a renewed Permit while DTSC performed a technical review of the permit application. The proposed project objectives include a decision on the DTSC permit authorizing various modifications for continued commercial hazardous waste management and disposal operations. The facility continues to operate in accordance with its existing Hazardous Waste Facility Permit until such time

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DTSC issues or denies a renewed permit (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66270.51(a)).

The purpose of this Permit Modification is to update sampling procedural changes to reflect changes in the facility groundwater conditions and to streamline data collection while ensuring consistency with the most current environmental standards and regulatory requirements. All other operating activities of the facility will continue as previously approved. There are no other proposed changes to the facility, or any of the waste being received or treated, or to any other operations or units. There will be no other significant operational changes or ground disturbance. This Permit Modification will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts on the environment.

As Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC approved the above-described project on January 13, 2026, and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of project approval by DTSC.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted for this project by DTSC.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project by DTSC.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA by DTSC.

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

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

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/

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

Approver's Signature:

Mohammed Omer

Date:

January 13, 2026

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF LAND USE AND CLIMATE INNOVATION (LCI) ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at LCI: