

Background

Avenal Regional Landfill (ARL) is located at 1200 Skyline Blvd, Avenal CA 93204. The City of Avenal (City) owns and operates the Avenal Regional Landfill. This is a permitted municipal solid waste disposal facility.

Is the facility subject to environmental requirements?

The Avenal Landfill is subject to federal, state, and local requirements related to air emissions, water quality, and hazardous materials and waste.

Who is involved in this matter?

Multiple environmental agencies at the federal, state, and local level are responsible for regulating ARL and have been engaged in inspection and enforcement activities, including:

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District)
- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Kings County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)
- California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (U.S. EPA)

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

The San Joaquin Valley APCD (District) is a public health agency whose mission is to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective, and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies, which include the adoption and enforcement of rules intended to control sources of air pollution. In addition to public complaint investigations and joint inspections with other agencies, District enforcement staff perform field inspections at the ARL to ensure the facility's strict adherence to applicable District Rules 2520, 4102, 4651; the state's Landfill Methane Regulation (17 California Code of Regulations 95464), and federal requirements (Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 60 and Part 63). The District takes enforcement action whenever violations are discovered. Following an enforcement action, the

District works with the facility to expedite their return to compliance. The District's compliance activities at the ARL dating back to 2020 are summarized below:

In 2026: 2 inspections, 2 enforcement actions taken, and 30 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: Mostly odor complaints with one fugitive dust complaint, 9 of the odor complaints throughout March and April were confirmed.
- Notices of Violation (NOV): Issued for 9 instantaneous surface emission leaks exceeding 500 parts per million (ppm), and for failure to report a deviation for the leaks found during the inspection within 10 days.

In 2025: 4 inspections, 1 enforcement action taken, and 35 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: Mostly odor complaints with a few complaints of fugitive dust, open burning, and idling diesel trucks.
- Notice of Violation (NOV): Issued for 9 instantaneous surface emission leaks exceeding 500 parts per million (ppm) – returned to compliance 9/11/25.

In 2024: 2 inspections, 1 enforcement action taken, and 13 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: Mostly odor complaints with one open burning complaint, none were confirmed.
- NOV: Failure to demonstrate full compliance with Rule 4311 by 12/31/2023, new ultra-low NOx flare not installed and operational by rule deadline – returned to compliance 7/17/2024.

In 2023: 2 inspections, 1 enforcement action taken, and 14 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: Mostly odor complaints with a few open burning complaints, none were confirmed.
- NOV: Issued for excess CO emissions, source test of the flare failed to demonstrate compliance with the CO emission limit – returned to compliance 7/6/2023.

In 2022: 3 inspections, 1 enforcement action taken, and 29 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: Mostly all odor complaints with one open burning complaint, none were confirmed.
- NOV: Issued for a component leak in excess of 500 ppm found downstream of the blower – returned to compliance 5/18/2022.

In 2021: 3 inspections, 1 enforcement action taken, and 67 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: All odor complaints, three were confirmed.
- NOV: Issued for 8 instantaneous surface emission leaks exceeding 500 ppm – returned to compliance 9/9/21.

In 2020: 6 inspections, 2 enforcement actions taken, and 100 complaints investigated:

- Complaints: Mostly odor complaints with a couple complaints of open burning and fugitive dust, one instance of five confirmed odor complaints resulted in a NOV issued for a public nuisance.
- NOVs: Issued for failure to control odors causing a public nuisance – returned to compliance 1/28/2020, and instantaneous surface emission leak exceeding 500 ppm – returned to compliance 1/29/2020.

California Air Resources Board

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsible for protecting the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and developing and enforcing programs and actions to fight climate change. CARB implements and enforces engine certification, reporting, and testing requirements to help ensure mobile sources such as heavy-duty trucks are operating and maintained according to statewide emissions standards. Additionally, CARB supports and oversees air district stationary source programs. CARB ensures compliance with the Landfill Methane Regulation (Cal. Code Regs. §§95460 to 95476), which reduces methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. CARB shares enforcement authority with the San Joaquin Valley APCD through a Memorandum of Understanding, which grants authority to the District to enforce CARB's Landfill Methane Regulation on CARB's behalf.

Summary of (CARB's inspections, enforcement actions, and citations issued in Avenal (January 2020 - Present):

In 2026: 1 landfill inspection

- On January 27, 2026, CARB conducted a joint inspection with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and the U.S. EPA. Six exceedances of the Landfill Methane Regulation emission standard were detected. Enforcement action has been referred to SJVAPCD.

In 2025: 1 landfill inspection

- CARB participated in a multi-agency inspection of ARL. Nine exceedances of the Landfill Methane Regulation (LMR) emission standard were detected. The District issued NOVs, with CARB providing support as requested.

In 2023: 4 days of odor surveillance, 5 days of mobile air monitoring

- CARB conducted mobile air monitoring in the community. Data collected suggested that methane could emanate from the direction of the landfill and from within the residential and commercial areas. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) that affect health, like benzene, were not readily detected during the mobile survey. These results were shared with staff from the Central California Environmental Justice Network and California Rural Legal Assistance.
- CARB inspectors also conducted four consecutive days of odor surveillance. Slight petroleum odors were consistently detected near ARL entrance and downwind the landfill at the corner of Skyline and Hydril during each day of odor surveillance. Slight petroleum odors were detected in the residential neighborhood on the second day of surveillance. Sewage odors were consistently detected during each day of surveillance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. On the third day of surveillance, trash odors were detected in the residential neighborhood; this day was also trash pick-up day.

In 2022: 1 landfill inspection, 3 days of odor surveillance

- CARB participated in a joint inspection of ARL with the District. One exceedance of the Landfill Methane Regulation (LMR) emission standard was detected. The District issued NOVs, with CARB providing support as requested.
- CARB inspectors also conducted three separate days of odor surveillance. During the first and second day of odor surveillance, slight petroleum odors were detected downwind of ARL at the corner of Hydril and Skyline and near ARL entrance. During the second odor surveillance event, which coincided with the landfill inspection, chemical/petroleum odors varying from slight to strong were detected near ARL entrance. One CARB inspector identified the odors as landfill gas mixed with waste. Slight petroleum odors were also detected in the neighborhood south of ARL.

In 2021: 1 landfill inspection, 2 mobile source inspections, 4 days of odor surveillance

- CARB participated in a joint inspection of ARL with the District. Six exceedances of the LMR emission standards were detected. The District issued

Notices of Violation (NOV), with CARB providing support as requested.

- CARB inspectors conducted two days of mobile source inspections at ARL resulting in two citations issued: one for improperly labeled off-road equipment at the landfill and the other for a heavy-duty truck entering the landfill that was missing the Emission Control Label.
- CARB inspectors also conducted four days of odor surveillance. On three of the four days, CARB staff detected slight to strong chemical odors near the landfill fence line and/or in the adjacent neighborhood. No odors were detected on only one of the days.

In 2020: 1 landfill inspection, 1 day of odor surveillance

- CARB participated in a joint inspection of ARL with the District. No exceedances of LMR emission standards were detected. On the same day, CARB inspectors conducted odor surveillance in the neighborhood south of ARL and did not detect any odors.

Summary of community engagement efforts (January 2020 – Present):

In 2022: Installation of two weather stations

- CARB installed one weather station at Avenal City Hall and the another on ARL property near the fence line along Hydril Way.

In 2021: Community meeting

- CARB and the District co-hosted a community meeting at Avenal High School. The purpose of the community meeting was to hear residents' concerns, explain how to report odors to the District, and to clarify the District's odor complaint investigation process. Other agencies including the City of Avenal and CalRecycle participated.

In 2020: Community outreach event

- CARB inspectors went door-to-door in the neighborhood near ARL to speak with residents and listen to their concerns about odors they believed were coming from ARL. One CARB inspector was fluent in Spanish, which helped facilitate communication. Of the 15 residents CARB spoke with, 14 reported "constant odors coming from the landfill." During this outreach event, CARB explained how to report odor complaints to the District and demonstrated the use of methane detection tools.

Kings County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)

LEAs have the primary responsibility for ensuring the correct operation and closure of solid waste facilities in the state. The LEA is solely responsible for carrying out solid waste enforcement in its jurisdiction as defined in 14 CCR Division 7, 27 CCR Division 2, Subdivision 1 (Section 20005 et seq.) and Division 30 of the Public Resources Code. This is accomplished through regular inspections which are documented on inspection reports.

LEAs take enforcement action on non-compliant facilities by issuing Notice and Orders (e.g., compliance order, corrective action order, and cease and desist order). LEAs also process solid waste facilities permit applications, hold public informational meetings, and conduct reviews of issued permits for all solid waste facilities at least once every five years.

When applying for a new permit, revision or modification of an existing permit, or during a five-year permit review, landfills must submit updated closure plans which are also reviewed by the LEA. LEAs also play a role in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process mainly as a responsible agency commenting on environmental documents prepared for new solid waste facilities or existing facilities proposing design or operational changes.

Information about the ARL can be accessed through the below link:

<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/898>

ARL is a Class III disposal site that accepts municipal solid waste, construction and demolition waste, and industrial waste. The landfill is permitted through a Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP No. 16-AA-0004) concurred on by CalRecycle and issued by the Kings County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (LEA). The SWFP provides the following specifications:

- *Permitted hours of operation – 7 days a week, 24 hours a day (closed on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Easter and Fourth of July).*
- *Permitted maximum tonnage – 6,000 tons per day.*
- *Permitted traffic volume – 306 vehicles per day.*
- *Design capacity – 36.3 million cubic yards.*
- *Maximum elevation – 1,300 msl.*
- *Estimated closure year – 2056 (variable depending on actual tonnage received).*
- *Prohibitions – the facility is prohibited from accepting hazardous, medical, designated, liquid, regulated radioactive, or other wastes requiring special treatment*

or handling, except as identified in the Report of Facility Information.

CalRecycle inspects Avenal Landfill every 18 months, and the LEA conducts monthly and focused inspections of the Landfill to ensure the facility is in compliance with state minimum standards, the SWFP, and solid waste laws and regulations for the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Operating and design requirements for disposal sites are provided in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Chapter 3, Subchapter 4 and contain the following criteria which the LEA and CalRecycle use to evaluate site compliance:

- Operating Criteria – disposal site records, signs, site security, personnel training and health and safety, solid waste spreading and compacting, grading of fill surfaces,
- Alternative Daily Cover Material and Beneficial Reuse – daily cover, alternative daily cover, intermediate cover requirements, beneficial uses of solid wastes requirements, cover performance standards,
- Handling, Equipment and Maintenance – waste volume reduction and energy recovery requirements, equipment and site maintenance requirements, organic waste handling activities for new or expanding landfills,
- Controls – nuisance, open burning and burning waste, leachate, dust, vectors (flies, rodents, etc.) and birds, drainage and erosion, litter, noise, traffic, dead animal handling, and
- Gas Monitoring and Control at Active and Closed Disposal Sites – landfill gas monitoring and control requirements, reporting and control of excessive gas concentrations.

LEA Inspection Summary:

Active landfills like ARL are required to be inspected monthly. Since 2020, the LEA has cited 4 violations, including:

- 10/22/2021 – ARL only had 3 documented load checks for September 2021, but the site is required to perform 5 load checks per month. In addition, a logbook is required to be maintained daily but no entries were made for September 28, 29, or 30.
- 10/12/2020 – ARL received two large burrito wrapped loads of non-friable asbestos which was dumped on the lined portion of the landfill. Delivery

of non-friable asbestos requires prior site approval before being accepted at the site, with individual appointments being established for each load. The landfill must also dig a trench at or near the active face of the landfill, and once the non-friable asbestos is placed in the trench, it must be backfilled immediately.

- 7/27/2020 – ARL conducted 5 load checks in June 2020, but records for only 3 load checks were available for review the LEA. The other records were reportedly left in landfill vehicles.
- 2/10/2020 – ARL accepted one dead bovine which the landfill is not permitted to accept without a local declared emergency and prior approval from the LEA.

Complaint Summaries

EH-CMP-26-00093 (3/31/2026)

- Issue: Odor complaint.
- Investigation: No Odors noted on Hydril Rd, Corcoran Ave, Stratford Ave and Lassen St.

EH-CMP-26-00059 (3/30/2026)

- Issue: Odor and Dust complaint.
- Investigation: Site visit not conducted. Spoke to Avenal City Code Enforcement. No odors from landfill. Some dust on Hwy 269 due to heavy winds. Not from Landfill.

EH-CMP-26-00056 (3/26/2026)

- Issue: 6 Odor complaints.
- Investigation: Natural gas odors were noted on Stratford Ave and Hydril Rd. After investigation by KC Fire, a natural gas leak was noted at one of the homes in the area. No Landfill or Municipal waste odors.

EH-CMP-26-00092 (3/25/2026)

- Issue: 4 Odor complaints
- Investigation: No Action Taken.

EH-CMP-26-00091 (3/24/2026)

- Issue: 8 Odor complaints, 5 during normal working hours and 3 after working hours (4:30 PM).
- Investigation: Site visit and focused inspection conducted.

EH-CMP-26-00054 (3/23/2026)

- Issue: 3 Odor complaints.
- Investigation: Site visit and focused inspection conducted. See comments above for 03-23-2026 focused inspection.

EH-CMP-26-00042 (3/6/2026)

- Issue: Odor complaint.
- Investigation: Site Visit conducted, and complaint was not verified.

EH-CMP-26-00042 (3/5/2026)

- Issue: Odor complaint.
- Investigation: Site visit conducted and complaint was partially verified. No rancid odors were noted. Some mix of Municipal waste odor were noted on Hydril Rd with 3/10 intensity. A mixture of high winds in South-Southeast direction and odor misting system being turned off. Facility was asked to take preventative measures to avoid odors escaping the facility.

EH-CMP-25-00156 (10/1/2025)

- Issue: Community concerns about garbage trucks using unauthorized routes through city areas and operating as early as 4:30 AM. Odor complaints and noise from idling trucks were also reported.
- Request: Community organizer asked Kings County LEA to investigate potential haul route violations and take corrective action. An audio recording from a resident was submitted as evidence.
- Contacted Landfill operator and the City of Avenal Code Enforcement regarding monitoring of the city conditional use permit.

EH-CMP-25-00138 (9/10/2025)

- Issue: Allegations of rat infestations at two Avenal locations, possibly linked to the ARL.
- Investigation: No signs of pest harborage or improper waste disposal found during inspection. Increased rat activity in the Central Valley noted from external sources (USA Today).

EH-CMP-25-00039 (3/6/2025)

- Issue: Resident reported waste trucks dumping at Avenal Landfill after hours (around 7:55 PM).
- Findings: Due to recent rain and muddy conditions, trucks were delayed unloading. The landfill had consumed its wet weather deck and faced staff shortages. The facility gates closed at 3 PM, but trucks inside continued offloading beyond normal hours.

EH-CMP-25-00026 (1/2025)

- Allegation: Trucks tracking mud/dirt (PM10) onto roads; community concerned about dust and pollution.
- Investigation:
 - Litter and clay/mud observed on Hwy 269.
 - Operator working with Caltrans for cleanup.

- Reminder sent to haulers on tarping and idling protocols.
- LEA monitoring ongoing clean-up efforts.

EH-CMP-25-00008 (1/7/2025)

- Allegation: After-hours landfill operation (7:44 PM), causing odor.
- Investigation (1/8/25):
 - No odors detected during neighborhood drive.
 - Operator confirmed closure activities ended by ~7:10 PM due to late arrivals before 4 PM.
 - Construction gate (Hydril Rd) closed by 4 PM. Complaint dismissed.

CO0010332 (1/10/2022)

- Allegation: Odor complaint from community near landfill (Hydril Rd), with visible trash.
- Investigation (1/14/22):
 - Photos showed daily cover in progress.
 - Site visit revealed some exposed tires — cited as an area of concern in report.

CO0010274 (10/14/2021)

- Allegation: Blown litter due to high winds on 10/11/21.
- Investigation:
 - Operator had already hired 4 temporary litter pickers.
 - Some blown materials were confirmed to be from nearby housing construction.
 - Issue being addressed; no further action necessary.

CO0010220 (7/29/2021)

- Allegation: Terrible garbage odor was reported with photo evidence of municipal solid waste (MSW).
- Investigation:
 - No odors detected at active face, Hwy 269, or adjacent neighborhood.
 - Deodorizers in use, waste was visible temporarily due to berm construction.
 - The District also conducted a parallel investigation.

CO0010098 (1/12/2021)

- Allegation: Photo showed black soot on a landfill slope, posted on IVAN site.
- Investigation:
 - Identified as BG1 gas filtration media from a damaged bag.
 - Later complaint about chemical odor (1/13) was unverified by LEA and the District.
 - Normal odors detected, and misting system was active.

CO0010032 (11/12/2020)

- Allegation: Video of contaminated soil being dumped, allegedly by BTI Environmental.
- Investigation:
 - Verified via origin reports: Soil was from Patriot Environmental, not BTI.
 - No odors detected, and misting systems were active.
 - Access control concerns raised over filming inside landfill.

CO0009953 (8/20/2020)

- Allegation: Photos showed uncovered waste visible from Hwy 269 & Hydril Ave.
- Investigation: Waste was part of active face (Phase 3B) under berm construction. LEA reiterated need for daily cover; operator acknowledged and complied.

CO0009919 (7/29/2020)

- Allegation: Foul odor reported by community; confirmed by Air District.
- Investigation: Full site perimeter survey by LEA — no objectionable odors detected, except a slight creosote smell from discarded telephone poles (not widespread).

CO0009895 (7/27/2020)

- Allegation: Foul odor complaint received by LEAP Institute; request for LEA inspection.
- Investigation:
 - Focused inspection conducted the same day.
 - Details are available in the July 27, 2020, Focused Inspection Report.

CO0009880 (7/20/2020)

- Allegation: Odors from landfill are causing health issues in the community.
- Investigation:
 - Handled alongside CO0009879 during July inspection.
 - Referenced in facility report, with no distinct confirmation of health-impacting odors.

CO0009879 (7/20/2020)

- Allegation: Foul odor emitting from landfill.
- Investigation:
 - Musky odor at the landfill's active face.
 - Foul odor detected on Highway 269, but not consistent with landfill odors.
 - Complaint could not be conclusively linked to landfill activities.

CO0009810 (6/4/2020)

- Allegation: Multiple early morning complaints (via IVAN website) of dead animal/garbage smells in Avenal.
- Investigation:
 - Site visit at 11:00 a.m.: Only rubber smell from tires at the landfill's active face.
 - Brief garbage odor (30–40 seconds) near Lassen Street; could not be definitively linked to the landfill.
 - Normal odors detected during multiple site passes and checks.
 - Odor sweeps are reportedly conducted by landfill staff 3 times daily.

CO0009787 (5/5/2020)

- Allegation: Community reports foul landfill odors; CalRecycle and District notified.
- Investigation:
 - No odors detected at landfill during sweeps by operator.
 - Operator noticed untarped petroleum-smelling trucks in town (not at landfill).
 - Trucks were followed and confirmed to be headed elsewhere (Kettleman City).

CO0009740 (2/19/2020)

- Allegation: Daily foul odor; especially bad on this date.
- Investigation: Combined with CO0009727 investigation — no odors substantiated.

CO0009739 (2/14/2020)

- Allegation: Improper disposal of medical waste (clear tubing with unknown substance).
- Investigation:
 - Complainant shared video.
 - Discussed identifying source via GPS/time data but unable to trace generator.
 - Complaint unsubstantiated due to lack of identifying info and potential for home-generated waste.

CO0009727 (2/11–2/19/2020)

- Allegation: Smell of dead animals; affects complainant's marathon training.
- Investigation:
 - Initial voicemail left; complainant responded a week later.
 - 0261 and 0277 investigated multiple areas including apartments, hills, and landfill.
 - Mostly no odors detected, except a brief sulfur smell near homes close to landfill and at gas well 16, lasting only seconds and

dissipating quickly. The source of sulfur smell was not determined.

CO0009726 (2/11/2020)

- Allegation: Rotting smell from the dump causing a rash.
- Investigation: No odor detected during site visit. The District also investigated at the same time.

CO0009728 (2/11/2020)

- Allegation: Landfill emitting strong stench, like dead carcasses; concern about methane gas.
- Investigation: No odor detected during site visit; slight southeast wind noted. Complainant did not respond to follow-up.

CO0009729 (2/11/2020)

- Allegation: Strong rotting odor from landfill, worse in early mornings.
- Investigation: No odor detected around 11:25 a.m.; wind from southeast. Complainant confirmed smell is typically worse in mornings.

CalRecycle

CalRecycle certifies local LEAs who implement the regulations for the operation and design of solid waste handling, processing, and disposal activities to protect public health and safety and the environment. Solid Waste Facilities include Landfills, Transfer/Processing Facilities, In-Vessel Digestion Facilities, Compostable Material Handling Facilities, Engineered Municipal Solid Waste (EMSW) Conversion Facilities, and Transformation Facilities.

CalRecycle and the LEAs have authority to inspect excluded activities to verify that they do not qualify for a solid waste facilities permit. CalRecycle must also concur or object to the issuance, modification, or revision of any solid waste facilities permit written by LEAs.

CalRecycle provides assistance to LEAs on permitting, inspections, and enforcement.

CalRecycle along with the LEAs and Regional Water Quality Control Boards reviews and approves landfill closure and post closure plans. CalRecycle ensures that landfill operators maintain adequate financial assurances for closure, post closure maintenance and corrective actions. Statute also requires CalRecycle to develop performance standards for evaluating LEAs and to review each enforcement agency and its implementation of their permit, inspection, and enforcement program. The evaluation is conducted every three years. CalRecycle also provides funding through grants and loans. CalRecycle notes that the LEA has been investigating odors complaints to determine if

the odors are related to site operations that may be within their authority.

CalRecycle's compliance activities at Avenal Landfill dating back to 2020 are summarized below:

- CalRecycle conducted 4 inspections with the LEA on 1/13/2021, 9/26/2022, and 4/19/2024 and 9/11/2025. The September 2025 inspection was a joint inspection with multiple regulatory agencies. For each of these 4 inspections, no violations were cited, however one Area of Concern (AOC) was cited on 4/19/2024 for not documenting a 3/5/2024 odor complaint on the appropriate form and for not contacting the LEA within 48 hours. No AOCs or undocumented odor complaints were reported in subsequent LEA inspections on 5/22/2024 and 6/20/2024. An additional site visit was conducted on 3/17/2026 to observe rodent monitoring and mitigation measures at the landfill. No evidence of rodent activity was observed.

Community Engagement:

CalRecycle is committed to addressing the needs of community through consistent engagement efforts. Staff regularly attend monthly meetings and forums to remain informed about community concerns and to provide support where needed.

In 2019 CalRecycle presented to the community information on the roles of the LEA and CalRecycle's solid waste authority.

In November 2021, CalRecycle joined a meeting co-hosted by California Air Resources Board and the San Joaquin Valley APCD to answer questions related to the landfill.

In March 2025, CalRecycle hosted a virtual meeting with community members, as well as local and state agencies, to discuss ongoing issues and share updates.

In April 2025, CalRecycle staff attended a meeting with a community-based organization to further discuss landfill concerns. During that meeting, CalRecycle received a series of questions from the community regarding landfill activity and shared our responses to the questions in June 2025.

In July 2025, CalRecycle hosted a follow up meeting with a community-based organization, which provided an opportunity for the community to ask any additional questions regarding the responses shared in June 2025.

In December 2025, CalRecycle, in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies coordinated a community

meeting in Avenal, California to provide updates regarding the landfill and inspection findings.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead regulatory agency in California for hazardous waste management. DTSC makes decisions on permit applications for treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste and enforces hazardous waste laws.

- DTSC runs the Hazardous Waste Management Program (HWMP) which protects public health and the environment by enforcing hazardous waste laws in California. Within HWMP the Permitting Division reviews and makes decisions on permit applications for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. The Enforcement and Emergency Response Division inspects permitted facilities, along with transporters and some generators of hazardous waste. The Office of Criminal Investigations conducts investigations and assists with projects as needed.
- The Office of Environmental Equity (OEE) - Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (EJTA) Program focuses on communication and engagement with the community and Environmental Justice organizations on activities DTSC directly oversees. The program's staff facilitates conversations among DTSC programs, community members, and Environmental Justice organizations. The EJTA program coordinated with all DTSC staff and programs to provide information on projects or sites that are within DTSC purview.

On September 3, 2025, DTSC's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI), conducted a sampling activity at the Avenal Regional Landfill located at 1200 Skyline Blvd., Avenal, CA 93204. The purpose of sampling was to help determine if a subsurface elevated temperature (SET) event is occurring at the site and if there were any concentrations of hazardous waste constituents in the leachate or condensate that make it exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic or are approaching those concentrations.

DTSC collected two samples from the only active leachate and condensate tanks for the site. These two tanks are located in the southwest corner of the property, just north of Hydril Road. Both leachate and condensate samples were collected and submitted to DTSC's Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL) for analytical testing. The leachate and condensate have been analyzed for heavy metal and volatile organic compounds (VOCs,) and screened for semi-volatile organics (SVOCs). Currently, the analytical results from ECL do not show any exceedances of hazardous waste

thresholds. The sample results have been compared to historical values found on [GeoTracker](#) for previous analysis of the leachate and condensate going back to 2011.

Note: A Sampling Report along with a table summarizing the results and comparisons will be released and provided once completed.

State and Regional Water Board

The State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement (OE) provides legal and technical support to the Regional Boards and Division of Drinking Water Districts. The OE provides field staff resources for inspections and compliance assurance, in addition to technical and legal resources for progressive enforcement as needed. The OE can assist in field investigations, permittee communication, community engagement, and complaint intake. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) is one of nine regional boards operating under the State. The Board has primary enforcement authority over the Avenal Landfill and regulates waste discharges to land by issuing and enforcing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) under Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. For the Avenal Regional Landfill, WDRs were last updated in 2019 (WDR #R5-2019-0071). These requirements include measures for managing leachate and landfill-gas condensate, as well as ongoing groundwater monitoring. The Board reviews the landfill's monitoring reports, conducts site inspections, and takes enforcement action where necessary to ensure compliance.

The public case file for the ARL is available on the State Water Board's GeoTracker database. You can access it using the facility ID [L10008359729](#).

- 01/08/2026 & 04/22/2026 -- Regional Water Board staff inspected the landfill on both dates. No violations of the prohibitions, discharge specifications, or facility specifications of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2019-0071 were observed during the on-site inspections.
- 09/11/2025 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a complaint and a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.
- 06/04/2025 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a final construction inspection for Phase 6C and a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.

- 05/01/2025 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a construction inspection for Phase 6C of the landfill.
- 08/14/2024 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.
- 05/08/2024 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a compliance inspection for the landfill. No WDR violations were found during the inspection.
- 08/31/2023 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a final construction inspection for Phase 6B and a compliance inspection for the landfill. No WDR violations were found during the inspection.
- 08/15/2023 – A Notice of Violation was issued to the landfill for failure to immediately notify the Regional Water Board after water quality sample results had a potential indication of a release and for failure to collect verification samples within 30 days. Additional water quality samples were collected and have been collected every six months since then. These samples do not show an indication of a release from the landfill.
- 5/04/2023 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a construction inspection for Phase 6B and a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.
- 04/20/2022 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a final construction inspection for Phase 6A and a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.
- 05/06/2021 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.
- 03/13/2020 – Regional Water Board staff conducted a final construction inspection for Phase 3B and a compliance inspection for the landfill. No violations of the WDRs were found during the inspection.

CalEPA

CalEPA is the parent agency to six boards, departments, and offices charged with protecting public health and the environment, including CalRecycle, CARB, DTSC, and the

Water Boards. CalEPA is focused on helping to support the local level Participating Agency as well as ensuring enforcement and compliance activities are consistent, effective, and coordinated at the Avenal Landfill.

US EPA

U.S. EPA Region 9 (Pacific Southwest Region) provides regulatory oversight over states, tribes, and territories. U.S. EPA works with state and local agencies to ensure private and public facilities maintain compliance under environmental statutes, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Clean Air Act (CAA). ARL is subject to two CAA landfill regulations that have been partially delegated to the District. Therefore, U.S. EPA remains the sole authority over certain undelegated portions of these regulations, including the authority to review and approve higher operating value requests for the temperatures of specific gas collection wellheads, corrective action and implementation timeline requests, and other elements that are relevant to the ongoing temperature exceedances at ARL.

In April 2025, U.S. EPA approved a higher operating value at one well at ARL to increase the wellhead temperature limit to 145°F. The conditions at this well demonstrated that elevated temperatures did not cause fires nor significantly inhibit waste decomposition. U.S. EPA did not approve higher operating values for six other wells with elevated temperatures. U.S. EPA conveyed observations of conditions of four wells that showed evidence of anomalous subsurface conditions at elevated temperatures. U.S. EPA recommended corrective actions to reduce temperatures and risk of a landfill fire or a runaway subsurface reaction.

In July 2025, U.S. EPA approved a corrective action plan for temperature exceedances for nine wells with elevated temperatures through November 2025.

In December 2025, U.S. EPA reviewed the progress report of the July 2025 Corrective Action Plan and determined that while progress had been made to mitigate landfill gas temperature exceedances, further corrective actions were required to reduce temperatures. U.S. EPA directed the landfill operator to submit an updated Corrective Action Plan, with enhanced monitoring and corrective actions included.

In January 2026, U.S. EPA led a joint inspection of the gas collection and control system at the landfill. The joint inspection included inspectors from CARB and SJVAPCD. During the inspection, inspectors identified 9 locations on

the landfill surface where landfill gas emissions exceeded the regulatory limit, requiring immediate corrective action. As of February 2026, the landfill operator had corrected all deficiencies.

In February 2026, U.S. EPA approved the updated corrective action plan for all wells with elevated temperatures through August 2026 and continues to monitor conditions at the landfill to ensure corrective actions are achieving temperature reductions.

For More Information Contact:

San Joaquin Valley APCD

Jason Lawler – Director of Compliance

Jason.Lawler@valleyair.org

California Air Resources Board

Dmitri Smith – Manager, District Support Section

dmitri.smith@arb.ca.gov

Kings County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)

Troy Hommerding – Kings County LEA Env. Health Manager

troy.hommerding@co.kings.ca.us

CalRecycle

Shyenne Lewis – Environmental Justice Enforcement Liaison

Shyenne.Lewis@CalRecycle.ca.gov

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Gabriel Trevino – Environmental Scientist

Gabriel.Trevino@dtsc.ca.gov

Regional Water Boards

John Murphy – Supervising Engineering Geologist

John.Murphy@Waterboards.ca.gov

State Water Boards

Selina Cole – Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

selina.cole@waterboards.ca.gov

CalEPA

Trevor Anderson – Environmental Justice Enforcement Manager

trevor.anderson@calepa.ca.gov

US EPA

Tyler Holeybee – Environmental Engineer

Holeybee.Tyler@epa.gov