

Ramirez, Alice

Subject: FW: Clover Flat Landfill/CFL concerns about illicit stormwater discharging into the waters of the State

From: Karpowicz, Alyx@Waterboards <Alyx.Karpowicz@waterboards.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 3:29 PM

To: cmalan1earth@gmail.com; SIMPSON-VANDAM, JENNIFER <Jennifer.Simpson-VanDam@countyofnapa.org>

Cc: Watkins, Jessica@Waterboards <Jessica.Watkins@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Morrison, Dana <dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org>; Bordona, Brian <Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.org>; Alsop, Ryan <ryan.alsop@countyofnapa.org>; Ryan, Patrick C. <Patrick.Ryan@countyofnapa.org>; Lederer, Steven <Steven.Lederer@countyofnapa.org>; Amber Manfree <admanfree@gmail.com>; Anne Reilley <environmentallysustainablesol@gmail.com>; Geoff Ellsworth <geoffellsworth@yahoo.com>; pdohring@cityofsthelena.gov; jleach@cityofsthelena.gov; Patricia Damery <pdamery@patriciadamery.com>

Subject: RE: Clover Flat Landfill/CFL concerns about illicit stormwater discharging into the waters of the State

[External Email - Use Caution]

Hello Chris,

I'll answer your questions in the same order:

1. Yes, Jennifer was present during the January 13, 2026 inspection- see the [Report](#).
2. I will defer to Patrick on this.
3. The [Hydrologic Evaluation](#) for the site determined that the peak flow from a 100-year, 24- hour design storm event is accommodated by the v-ditches, down drains, culvert pipes, and riprap pads.
4. The landslide is outside of the active waste filling area, no waste has or will be placed within landslide materials. I will defer to the County regarding their use permit. The landfill has coverage for stormwater discharges through the State Board's General Permit, and there is no language about landslides in that Permit; however, sediment discharges are regulated, and TSS (total suspended solids) are measured at the 11 stormwater monitoring stations at the site for this parameter. There is also a sediment drop out basin above Module 5 to prevent any excess sediment from discharging to the creek. The last stormwater data report available in the [SMARTs database](#) from November 2025 shows the maximum detection from four samples collected was at SL-6 at 149 mg/L, and Table 2 in the [Industrial General Permit](#) lists an instantaneous maximum numeric action level of 400 mg/L.
5. I manage the Clover Flat Landfill, and do not have access or authority to test the City of St. Helena's drinking water wells. The City is responsible for that task, through the directive from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water, information on how to obtain data can be found here: [EDT Library and Water Quality Analyses Data and Download Page | California State Water Resources Control Board](#).

6. If private wells owners would like their water tested, I would reach out to the County as they run a program like that: [Resources for Well Owners | Napa County, CA](#)
7. I will defer to the County regarding their website. All Water Board resources regarding Clover Flat can be found in [GeoTracker](#).

Hope this helps,



Alyx Karpowicz, P.G.

Engineering Geologist

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From: cmalan1earth@gmail.com <cmalan1earth@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 4:38 PM

To: Karpowicz, Alyx@Waterboards <Alyx.Karpowicz@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jennifer.Simpson-VanDam@countyofnapa.org

Cc: Watkins, Jessica@Waterboards <Jessica.Watkins@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Dana Morrison <dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org>; Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.com <Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.org>; Ryan.Alsop@countyofnapa.org; Patrick Ryan <Patrick.Ryan@countyofnapa.org>; Steven Lederer <Steven.Lederer@countyofnapa.org>; Amber Manfree <admanfree@gmail.com>; Anne Reilley <environmentallysustainablesol@gmail.com>; Geoff Ellsworth <geoffellsworth@yahoo.com>; pdohring@cityofsthelena.gov; jleach@cityofsthelena.gov; Patricia Damery <pdamery@patriciadamery.com>

Subject: Re: Clover Flat Landfill/CFL concerns about illicit stormwater discharging into the waters of the State

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Good Afternoon Alyx and Jennifer,

Re: Clover Flat Landfill/CFL on-going pollution concerns directed at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board/Alyx Karpowicz and the Napa County Local Enforcement Agency/LEA (Jennifer Simpson-VanDam)

In response:

1. Did the LEA accompany you at the CFL 1.26 inspection or do I need to directly email Jennifer Simpson-VanDam/Local Enforcement Agency/CaRecycle?

2. Was Patrick Ryan-Napa County Erosion Control Engineer involved in the repairs?

3. My understanding is that stormwater BMPs are based on only a 20 year storm event, correct? Because CFL is located in a steep canyon, runoff velocities are high. Consequently, erosion control BMPs become easily overwhelmed. The danger to water quality at CFL is high due to erosion control BMPs constantly failing causing leachate to pollute and flow into surface and groundwater. With climate change these erosion factors intensify.

4. The erosion picture of the landslide area you sent did not look 'minor' but rather a blow out of material above module 5. Napa County doesn't allow development on active landslides. This is an active landslide, therefore, is there an exemption for CFL to have a landfill module 5 at an active landslide? Is this a Napa County Use Permit issue? Is this a violation of their NPDES permit? If not, why not?

5. Considering not only PFAS contamination of waters of the State at CFL due to leachate runoff, plus considering other pollutants too, such as heavy metals, total suspended solids, nitrates etc., and therefore according to the State Water Resource Control Board SAFER Drinking Water program here:

waterboards.ca.gov

has the St. Helena municipal well as FAILING due to over 25% of contaminants of concern have continuous trending towards poor water quality (also failing in other criteria) I emailed their mayor and public works manager and have heard nothing back. Can you test this well and provide data accordingly?

6. Can you better fully investigate the CFL neighboring private wells having them tested for drinking water quality knowing that stormwater has leachate from CFL and leachate is percolating into groundwater for many years now?

7. To promote transparency with the public regarding CFL's constant pollution issues over many years, the Water Board and Napa County/LEA is accountable to the public trust. All inspection reports, water quality data, well data, permits, closure plans, etc., should be available at the County website. Currently, all this information is deeply embedded at other websites and jurisdictions. Can Napa County/LEA create a project link for CFL such that the public can see all the pollution issues easily?

I see CFL as a major pollutant to the waters of the Napa River and groundwater. With declining groundwater levels pollutants become more concentrated. Once you pollute the aquifer you can never recover it.

CFL talked of closure but they got approved to stay open until 2047. With this kind of constant discharge of leachate polluting of our waters, what kind of legacy do we leave future generations? To keep filling more modules, is irresponsible and dangerous.

Every effort should be made for reclamation ASAP.

I appreciate all your help!

Please advise.

Chris Malan

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 22, 2026, at 1:43 PM, Karpowicz, Alyx@Waterboards
<Alyx.Karpowicz@waterboards.ca.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Chris,

Answering your questions in the order below:

The LEA usually accompanies me on site inspections, and they draft their own inspection reports. I don't usually send them a copy of mine, as we go over all of our respective concerns with Waste Connections before we leave the site.

Regarding the erosion control measures, yes we require that any necessary repairs are made as soon as possible and that either a follow up notice or photos are sent once completed.

The landslide above Module 5 is the same one noted in previous years. This area was repaired in the fall of 2025, and only minor material slippage was noted after the large December 2025 storm. As noted in my January 14, 2026 inspection report, this area was scheduled for repair later in January. Also noted in the same report, Rick Mitchell (a registered engineering geologist) was present- Rick designed the landslide repair, and I have previously sent you his Memo from January 2025. Please see the attached photos, one from January and one from March of the repaired area. As you can see in the aerials, there has been no additional slippage and vegetation is growing.

Regarding PFAS, I am unaware if the City of St. Helena has tested their water for PFAS. The Division of Drinking water requires PFAS testing for public water supply wells, and recently community water systems (including those at wineries) which can be found here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/pfas_ddw_general_order/.

The City of St. Helena is over 7 miles away from the landfill. The likelihood of any PFAS from CFL impacting the City is certainly low. Any PFAS detections made within City limits would be from local sources. PFAS is very pervasive in the environment and has many sources, unfortunately.

PFAS has been analyzed onsite, in groundwater monitoring wells and leachate, and off site in the seasonal creek. This data set has been provided to you. No new data has been collected since that time. Regarding offsite wells, there is one immediately offsite along Silverado Trail owned by Waste Connections, but PFAS was not detected in that well. Due to the fractured bedrock beneath the landfill, it is unlikely that deeper groundwater aquifers are connected to those on flatter land across from Silverado Trail. I am unaware of any private wells downgradient that have been sampled, but the LEA and I did go through this exercise when PFAS was first noted in the seasonal creek to search for them and find out if folks wanted their wells sampled. As far as I know, none were found.

I hope this answers your questions, feel free to reach out again if not.

Alyx Karpowicz, P.G.

Engineering Geologist

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<image001.png>

From: Chris Malan <cmalan1earth@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:45 AM

To: Karpowicz, Alyx@Waterboards <Alyx.Karpowicz@waterboards.ca.gov>

Cc: Jennifer.Simpson-VanDam@countyofnapa.org; Dana Morrison <dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org>;

Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.com <Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.org>;

Ryan.Alsop@countyofnapa.org; Patrick Ryan <patrick.ryan@countyofnapa.org>; Steven Lederer

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Good Morning Alyx,

Does anyone at the County of Napa have your January 2026 Inspection Report, sent by you to them apart from it being electronically available at GeoTracker?

Is your agency taking any further actions with Waste Connections in regard to the erosion control devices failing? If so what is it? If not, why not?

Further about your 1.26 Inspection Report, have you had any discussions with Napa County about the fact that you documented concerning erosion occurred as a result of storm water runoff from CFL, including a new land sliding event perched above the current fill site of module 5? Have you recommended that the County hire a registered geologist to examine the landslide and provide expert recommendations about a landslide above an active landfill area?

If so, whom did you communicate with?

Given the site is discharging PFAS both through surface and groundwater, what is the plan with Waste Connections to mitigate this?

Has the City of St. Helena, which is down stream of CFL, tested their water for PFAS? If so, can you send me the results? If not, why not?

Have you tested the groundwater PFAS plume to see its inundation to groundwater? Have residential well owners around CFL been notified that two wells at CFL have for many years tested very high levels of PFAS beyond the maximum levels of contaminants/mcl? Do all the property owners along the creek (leaving CFL) been notified of PFAS contamination? If not, why not?

Please advise ASAP.

In Collective Protection of Mother Earth, So All May Live On,

Chris Malan

Executive Director

Institute for Conservation Advocacy Research and Education/ICARE

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icarenapa.org

<Clover_Flat_Landfill_Mar_20,_2026.jpg>
<Clover_Flat_Landfill_Jan_29,_2026 (1).jpg>



