

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 9, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 274

Introduced by Assembly Member Portantino

February 12, 2009

An act to add Section 43501.2 to, and to add Article 2.1 (commencing with Section 48010) to Chapter 2 of Part 7 of Division 30 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 274, as amended, Portantino. Solid waste: landfills: closure plans.

(1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (board), requires the owner or operator of a solid waste landfill, among other things, to prepare an initial estimate of closure and postclosure maintenance costs and to submit to the regional water board, the local law enforcement agency, and the board, a plan for the closure of the solid waste landfill and a plan for the postclosure maintenance of the solid waste landfill. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor.

This bill would prohibit the owner or operator of a closed solid waste landfill that is subject to a closure or a postclosure maintenance plan from selling or offering for sale any portion of a closed waste management unit unless the intended purchaser provides evidence, to the satisfaction of the board, of his or her ability to meet the financial assurance requirements of the act. By creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law requires an operator of a solid waste disposal facility to pay a quarterly fee to the State Board of Equalization based on the amount of solid waste disposed of at each disposal site. Commencing with the 1995–96 fiscal year, the act requires the board to establish the amount of the fee, as specified, and limits the fee to a maximum of \$1.40 per ton. The fees are required to be deposited in the Integrated Waste Management Account in the Integrated Waste Management Fund, and the board is authorized to expend the money in the account, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to administer and implement the act.

This bill on and after January 1, 2011, would, authorize an operator of a solid waste disposal facility that is required to meet financial assurance requirements and is in operation on September 1, 2010, to elect to participate in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund created by this bill.

The bill would require that a participating operator pay a fee of \$0.12 per ton per disposal site that would be deposited in the fund and made available to the board for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for postclosure activities and corrective actions not performed by the operator when a participating operator fails to comply with the board's final order, the financial assurance mechanisms are inadequate to fund necessary compliance activities, the solid waste landfill was operating pursuant to a valid solid waste facilities permit on or after January 1, 1988, and the board has first used and exhausted the financial assurance mechanism provided by the public operator.

~~The bill would also exempt participating operators from certain financial assurance requirements, and after 15 years of completed postclosure maintenance would allow participating operators, with board approval and meeting other requirements, to reduce the term of financial assurance.~~

The bill would require that the fee and this act would not be operative after July 1, 2010 unless the board receives, on or before July 1, 2010, letters of participation in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund from landfill operators representing at least 50% of the total annual waste disposal volume in 2009.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 43501.2 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

43501.2. The owner or operator of a closed solid waste landfill that is subject to a closure or a postclosure maintenance plan may not sell or offer for sale any portion of a closed waste management unit unless the intended purchaser provides evidence, to the satisfaction of the board, of his or her ability to meet the financial assurance requirements of Article 4 (commencing with Section 43600) of Chapter 2 of Part 4 of this division.

SEC. 2. Article 2.1 (commencing with Section 48010) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 7 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

Article 2.1. State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund

~~48010. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to authorize the creation and maintenance of a State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund dedicated exclusively to protecting the General Fund from expenditures resulting from the failure of the owner or operator of a closed solid waste landfill who was required to maintain evidence of financial ability pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 43600) of Chapter 2 of Part 4 to comply with a final order from the board relating to compliance with postclosure and corrective action requirements.~~

~~(b) The State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund is intended to allow the board to respond rapidly to violations of postclosure care and corrective action orders, thereby limiting environmental harm and threats to public health and safety.~~

~~(c) Participation in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund is intended to be a voluntary decision by operators of operating landfills who are required to maintain evidence of financial ability pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 43600) of Chapter 2 of Part 4.~~

~~(d) Since the existence of a State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund will greatly reduce the impacts of financial defaults by~~

1 operators during the postclosure period, it is the intent of the
2 Legislature that owners or operators who participate in the trust
3 fund be subject to differing financial assurance requirements for
4 postclosure maintenance and nonwater quality corrective action
5 than those owners or operators who do not participate in the trust
6 fund.

7 (e) ~~It is the intent of the Legislature that this article authorize~~
8 ~~complete cost recovery by the state for expenditures from the State~~
9 ~~Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund and that the trust fund be~~
10 ~~preserved for its intended purpose.~~

11 ~~48011.~~

12 48010. (a) On and after January 1, 2011, each operator of a
13 solid waste landfill that notifies the board that it elects to participate
14 in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund shall pay a fee
15 quarterly to the State Board of Equalization that is based on the
16 amount, by weight or volumetric equivalent, as determined by the
17 board, of all solid waste disposed of at each disposal site.

18 (b) The fee shall be twelve cents (\$0.12) per ton and shall be
19 collected in the same manner as the solid waste disposal fee. The
20 board shall deposit proceeds from this fee in the State Solid Waste
21 Postclosure Trust Fund, which is hereby created in the State
22 Treasury. Fee revenues and all interest earned shall be available
23 to the board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out
24 the purposes of this article.

25 (c) The board shall notify the State Board of Equalization on
26 the first day of the period in which the rate shall take effect and
27 of any rate change adopted pursuant to this section.

28 (d) The board and the State Board of Equalization shall ensure
29 that all the fees for solid waste imposed pursuant to this section
30 that are collected at a transfer station are paid to the State Board
31 of Equalization in accordance with this article.

32 ~~48012.~~

33 48011. (a) (1) An operator of a landfill that is required to
34 maintain evidence of financial ability pursuant to Article 4
35 (commencing with Section 43600) of Chapter 2 of Part 4 and is
36 operating on September 1, 2010, that elects to participate in the
37 State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund pursuant to this article,
38 shall submit written notice to the board on or before September 1,
39 2010.

(2) An operator of multiple landfills that elects to participate in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund is required to submit written notice that includes all of the operator's operating landfills.

(b) If an operator elects to participate after the trust fund fee goes into effect, the operator shall pay all back fees and a 5 percent penalty.

(c) For new landfills that receive a solid waste facility permit after September 1, 2010, the operator's election to participate in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund shall be submitted in writing to the board before the board concurs on the permit pursuant to Section 44009.

(d) All elections made by landfill operators pursuant to this section are final, binding, and irrevocable.

~~48013.~~

48012. (a) The board may only expend the money in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund to pay for corrective action and postclosure activities that have not been performed by the operator of a solid waste landfill participating in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund, and only upon a determination by the board that all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The solid waste landfill owner or operator has failed to comply with a final order issued by the board.

(2) The financial assurance mechanisms are inadequate to fund necessary compliance activities.

(3) The solid waste landfill was operating pursuant to a valid solid waste facilities permit on or after January 1, 1988, when the state's requirements for solid waste landfill financial assurances went into effect as a result of Assembly Bill 2448 of the 1987–88 Regular Session, and is required to have financial assurances pursuant to Sections 43600 to 43610.1, inclusive.

(4) The board has first used and exhausted the financial assurance ~~mechanism~~ mechanisms provided by the public operator.

(b) The board may adopt regulations, if necessary, setting forth additional criteria for making expenditures from the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 10295 of the Public Contract Code, a contract entered into by the board for the purposes of this section is not subject to approval by the Department of General Services.

(d) No liability or obligation is imposed on the state under this subdivision, and the board shall not incur any obligation beyond

1 the extent to which money is expended from the State Solid Waste
2 Postclosure Trust Fund pursuant to this section.

3 (e) The board shall, to the maximum extent feasible, recover
4 from the landfill operator the amount of money expended from
5 the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund, including a
6 reasonable amount for any contract administration costs of the
7 board and an amount equal to the interest that would have been
8 earned on the expended funds as the result of the operator's failure
9 to comply with the final order issued by the board. The board shall
10 deposit all funds recovered pursuant to an action authorized by
11 this section into the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund.

12 (f) The amount of any cost incurred by the board pursuant to
13 this section is recoverable from the landfill operator in a civil action
14 brought by the Attorney General pursuant to Section 40432.

15 (g) The board may impose a lien on the operator's assets or real
16 property as an additional remedy to recover funds from the operator
17 for expenditures from the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust
18 Fund.

19 ~~48014.~~

20 ~~48013.~~ On or before January 1, 2014, and every two years
21 thereafter, the board shall report to the Legislature on expenditures
22 from the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund, the status of
23 cost recovery actions, and any recommended statutory changes
24 that are required to ensure adequate resources are available to carry
25 out the purposes of the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund.

26 ~~48015. Notwithstanding Article 4 (commencing with Section~~
27 ~~43600) of Chapter 2 of Part 4, operators participating in the State~~
28 ~~Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund shall only be required to~~
29 ~~demonstrate financial assurance for corrective actions relating to~~
30 ~~the reasonable and foreseeable potential migration of landfill gas,~~
31 ~~exclusive of the corrective action requirements of the regional~~
32 ~~water quality control boards, unless the board determines, with~~
33 ~~technical input from an independent third-party engineering firm,~~
34 ~~that specific site conditions indicate that additional specific~~
35 ~~corrective actions are required at the site.~~

36 ~~48016. After 15 years of completed postclosure maintenance,~~
37 ~~operators participating in the State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust~~
38 ~~Fund, with board approval, may reduce the term of financial~~
39 ~~assurance in five-year increments down to a minimum of five years~~
40 ~~if all of the following requirements are met:~~

1 (a) ~~The operator has not been issued an enforcement order during~~
2 ~~the prior five-year period.~~

3 (b) ~~The operator has performed enhanced monitoring activities~~
4 ~~in conformance with the postclosure maintenance plan and~~
5 ~~applicable board regulations and has performed appropriate~~
6 ~~maintenance and corrective action based on the monitoring.~~

7 (c) ~~The operator demonstrates the remaining financial assurance~~
8 ~~mechanism is adequate to cover all reasonably expected costs to~~
9 ~~be incurred until the completion of the postclosure maintenance~~
10 ~~period.~~

11 ~~48017.~~

12 ~~48014.~~ (a) The fee imposed by Section ~~48011~~ 48010 and this
13 article shall not be operative after July 1, 2010 unless the board
14 receives on or before July 1, 2010, letters of participation in the
15 State Solid Waste Postclosure Trust Fund from landfill operators
16 representing at least 50 percent of the total annual waste disposal
17 volume in 2009.

18 (b) An operator of multiple landfills that ~~are~~ is required to
19 maintain evidence of financial ability pursuant to Article 4
20 (commencing with Section 43600) of Chapter 2 of Part 4 and that
21 are operating on July 1, 2010, is required to include all of the
22 operator's operating landfills in the letter of participation.

23 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
24 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
25 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
26 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
27 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
28 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
29 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
30 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
31 Constitution.