SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Senator Blakespear, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2674		
Author:	Schiavo		
Version:	6/11/2026	**Hearing Date:**	7/1/2026
Urgency:	No	**Fiscal:**	Yes
Consultant:	Brynn Cook		

SUBJECT: State Air Resources Board: internet website: methane emissions data

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Air Resources Board to post on its internet website temperature and monitoring data received by the state board regarding methane emissions from landfills.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Gives local and regional authorities the primary responsibility for controlling stationary source air pollution and establishes 35 air pollution control districts in the state (Health & Safety Code (HSC) §40000 et seq.).

2) Establishes requirements for handling and disposing of solid waste, as well as the permitting and operation of solid waste facilities (Public Resources Code (PRC) §43000 et seq.).

3) Requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt certification requirements for local enforcement agencies (LEAs) that cover the permitting, inspection, and enforcement of regulations at solid waste facilities, as well as inspection and enforcement of litter, odor, and nuisance regulations (PRC §43200).

4) Requires, under Section 60.36f of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills to install gas collection and control systems to comply with various federal regulations on landfill emissions.

5) Establishes in regulation through the landfill methane rule, requirements for landfill operators to report data on temperature, gas composition, and other data necessary to determine the presence and severity of a subsurface elevated temperature event at a landfill.

This bill requires CARB to post on its internet website temperature and monitoring data from landfills regarding methane emissions.

Background

1) *Monitoring landfills.* Municipal Solid Waste landfill monitoring requirements are set by federal regulations established by the U.S. EPA, and the frequency of the monitoring depends largely on what is being monitored. Generally speaking, the following requirements apply to most large-scale landfills that are actively accepting waste:

   Monthly Monitoring
   a) Wellheads at landfills using gas collection and control systems (GCCS) must conduct monthly monitoring of items such as temperature, oxygen, nitrogen, methane and pressure levels.
   b) Landfill covers are inspected monthly to identify and repair issues such as exposed waste, leachate breakouts, and erosion gullies.

   Quarterly Monitoring
   a) Surface emissions monitoring (SEM) is done quarterly to ensure methane emissions are kept below a certain level and to assess how effectively the GCCS is working.
   b) Components containing landfill gas under pressure must be monitored for leaks.
   c) Groundwater elevations are typically measured to determine groundwater gradient and direction.
   d) Chemical analysis of groundwater samples may also be required, especially if certain constituents are detected at elevated levels.

   Weekly Monitoring
   a) The overall integrity of a landfill site, including the cover material, drainage structures, potential erosion areas, and leachate piping and storage facilities, is often inspected weekly.

   Pursuant to Federal Law in 40 CFR 60.34(f), landfill operators are required to operate gas collection systems for each area, cell, or group of cells. Landfill gas wellheads must generally maintain temperatures below 131°F. Operators may request a waiver to operate at higher temperatures if they can demonstrate that the elevated temperature will not result in fire initiation or significantly impair anaerobic decomposition by killing methanogenic organisms. Such waivers require U.S. EPA approval.

Landfill design and operational practices influence subsurface fire risk, severity, and duration. The U.S. EPA provides general guidance correlating internal landfill temperatures with operational status:

A. 90–131°F: Normal operating range
B. 131–145°F: Potential presence of exothermic chemical reactions
C. Above 145°F: Inhibition of methane generation
D. Above 165°F: Cessation of biological activity; elevated fire risk

While temperature is an important characteristic indicating the presence of a landfill fire, temperature alone is not a definitive indicator of an active or imminent subsurface fire. Additional diagnostic parameters include the carbon dioxide-to-methane ratio, hydrogen concentration, rate of landfill settlement, and excess leachate generation.

2) *Regulation of landfill emissions*. CARB implemented the landfill methane rule (LMR) to monitor and reduce methane emissions from landfills in 2010. LMR requires owners and operators of certain landfills to install and operate gas collection and control systems, monitor surface methane concentration and other performance parameters, repair emission exceedances and other performance issues, source test, keep records of these actions and data, and report certain information to CARB or the air districts. LMR allows air districts to voluntarily enter into memoranda of understanding with CARB to implement and enforce the regulation and to assess fees to cover costs. Currently, 22 of the 35 local air districts are implementing and enforcing LMR.

In addition to CARB, federal, State, and local agencies all play a role in regulating landfills including but not limited to:

a) Local air districts in California play a lead role in regulating stationary sources of air pollution, including issuing permits for landfill GCCS. Local air districts regulate enclosed flares and other landfill gas combustion devices used to destroy methane and co-pollutants, and respond to nuisance and odor complaints
b) CalRecycle regulates solid waste handling, processing, and disposal activities to protect public health and safety and the environment by supporting solid waste local enforcement agencies.
c) The State Water Resources Control Board and their nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively, the Water Boards) regulate discharges to land that could impact surface water and groundwater quality, including regulatory and permitting requirements for landfills.
d) The Department of Toxic Substances Control regulates facilities for disposal of hazardous waste.

e) U.S. EPA regulates emissions of volatile organic compounds from landfills through requirements similar to those in the LMR.

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "The Chiquita Canyon Landfill has been releasing toxic gas into communities within Assembly District 40 for over four years. While landfill operators already collect temperature and monitoring data under the Landfill Methane Regulation, that information is not consistently and readily available to the public. Communities living near landfills deserve access to timely information about conditions that may impact their health, safety, and quality of life.

   "AB 2674 strengthens transparency and public accountability by requiring the California Air Resources Board to publicly post landfill temperature and monitoring data it receives from landfill operators. By providing communities, local governments, and regulators with accessible information, this measure will build public trust, support early awareness of potential landfill issues, and help ensure California's landfill methane reduction efforts protect both the environment and the people who live and work nearby."

2) *Breaking down the data.* Current law requires landfill operators to collect and report temperature, methane, and other monitoring data to regulatory agencies, but much of this information is not readily accessible to the public. As a result, communities living and working near landfills may have limited visibility into landfill conditions, elevated temperature events, or potential risks to public health and the environment until problems. AB 2674 would require CARB to publicly post landfill temperature and monitoring data it receives from landfill operators.

   The purpose of providing this information seems to be to add transparency to the public on elevated temperature events at landfills (landfill fires). However, determining what elevated temperatures, gas composition, depth and area of elevated temperature etc. pose a risk to nearby communities is not a simple task.

   As the bill moves through the legislative process, the author and committee may wish to identify what specific information is needed to inform the public on the potential impacts associated with the data that CARB will display. In addition, the author and committee may wish to task CARB not only with presenting the data, but with creating a dashboard interpreting the data into risk for nearby residents.

As the bill moves through the process, the author may also wish to clarify the language to specify that CARB will post temperature, gas composition, and other data from landfills pursuant to the LMR.

3) *AB 28, LMR, and 2647.* AB 2674 builds off the recent work in the LMR, which was updated in November of 2025 to specifically include landfill monitoring for elevated temperature events and developed thresholds of a suite of landfill characteristics, including temperature and gas composition, that signal an elevated temperature event. This bill also dovetails with the provisions in AB 28 (Schiavo), which establishes stronger reporting, corrective action, and mitigation measures from landfill operators in the event of a subsurface elevated temperature event (i.e. an underground landfill fire), and which specifically requires community notification and engagement in the case of a landfill fire.

   As AB 2674 continues through the legislative process, the author may wish to consider how this reporting data will be additive to the monitoring and reporting requirements in the updated LMR and the public engagement required in AB 28.

Related/Prior Legislation
AB 28 (Schiavo, 2026) establishes a protocol for CalRecycle to require a corrective action plan in the event of a subsurface elevated temperature event at a landfill. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to establish a multiagency coordination group (MCG) to investigate and provide recommendations for addressing a landfill's subsurface elevated temperature event, and specifies that CalRecycle may impose a penalty of up to $100,000 per day to landfill operators that do not follow the requirements of the corrective action plan or recommendations of the MCG, among other provisions. Pending hearing in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

SOURCE: Author

SUPPORT:

California League of United Latin American Citizens (ca Lulac)

OPPOSITION:

None received

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