

Date of Hearing: August 27, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Isaac G. Bryan, Chair

AB 2674 (Schiavo) – As Amended June 11, 2026

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

SUMMARY: Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to post temperature and monitoring data regarding methane emissions from landfills on its website.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Grants 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 requirements. (PRC 43200)
- 4) Requires municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills to install gas collection and control systems in compliance with various federal regulations on landfill emissions. (Section 60.36f of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations)
- 5) Establishes, by regulation under the landfill methane rule (LMR), 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.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Landfill monitoring.** MSW landfill monitoring requirements are set by federal regulations established by the United States Environmental Protection agency (USEPA), and the frequency of the monitoring is generally dependent on what is being monitored. In most cases, landfills are subject to:
 - Quarterly Monitoring:
 - Surface emissions monitoring ensures methane emissions are kept below a certain level and to assess how effectively the gas collection and control systems (GCCS) are working.
 - Components containing landfill gas under pressure must be monitored for leaks.
 - Groundwater elevations measured to determine groundwater gradient and direction.

- Chemical analysis of groundwater samples may also be required, especially if certain constituents are detected at elevated levels.
- Monthly Monitoring:
 - Wellheads at landfills using GCCS must conduct monthly monitoring of items such as temperature, oxygen, nitrogen, methane and pressure levels.
 - Landfill covers are inspected monthly to identify and repair issues such as exposed waste, leachate breakouts, and erosion gullies.
- Weekly Monitoring:
 - The overall integrity of a landfill site, including the cover material, drainage structures, potential erosion areas, and leachate piping and storage facilities.

Pursuant to federal regulations, landfill operators are required to operate GCCS 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. (Chiquita Canyon Landfill, which is currently experiencing a serious subsurface elevated temperature event, had a waiver at the time the event began.)

Landfill design and operational practices influence subsurface fire risk, severity, and duration. The USEPA provides general guidance correlating internal landfill temperatures with operational status: 90–131°F normal operating range; 131–145°F potential presence of exothermic chemical reactions; above 145°F inhibition of methane generation; and, above 165°F cessation of biological activity and 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.** ARB implemented the LMR to monitor and reduce methane emissions from landfills in 2010. The LMR requires owners and operators of certain landfills to install and operate GCCS, 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 specified information to ARB or the air districts. In November of last year, ARB updated the LMR to include specific processes for monitoring, reporting, and dealing with SETs at landfills. The regulation establishes a tiered response framework for elevated subsurface temperatures at landfill gas collection wells, triggered at two critical thresholds: 131°F (55°C) and 145°F (62.8°C). These requirements apply to interior wellheads and are designed to detect and prevent subsurface fires. The new provisions include a shorter timeline by which landfill operators must respond to a leak and new monitoring requirements for landfills with and without gas collection and control systems. The state will also begin requiring operators to respond to detected leaks via third-party technology verified by ARB — including the California Satellite Methane Project.

LMR allows air districts to voluntarily enter into memoranda of understanding with ARB to

implement and enforce the LMR and to assess fees to cover costs. Currently, 22 of the 35 local air districts are implementing and enforcing the LMR.

Additionally, federal, state, and local agencies all play a role in regulating landfills, including:

- 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.
- CalRecycle regulates solid waste handling, processing, and disposal activities to protect public health and safety and the environment and certify local enforcement agencies.
- The State Water Resources Control Board and the regional water quality control boards regulate discharges to land that could impact surface water and groundwater quality, including regulatory and permitting requirements for landfills.
- The Department of Toxic Substances Control regulates the management of hazardous waste.
- USEPA regulates emissions of volatile organic compounds from landfills through requirements similar to those in the LMR.

3) Author's statement:

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.

- 4) Related legislation.** AB 28 (Shiavo) establishes a protocol for CalRecycle to require a corrective action plan in the event of a subsurface elevated temperature event at a landfill. Authorizes the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to establish a multiagency coordination group to investigate and provide recommendations for addressing landfill fires. Authorizes CalRecycle to impose penalties of up to \$100,000 per day for specified violations. This bill is awaiting concurrence in Senate amendments on the Assembly Floor.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California League of the United Latin American Citizens
Santa Clarita Sierra Club Group

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Elizabeth MacMillan / NAT. RES. /