

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AN
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL
CLASS I PERMIT FOR COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, LAGUNA COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICT**

Comment period through February 10, 2011

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting public comments on its proposal to issue a federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class I permit to County of Santa Barbara, Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) to continue injecting into one (1) injection well, known as Union Sugar #13 located in Section 14, Township 10, Range 35W in Santa Barbara County, CA. The draft permit, if issued, would authorize the continued underground injection of brine resulting from the reverse osmosis operation at the wastewater treatment plant. LCSD is currently injecting brine into this well under an existing EPA UIC permit. This action is a proposed permit renewal for another ten (10) year period.

LCSD currently injects the brine into the Monterey Formation at a depth of approximately 4,800 feet to 5,336 below ground surface. Based on successful operations of the well over the last ten years, and EPA's review of the well construction, operation standards, geologic setting, and ten years of monitoring reports, the Agency has made a preliminary determination that the activities allowed under the draft permit are protective of underground sources of drinking water as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA has made a preliminary determination to issue a Class I UIC permit to LCSD pending this public notice. This action is being taken as provided by Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act and pursuant to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 124, 144, 146, and 147.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

EPA requests any comments on the proposed Class I Permit and will accept comments in writing through the end of the comment period on February 10, 2011. During this period, all written comments on the draft permit should be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to Michele Dermer using the contact information listed below. During the comment period, any interested party may request a public hearing on the proposed permit. Any request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. EPA will schedule a hearing only if there is a significant degree of public interest in the draft permit. The Agency will provide at least 30 days notice of any hearing on this matter.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Ground Water Office (WTR-9)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attention: Michele Dermer
Telephone: (415) 972-3417
dermer.michele@epa.gov

EPA's fact sheet and the draft permit, as well as the permit application prepared by LCSD are available for public inspection on line at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/uic-permits.html>

The fact sheet and draft permit may also be found at the location listed below:

Santa Maria Library
421 S. McClelland Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

The fact sheet, draft permit and permit application may also be found at the location listed below:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Information Center/Library
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: (415) 947-4406
Library-reg9@epa.gov

FINAL PERMIT DECISION AND APPEALS PROCESS

After the close of the public comment period, EPA will issue a response to comments, a final permit decision, and will notify all commenters regarding this decision. The final decision shall be to either issue or deny the permit. If comments are filed which request a change in the draft permit, the final decision shall become effective no sooner than thirty (30) days after the service of the notice of decision. Within thirty (30) days after the final permit decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the draft permit, participated in any Public Hearing on this matter, or takes issue with any changes in the draft permit, may petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the permit decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR Section 124.19 for procedural requirements of the appeal process. If no comments request a change in the draft permit, the permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance.