# SITE OBSERVATION REPORT

| **Name/Location of Site:** | **CalRecycle/LEA Representatives:** |
|---|---|
| Bruce Slaton<br>18955 Industry Way<br>Sonora, California 95370 | Debra Larson, REHS, Tuolumne County Local Enforcement Agency<br>Stephanie Young, Senior WME[1], CalRecycle<br>Michael Clegg, WME, CalRecycle |
| **Date:**<br>September 18, 2024<br>Entry Time In: 10:45 AM<br>Exit Time Out: 1:00 PM | **Report Prepared By:**<br>Michael Clegg |
| **SWIS No: SWIS number has not been assigned.** | |

## OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

| Name | Title | Affiliation |
|---|---|---|
| Bruce Slaton | Operator | Private Individual |
| John Slaton | Landowner | Private Individual |
| Frank Russell | Attorney for Bruce Slaton | Dambacher, Trujillo & Russell |
| Brian Bell | Building Official | Tuolumne County |
| Lowell Cottle | Senior Environmental Scientist - Stormwater | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| Alejandra Espinoza | Engineering Geologist - Stormwater | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| Brad Shelton | Senior Engineering Geologist-Land Disposal | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| John Murphy | Supervising Engineering Geologist – Land Disposal | Regional Water Quality Control Board |

## PURPOSE OF SITE OBSERVATIONS

The purpose of the site visit was to understand the fill operations conducted on the property, discuss the recent site material processes and future development with various agencies and the land owners. The site visit was only to gather information and not to make a determination of the type of landfill operation until further review and discussions are held.

## OBSERVATIONS

CalRecycle arrived on site 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled meeting. The weather was partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of rain, no wind and the temperature were in the mid-60's. Other agencies present included Tuolumne County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), Regional Water Quality Control Board (water board), Tuolumne County Building Official, the property owners and their attorney. After introductions, Mr. Slaton begun discussing the fill operations material processing occuring on his property. Mr. Bruce Slaton consented to CalRecycle taking photographs of the site. Approximate locations of the photographs are provided in Figure 1.

According to Mr. Slaton, sources of materials include:

- Pre-ground asphalt from a County road project that is stockpiled on site intended for re-use **(Photograph 1)**.
- Crushed materials consisting of concrete, tile, and brick that was processed at the Waste Management Earth Resources facility, transported to this site and stockpiled. Material is intended for re-use as base rock **(Photograph 2)**.

[1] Waste Management Engineer

- Unprocessed asphalt materials stockpiled on site come from various commercial and residential sources that Mr. Slaton's company works on. Mr. Slaton plans to process this material for re-use on site **(Photograph 3)**.
- Materials that go directly into the "fill" area include unprocessed blocks of concrete, tiles, and bricks. No asphalt is placed in the fill area. Compaction is not measured.
- Stockpiled wood piles from trees that were removed are allowed to dry out and will be transported to a facility in Merced. Mr. Slaton says the material will not be placed in the fill **(Photograph 4)**.
- Mr. Slaton stated that he does not have any records documenting sources of materials, volume, or tonnages received. In addition, Mr. Slaton stated he did not require that any of the incoming material be tested nor did he have any analytical data.

Mr. Slaton presented a plan that was prepared by Krazen & Associates dated May 2024 for site development. He has not provided this plan to the Local Enforcement Agency.

Mr. Bell stated that the County allowed the filling operation as part of a permit granted for building a manufactured home on the property. However, clean soil fill engineered with compaction requirements is required to be under the manufactured home. Inert material was allowed for the other areas not intended for structural use. The County did not specify a compaction requirement for the area that contains non-soil type fill material (concrete, tile, bricks, etc.). The County has been inspecting the fill area and has not observed any garbage or rebar in the fill area. Mr. Bell also stated that they have inspection reports that document the progress of the fill at various stages. Mr. Bell stated that he may be able to share this information after conferring with County counsel.

Mr. Slaton stated that the current edge of the fill area is the limit of the fill. He plans to fill from the edge with a 2:1 slope. The fill will not extend beyond what currently exists today. Mr. Slaton also stated that he does not have plans of the final configuration of the fill area. He stated he does not know what to do with it yet and is just building it up to a certain elevation. He showed us plans for the manufactured home, however, these plans did not include the final contours planned for the fill area.

Mr. Slaton stated that run-on from the property up-slope drains into a culvert that then discharges into a sediment trench that he plans to line, which then will overflow into a ditch and exit into a pond created by others off his property **(Photographs 5 and 10)**.

Ms. Young and Ms. Larson observed organic debris (wood debris) piled up against the fill area, partially covered by plastic **(Photograph 6)**.

**Figure 1: Site Map Showing Location of Photographs**




Figure Source: Google Earth, 2024.



Photograph 1. Pre-ground asphalt from county road project.



Photograph 2. Crushed materials consisting of concrete, tile, and brick.



Photograph 3. Unprocessed asphalt materials.



Photograph 4. Wood piles from trees removed from fill area per Mr. Slaton.



Photograph 5. Culvert that discharges run-on stormwater from neighboring property into a sediment trench.



Photograph 6. Organic debris (wood debris) piled up against the fill area.



Photograph 7. Upper fill area made up of concrete, tile, soil and rocks. Portion of the slope was tarped.



Photograph 8. Lower fill area covered with crushed rock.



Photograph 9. Area planned for a manufactured home.



Photograph 10. Lower fill deck with culvert that drains into a trench.



Photograph 11. Western end of property with view of stockpiled material.



Photograph 12. Eastern end of property with road covered by asphalt.

## CLOSING

Below is a summary of discussions and follow ups between the property owners and various agencies:

- Mr. Cottle requested that Mr. Slaton provide a winterization plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The plan may be sent to Mr. Cottle directly or through Ms. Larson, LEA. Mr. Bell also requested that this information be shared with the County.
- Ms. Larson discussed the presence of organic materials (tree branches, brush) located in the fill that may extend beneath the plastic cover. Mr. Slaton said that is from a tree they pulled out and that he will remove it from the fill area. Ms. Larson stated that inert fill should not contain any organic materials.
- Ms. Larson stated that due to this information, Mr. Slaton should pause his operation (both filling, processing, stockpiling) until the agencies have time to confer and discuss next steps. Mr. Shelton agreed to this approach to cease operations.
- Ms. Larson also noted that the unprocessed asphalt may contain serpentine rock, and that Mr. Slaton should not be processing asphalt with serpentine rock due to the potential for asbestos. That operation should cease, and that Ms. Larson may take samples for further analysis.
- Mr. Russell and Mr. Slaton agreed to cease all operations except for stabilizing the site per the Water Board for stormwater. Mr. Slaton may also remove the organic materials from the fill area prior to stabilizing the site.
- Mr. Shelton stated that the Water Board will work with CalRecycle and the LEA on developing possible next steps.

CalRecycle departed at 1 PM.