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State to Begin Soil Gas Testing Near BKK Landfill Following Elevated Readings

By David Carmany

WEST COVINA - Residents living south of the BKK Landfill have been notified that state environmental officials will soon begin drilling and other field work in their neighborhood as part of an expanded investigation into landfill-related gas emissions.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, or DTSC) recently issued a public notice advising that contractors will install soil gas probes in residential areas adjacent to the landfill. The probes will be used to measure gases migrating through the soil and potentially toward nearby homes.

According to DTSC, previous testing conducted at the landfill itself detected gas concentrations high enough to raise concerns about possible exceedances of residential indoor air quality standards. While those elevated readings were measured on landfill property, state regulators say additional data is needed to

determine whether similar conditions could exist closer to where people live.

"The purpose of this work is to better understand whether landfill-related gases are moving beyond the site boundary and, if so, at what levels," DTSC stated in its notice. "Installing probes nearer to residential areas allows for more accurate assessment of potential risks to indoor air quality."

The upcoming work will involve drilling small-diameter borings and placing monitoring probes in the ground. DTSC noted that the activity is temporary and will be conducted in accordance with approved health and safety plans. Crews may be present on neighborhood streets and rights-of-way during the installation period.

Officials emphasized that the investigation does not mean homes are currently unsafe, but rather reflects a precautionary step prompted by earlier findings at the landfill. Results from the new probes will help determine whether additional actions—such

as further monitoring, mitigation measures, or outreach to residents—are warranted.

The BKK Landfill, one of the region's largest closed disposal sites, has long been subject to regulatory oversight due to its size and history. Monitoring landfill gas migration is a standard requirement for such facilities, particularly where residential development exists nearby.

Residents seeking more detailed technical information about the scope of work, the types of gases being tested, and the regulatory background can review DTSC's publicly available work plan through the state's EnviroS-tor system.

DTSC has indicated it will share findings from the probe installation and subsequent monitoring once data collection and analysis are complete.

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