

Landfill operator to spend \$3.8M in pollution settlement

By Ben Keller

The Business Journal Wed., March 28, 2012

Approximately \$3.8 million will be used on measures to reduce air pollution at a Manteca landfill as per a settlement today by its operator to resolve recent emissions violations.

Another \$200,000 was also assessed against Forward Inc. as a civil penalty to be shared with the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District, a co-plaintiff with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the federal enforcement action.

The settlement stems from complaints that Forward's methane gas control systems were operated poorly so that they caused multiple fires at the landfill, which is located at 9999 S. Austin Road in Manteca.

Specifically, Forward was alleged to have violated the Clean Air Act by operating gas extractions wells in the landfill's gas system that were not approved in its permit from the air district and neither was permitted for certain equipment used there.

Forward has agreed to spend \$1.7 million to improve its gas control and collection system by November 2012 so that it's compliant with current regulations regarding landfills.

Another \$2.1 million will be spent to replace 19 diesel trucks with cleaner burning vehicles by the end of 2013.

The measures are expected to reduce particulate matter by 3.4 tons and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by 83.2 tons.