CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Permitting
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: Forward Landfill, Hazardous Waste Management Facility,
Waste Management Unit A Post-Closure Permit Renewal

Project Location: 9999 South Austin Road, Manteca, CA, 7 Miles southeast of the City of Stockton

County: San Joaquin

Project Description: The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) pursuant to authority granted under Chapter 14 Division 4.5 California Code of Regulations, Title 22 approved a Post-Closure Permit Renewal – Waste Management Unit A (WMU-A). To ensure that all of the required post-closure activities occur during the 30-year post-closure period, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires an updated post-closure permit for Forward Landfill's WMU-A.

Background:
Forward Landfill occupies approximately 157 acres and is currently authorized to receive designated and non-hazardous solid waste. The currently operating disposal site includes: 1. Landfill waste management areas for waste treatment and disposal; 2. A transfer station/resource recovery facility for separating, sorting and recycling activities; and 3. Storage and support areas. WMU-A is the closed hazardous waste disposal unit adjacent to the operating disposal site. Forward Landfill WMU-A is categorized as a large post-closure facility for purposes of HSC, Section 25205.19. For the purpose of HSC, Section 25205.4, the post-closure period for Forward Landfill WMU-A shall be deemed from the effective date of the Post Closure permit.

Waste Management Unit A is a closed Class 1 hazardous waste disposal landfill unit that is currently undergoing post-closure monitoring, inspection, and maintenance. WMU-A covers approximately 8 acres, contains 320,000 cubic yards of waste and operated from 1973 to 1984. Forward's municipal solid waste landfill (Class III) operates adjacent to the closed WMU-A which is under the authority of CalRecycle and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. However, this permit only addresses the post-closure permit renewal of Forward Landfill's WMU-A. The WMU-A has not received hazardous waste since 1984. The primary waste material found in WMU-A is barium/strontium sludge from mining operations with secondary wastes including drilling muds and contaminated soils.

A Post-Closure Plan (Permit #03-SAC-005) was approved by DTSC and closure of WMU-A was started and completed in 1989. The Closure Plan was approved with the hazardous waste remaining in place. DTSC issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit for WMU-A in 1990 with minor modifications in groundwater monitoring being approved in 1994, 1995 and 1999. A second post-closure permit was issued in 2003. That permit expired in 2013. In 2003, DTSC evaluated possible impacts associated with that proposed post-closure renewal as required by CEQA. Thus, a Notice of Exemption was prepared that determined the continuance of the required activities of the Closure Plan, post-closure and modifications had no possibility of having a significant impact effect on the environment. This project is the third post-closure permit for the WMU-A.

The Post-Closure Plan required 1) installing an impermeable clay cover with a vegetative soil cover, 2) a groundwater monitoring system and 3) a surface drainage control system and a leachate collection and removal system, and 4) a landfill gas collection and detection system. The Post-Closure Plan required the items listed below in the Project Activities section to be implemented in order to properly close WMU-A. With closure certification, state and federal regulations require that a post closure plan for a 30-year period be developed and implemented by the facility.

Project Activities: This is the third Post-Closure permit for WMU-A. This Post-Closure permit outlines the procedures to continue to fulfill regulatory requirements of the Post-Closure Plan including the approved permit modifications. The post-closure permit consists of three primary functions: (1) Maintenance and operation of closure structures and treatment systems, (2) Environmental monitoring, and (3) Maintenance of financial mechanism to fund the post-closure activities. The post-closure activities required to be implemented are listed below. The following post-closure activities are described in the expired 2013 post-closure permit and will continue for the second post-closure permit renewal:

1. Monitoring groundwater elevation and water quality at the facility,

2. Managing contaminated leachate from WMU-A by extraction and off-site treatment,

3. Inspecting, maintaining and repairing the structures at the facility, including the landfill, on a routine basis and after extreme natural occurrences, and

4. Providing a financial mechanism throughout the entire post-closure period to fund the above post-closure activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Forward Incorporated

Exemption Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
☐ Categorical Exemption: [State type and section number]
☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
☒ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title:
With Certainty, No Possibility of a Significant Environmental Effect

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project will not result in a change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. Therefore, DTSC finds with certainty that there is not a possibility that the activities in question will result in a significant environmental effect.

Evidence to support the above reasons is documented in the project file record, available for inspection at:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Permitting
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Matthew Mullinax	Hazardous Substance Engineer	(916) 255-6531
Project Manager Name	Project Manager Title	Phone #
		6/10/16
Signature		Date
Michael Choe	Senior Hazardous Substances Engineer	(916) 255-3635
Supervisor Name	Supervisor Title	Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: