

# NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT TO THE HIGHWAY 59 LANDFILL VALLEY FILL PROJECT

(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2014061081)

Date: July 12, 2024  
To: Agencies and Interested Parties  
From: Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (MCRWMA) has completed a draft supplemental environmental impact report (DSEIR) for the approved Highway 59 Landfill Valley Fill Project to address the expansion of the current 25,000 ton per year green waste windrow composting facility and development and operation of a covered aerated static pile (CASP) green waste and food waste compost facility. The DSEIR has been prepared consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.).

## PROJECT LOCATION

The Highway 59 Landfill is located immediately east of State Route (SR) 59 in unincorporated Merced County, approximately 6 miles north of the City of Merced. The street address is 7040 North Highway 59. The existing landfill is bounded on the west by SR 59, on the east by vacant grazing land and an abandoned railroad grade, and on the north and south by orchards. Residential uses are located farther to the south.

The proposed composting facility would be within a 7.5-acre area in the central portion of the landfill, east of the existing scale house and scales located along Highway 59. This area is currently occupied by the existing green waste composting facility and food waste transfer operation at the Highway 59 Landfill. Access to the project site is available via the main entrance to the landfill along SR 59.

The landfill site consists of five land parcels: County Assessor's parcel numbers (APNs) 175-050-003, 175-060-001, 175-060-003, 170-070-001 and 170-070-002, and the proposed project site is located in the southwest portion of the landfill, within two of the five landfill parcels (APNs 175-060-001 and a portion of 175-060-003). The total land area associated with the Valley Fill Project is approximately 230 acres. The project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed modifications to the approved Highway 59 Fill Valley Fill Project include:

- expanding the current 25,000-ton-per-year green waste windrow composting facility and development and operation of a covered aerated static pile (CASP) green waste and food waste compost facility;
- designing the facility to accept up to 75,000 tons per year of green waste and food waste and store up to 100,000 cubic yards on-site of organic material; and

- constructing a lined wastewater storage pond, on-site drainage improvements, and improvements to working surfaces.

The proposed modifications expand the current facility to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 regulations.

## **SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The DSEIR identifies potentially significant impacts of the project on air quality, biological resources, and cultural resources. These impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with implementation of recommended mitigation measures. There are no significant and unavoidable impacts identified.

## **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The DSEIR, as well as copies of current and previous environmental documents related to the Valley Fill Project, are available for review online at: <https://www.mcrwma.org/215/2255/Valley-Fill-Project> and at:

Merced County Regional Waste  
Management Authority  
7040 North Highway 59  
Merced, California 95348

## **PROVIDING COMMENTS**

The DSEIR is available for public review and comment for a period of 45 days between July 12, 2024 and closes on August 26, 2024. During this period, comments from the general public, as well as organizations and agencies on environmental issues may be submitted to the lead agency:

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority  
7040 North Highway 59  
Merced, CA 95348  
Attention: Patrick Womble, Environmental Resources Manager  
Telephone: (209) 723-4481  
Email: [pwomble@mcrwma.org](mailto:pwomble@mcrwma.org)

Comments provided by email should include “Highway 59 Compost Facility DSEIR Comment” in the subject line, and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.