



June 19, 2020

7/6/2020

Ms. Joy Brown, Senior Management Analyst
City of Berkeley Public Works Department
1326 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA 94702

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jun 19 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Subject: SCH No. 2020060134 –Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the City of Berkeley Transfer Station Solid Waste Facility Permit Revision Project (Facility No. 01-AC-0029), Alameda County

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for allowing the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) staff to provide comments on the proposed project and for your agency's consideration of these comments as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Berkeley, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration (IS-ND) in order to comply with CEQA and to provide information to, and solicit consultation with, Responsible Agencies in the approval of the proposed project.

The City of Berkeley Solid Waste Management Center and Transfer Station is an existing transfer station located on 4.68 acres at 1201 Second Street in the City of Berkeley. The facility is owned by the City of Berkeley and operated by the City of Berkeley Zero Waste Division. The proposed project is in response to the operator acquiring additional commercial route accounts.

The proposed project would allow the following: an increase in tonnage from 560 tons per day to 620 tons per day; an increase in facility operating hours from 5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday to 3:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 3:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. An increase in the permitted boundary and additional construction is not anticipated.

COMMENTS

Name of Facility: The IS-ND refers to the name of the facility as “The City of Berkeley Transfer Station”. The name of the facility on the current SWFP is “The City of Berkeley Solid Waste Management Center & Transfer Station”. With the Revision of the SWFP, will the name of facility change? Please clarify the name of the facility.

Hours of Operation: The current permitted hours of operation for public access is 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Page 11 of the IS-ND states that the facility would like to be only open to the public Monday through Saturday due to staffing issues. It is recommended that the permitted days and hours of operation for public access remain the same on the permit. The operator can reduce the days in the Transfer Processing Report (TPR), but for purposes of not having to revise the SWFP in the future, the operator should keep the current permitted days and hours of public access and just reduce the days in the TPR and on the facility signs.

Design Capacity: The current permitted Design Capacity for the facility is 560 tons per day (tpd). With an increase in tonnage from 560 tpd to 620 tpd, the permitted Design Capacity will need to be increased on the SWFP. Calculations for the increase in Design Capacity will need to be included in the TPR. This calculation will include the increase in hours of operation needed to accommodate the addition daily tonnage.

As noted in the IS-ND, CalRecycle is the Enforcement Agency (EA) for the facility and is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including permitting requirements and inspections.

A public hearing to adopt the IS-ND is scheduled for July 23, 2020 and includes that CalRecycle is coordinating with the City of Berkeley to substitute this meeting per [Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 21660.4](#). Additionally, CalRecycle recently developed [guidance on virtual meetings](#) and is available for your reference.

CONCLUSION

CalRecycle staff thanks the Lead Agency for the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental document and hopes that this comment letter will be useful to the Lead Agency in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process. CalRecycle also looks forward to working with the Lead Agency on the public meeting process.

CalRecycle staff requests copies of any subsequent environmental documents, copies of public notices and any Notices of Determination for this proposed project.

Berkeley TS Draft IS-ND

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If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 641-6772 or by e-mail at joy.isaacson@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Joy Isaacson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joy Isaacson, Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Jeff Hackett, Manager, CalRecycle
Lily Tieu, WEEB staff, CalRecycle