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**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: July 14, 2020

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
Attn: Janice Mayes, Planner
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
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(661) 862-8793; mayesj@kerncounty.com

**SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL SCOPING MEETING
FOR PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

On June 22, 2020, the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department circulated a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Solid Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility proposal of: 1) construction and operation of non-hazardous waste landfill expansion; and 2) existing hazardous waste facility permit renewal by Clean Harbors Buttonwillow (project proponent). At that time, individual agencies and interested parties were invited to participate by submitting comments pertaining to the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project in writing by **July 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** and to participate in a virtual scoping meeting scheduled for July 10, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

This Department has considered that an additional scoping meeting is warranted. Therefore, agencies and interested parties will have the opportunity to participate in another virtual scoping meeting on **July 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order, the California Department of Public Health's guidelines on gatherings regarding COVID-19, and Kern County Local emergency Declaration, the scoping meeting required by the CEQA Guidelines will be conducted online. Closed captioning in Spanish and Spanish translation services will be available to attendees. Instructions for accessing the virtual scoping meeting will be available three (3) days before the virtual scoping meeting on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources website at <https://kernplanning.com>.

Note that it has been determined not to be necessary to extend the comment period ending July 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Comments received after that date, including at the virtual scoping meeting scheduled for July 30, 2020, will be given equal recognition and acknowledgement during preparation of the Draft EIR for the project.

Comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR should be sent to mayesj@kerncounty.com.

Background

A new EIR will be prepared to comply with CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15161) due to the expansion of the non-hazardous waste portion of the project and its affects upon the project site and surrounding areas. Kern County is also incorporating into the EIR analysis Clean Harbors' existing hazardous waste operations, with requested modifications described in the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit renewal application which is under review by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a Responsible Agency for this project.

PROJECT TITLE: Clean Harbors WMU; by Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC: GPA No. 7, Map No. 97; ZCC No. 2, Map No. 97; CUP No. 4 Mod, Map No. 97; and Application for exclusion from Agricultural Preserve (PP17117).

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in central Kern County at 2500 West Lokern Road, on the north side of Lokern Road, approximately 8 miles west of Buttonwillow in unincorporated Kern County, on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 099-290-17 and 099-261-32. The project site is located in Sections 15 and Section 16 of Township 29 South, Range 22 East, of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Facility is an existing commercial waste management facility that accepts solid, semi-solid, and liquid, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes for treatment, storage, or disposal.

The proposed project includes Kern County's modification of existing land use authorizations to include an expanded permitted disposal area to facilitate the construction and operation of additional non-hazardous waste landfill units and an expanded permitted facility area to accommodate a soil stockpiles area; increases to non-hazardous waste truck traffic; increases to non-hazardous waste permitted disposal capacity; and construction and operation of a latex paint recycling building. In addition, the project proponent has submitted a renewal application to the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) for renewal of the existing Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

with modifications. The proposed modifications to the existing hazard waste facility permit include administrative and operational changes to existing hazardous waste units, new hazardous waste treatment buildings, a new container storage pad area, and addition of environmental monitoring programs.

Land use authorizations for the facility were originally approved by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1982. Modifications to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 4 were approved on December 12, 1994, November 30, 2004, July 13, 2010, and December 16, 2014 by both the Kern County Planning Commission and Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Kern County's proposed authorization specifically includes:

1. Amendment to the Kern County General Plan of approximately 320-acres (on parcel 099-261-32) from the existing 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture, 20 min acres) land use designation to a 3.4 (Solid Waste Disposal Facility) designation;
2. Amendment to the Kern County General Plan Appendix E Map, "Petroleum Waste Management" to show the current "Clean Harbors" name and revised permitted facility boundary, with designated buffer property area;
3. Zone change of 640 acres (parcels 099-290-17 and 099-261-32) from A (Exclusive Agriculture) to M-3 (Heavy Industrial);
4. Application for removal of both parcels from Agricultural Preserve No. 2; and
5. Modification of the existing CUP No.4, Map No. 97 to include:
 - a. an increase in the permitted facility boundary from 320 acres to 640 acres to include the expansion parcel for a soil stockpile area;
 - b. an increase in permitted disposal area from 160 acres to 193.3 acres for the addition of non-hazardous waste landfill units (WMU 36, 37, 38) within existing facility boundary;
 - c. an increase in permitted disposal capacity from 13,250,000 cubic yards to 16,674,000 for the addition of non-hazardous waste landfill units (WMUs 36, 37, 38) within existing facility boundary;
 - d. construction of four new hazardous waste treatment buildings (tank treatment buildings) to support modifications proposed in a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit renewal application; and
 - e. construction of one latex paint recycling building.

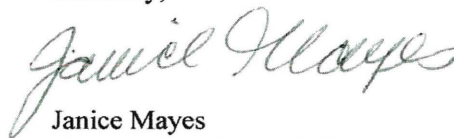
The facility was granted a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit by DTSC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 1983 and October 1984, respectively. The Hazardous Waste Facility Permit was renewed in 1996. On April 6, 2006, the DTSC Hazardous Waste Facility Permit expired but is continued in accordance with regulatory requirements. Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC has submitted a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit renewal application to DTSC. DTSC is currently performing a technical review of the permit renewal application. The facility continues to operate in accordance with the existing Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

While the Hazardous Waste Facility permit renewal application does not include an increase in the hazardous waste capacity, the scope of the proposed permit includes renewed authorization for existing facilities and operations, with the following modifications:

1. Reclassification of four existing tank units to miscellaneous units;
2. Construction and operation of four new buildings where treatment is conducted (tank treatment buildings) within the existing facility and reorganizing operations to use the new tank treatment buildings, including the construction of a new bulk container storage pad area for waste that is pending verifications; and
3. Addition of environmental monitoring programs consistent with current regulatory standards.

Document can be viewed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

Sincerely,



Janice Mayes
Planner III, Advanced Planning

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE