

**TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT FOCUSED SUBSEQUENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT,  
VISALIA DISPOSAL (LANDFILL) SITE AND BIOGAS AND COMPOST  
FACILITY – LANDFILLING OPERATIONS (SCH # 2021020054)**

**Project Title:** Visalia Disposal (Landfill) Site and Biogas and Compost Facility – Landfilling Operations

**Project Location:** The existing Visalia Disposal (Landfill) Site is located at 8614 Avenue 328, Visalia, CA 93291. The entire Landfill boundary currently encompasses approximately 634 acres at the northeast corner of Avenue 328 and Road 80 and includes five (5) parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers 077-020-018, 077-020-021, 077-020-024, 077-020-026, and 077-020-030). The site is located within Section 4 & 5, Township 18 South, Range 24 East, MDB&M.

**Project Description:** This Draft Focused Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) is tiering off the adopted/certified EIR (SCH No. 2021020054) for the Visalia Disposal (Landfill) Site Compost and Biogas Compost - Facility project. The SEIR will address two proposed updates to the County's current landfill permit from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to avoid the County's risk of violating its current permit by exceeding its daily tonnage limit.

Tulare County intends to develop and operate a covered aerated static pile (CASP) compost facility within the Visalia Landfill property to comply with the upcoming SB 1383 regulations. The compost facility will occupy 36 acres of the 634-acre Landfill site. The compost facility will be designed to accept up to 200,000 tons per year (TPY) in increments of 50,000 TPY technology modules and can store up to 200,000 cubic yards on-site of organic material that would have otherwise been landfilled. The compost facility would include installing processing and composting equipment, a 50,000 square foot processing building, compacted compost pads, and a lined pond. To accommodate the transport of organic material for the compost and biogas component at the Landfill, it is anticipated that a maximum of 300 vehicles (haul trucks) would be required. Increases in haul trucks would be incremental over an approximately 13-year period when the compost and biogas component reach maximum operations.

The proposed Project is intended to maintain the current maximum permitted volume of solid waste (2,000 TPD) and increase total daily vehicles by 300 vehicles (to haul in organic material) for the compost/biogas component of the Landfill. To summarize, the Project consists of two updates to the existing Landfill operational permits: 1) increase the Landfill's total permitted tonnage to 3,000 tons per day (tpd), by directing 2,000 tpd to the landfilling operation and the remaining 1,000 tpd to the composting operation; and increase the Landfill's total permitted haul trucks from 900 to 1,200 trucks per day to accommodate the additional 1,000 tpd.

**Project Benefits:** The expected benefits of the proposed Project include the following:

1. Provide compost capacity for a transformative organics diversion program in California as required by California legislation;
2. Reduce methane emissions from landfills by removing organics from landfills and by composting new feedstocks and reducing greenhouse gasses (GHG) by sequestering nutrient rich compost in soils;

3. Modify an existing, strategically integrated waste management facility (Visalia Landfill) to accommodate the growing regulatory demand for mixed materials, organic waste, and food waste composting;
4. Receive and compost food wastes derived from commercial and residential sources, increase diversion of organic materials from landfills by expanding the approved feedstock list to include digestates that can be received and processed;
5. List the organics waste feedstocks for the facility, using terms and definitions consistent with new State composting regulations (14 CCR) and the adopted SB 1383 regulations;
6. Allow pre-processing food waste operations at the facility;
7. Continue to provide economic benefits to Tulare County through employment of local residents, by the expansion of operational solid waste management activities and construction of new processing equipment;
8. Compliance with SJVAPCD rules and regulations;
9. Facilitate the accomplishment of AB 341, which directs CalRecycle to increase statewide diversion from landfills to 75% by 2020;
10. Enhance the business community's ability to comply with AB 1826, which as of April 1, 2016 requires businesses that generate a specific amount of organic waste per week must arrange for recycling services for that organic waste in a specified manner (such as composting), to substantially reduce landfill disposal of food wastes; and
11. Create water saving opportunities by using compost to enhance agricultural soil.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impact:** The Project's potentially significant environmental impacts include: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gases, Hydrology and Water Quality, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures will be recommended, where feasible, to mitigate potentially significant impacts.

**EIR Availability:** A copy of the Draft SEIR will be available for review at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am).

A copy of the Draft SEIR may also be obtained and/or reviewed at the following locations:

Visalia Branch Library 200 West Oak Avenue Visalia, CA 93291	Tuesday through Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
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Tulare County website: <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning-building/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/visalia-landfill-compost-and-biomass-conversion-facility/>

**Contact for More Information:** Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7199 (**para Español llame Brenda Alcantar (559) 624-7102**).

The Draft SEIR has a review period of **45** days, starting on **December 29, 2023**, and ending **February 12, 2024**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the Draft SEIR should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the Draft SEIR established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors at a date to be determined later. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code § 21177, Government Code § 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

Reed Schenke, Director, Resource Management Agency