



March 4, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 04 2022

Mr. Talyon Sortor, General Manager
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District
1010 Chadbourne Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
tsortor@fssd.com

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Subject: SCH No. 2022020070 – Aries Fairfield Bioprocessing Project Initial Study/
Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration– Solano County

Dear Mr. Sortor:

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 Fairfield Suisun Sewer District (District), acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated an Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/Draft MND) 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 proposed Aries Fairfield Bioprocessing Project is located on the southeast side of the District's Waste Water Treatment Plant property located at 1010 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield, CA 94534, occupies about 150 acres and is located in the southern portion of the City of Fairfield in Township 04 North Range 02 West. The site is located south of the Interstate 80 interchange with California State Highway 12. The site is adjacent to open space to the east and south, a sod farm to the west, and an industrial park to the north.

The District proposes to execute a lease agreement with Aries Fairfield LLC, who proposes the construction and operation of a biomass processing facility located on approximately 2.5 acres of the 7- acre leased site at the WWTP. The Project would be suitable for processing and converting a variety of biomass streams (e.g., biosolids from the District or other wastewater treatment plants in the area and woody biomass from local industrial or municipal producers/aggregators), diverting these biomass streams

from landfills, and converting them into usable renewable thermal energy, renewable electrical energy, and carbon products (that have beneficial uses in building, manufacturing, industrial, and agricultural material inputs and also can sequester carbon).

The proposed project would involve the receipt of 165 tons per day of biosolids feedstock in the form of wet biosolids (15% solids) and 65 tons per day of woody biomass feedstock in the form of wood chips (85% solids).

COMMENTS

CalRecycle staff's comments on the proposed project are listed below. Where a specific location in the document is noted for the comment, please ensure the comment is addressed throughout all sections of the IS/Draft MND, in addition to the specific location noted.

Comments for the IS/Draft MND are summarized below:

Odor Impact Minimization Plan

In section 2.5, "Permits Required," of the subject document it states "Solano County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Services Division, acting as the Local Enforcement Agency for California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Solid Waste Facilities Permit and Odor Impact Minimization Plan." An Odor Impact Minimization Plan would only be required if the activity were to be regulated by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) as a compostable material handling activity. The proposed project may be subject to Transfer/Processing regulatory requirements as determined by the LEA.

Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight

The Solano County Department of Resource Management is the solid waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for Solano County and responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including inspections. Please contact the LEA Edmund Strickland at (707) 784-3308 to discuss the regulatory requirements for the proposed project.

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 preparing the MND and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process.

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

If the environmental document is adopted during a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notice of this hearing. If the document is adopted without a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notification of the date of the adoption and proposed project approval by the decision making body.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 341-6119 or by e-mail at Harprit.Mattu@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Harprit Mattu, REHS, Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch – North Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Eric Kiruja, Supervisor
Permitting & Assistance Branch – North Unit
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