



June 7, 2024

Claudia Tenorio, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main St., Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501

Subject: SCH No. 2022120035 – Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the OC Reclamation Inert Waste Disposal Operation – Orange County

Dear Ms. Tenorio:

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 Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) 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 project is within an existing former sand and gravel excavation quarry. The 15-acre site is located at 5341 East Santiago Canyon Road in the City of Orange. The project proposes to regrade the existing sand and gravel mining pit, by conducting fill operations using inert debris, such as rock, sand, gravel, uncontaminated concrete, glass, brick, ceramics, clay products, etc. by operating the site as an Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operation (IDEFO). Once the IDEFO is filled to the surface grade (i.e., elevation of adjacent parcels), the IDEFO will be closed with a cover. These activities will be conducted in two phases to be completed over approximately 4.5 years.

COMMENTS

Based on the proposed project description, the project may meet the definition of an IDEFO per Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) Section 17388(l) and will require an Enforcement Agency Notification (EAN) pursuant to 14 CCR Section 17388.3. Prior to implementation of this proposed project, the operator shall submit an EAN package pursuant to 14 CCR Section 18103.1, which shall include an Operation Plan per 14 CCR Section 17388.3(c) to be reviewed by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to determine whether it is complete and correct as defined in 14 CCR Section 18101.

Under the project description it describes materials that will be used while conducting fill operations. Per 14 CCR Section 17388(l) an IDEFO can only receive the following inert material: fully cured asphalt, uncontaminated concrete (including steel reinforcing rods embedded in the concrete), crushed glass, brick, ceramics, clay and clay products, which may be mixed with rock and soil. In the Draft EIR further specify what is the source and type of inert material that will be used to fill the open pit.

Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight

The Orange County Environmental Health Division is the LEA and is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including inspections and solid waste permits. Please contact the LEA, Shyamala Rajagopal, at SRajagopal@ochca.com or (714) 433-6270 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 in preparing the Draft EIR and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process.

CalRecycle staff requests copies of any subsequent environmental document, copies of public notices and any Notice of Completion or Determination for this proposed project.

If the environmental document is adopted during a public hearing, CalRecycle staff request 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) 341-6363 or by e-mail at Megan.Emslander@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Megan Emslander, Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Ben Escotto, Supervisor
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit

Shyamala Rajagopal, Supervisor
Orange County LEA