



April 18, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Apr 18 2023**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Joddi Leipner, Senior Environmental Planner  
Santa Barbara County Public Works Department  
Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division  
130 E. Victoria Street #100  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

**Subject: SCH No. 2023030563** – Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Tajiguas Landfill Capacity Increase Project, Facility No. 42-AA-0015 – Santa Barbara County

Dear Ms. Leipner:

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 Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Subsequent 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 Tajiguas Landfill Capacity Increase Project (proposed project) is located at 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, California 93117, within the existing waste disposal area. Tajiguas Landfill is located approximately 26 miles west of the city of Santa Barbara. Immediately south of the landfill are U.S. Highway 101, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and the Pacific Ocean. The inland areas of the landfill are zoned for agriculture under Santa Barbara County Land Use and Development Code. The southern portion of the landfill is located within the coastal zone and areas zoned AG-II-320, which permits agricultural uses within a 320-acre minimum lot size.

The proposed project area is located within the inland area north of the coastal zone boundary. It includes an approximate 14.25-acre capacity increase, which would provide around 6.1 million cubic yards (mcy) of additional airspace. The project also proposes to increase the permitted maximum elevation of the landfill from 620 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 650 feet amsl, change the maximum permitted tonnage from 1,500 tons per day (tpd) to a weekly limit of 9,000 tons per week (1,500 tpd x 6 days per week), modify the receiving hours from Monday and Tuesday 7:00 am - 5:00 pm and Wednesday through Saturday 7:00 am - 4:00 pm, to Monday

through Saturday 6:00 am - 4:00 pm, and extend the estimated closure date from 2036 to December 2038. Additionally, the project would require removal, displacement and relocation of several physical structures and containers, stormwater features, and utilities.

## **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 Draft EIR, in addition to the specific location noted. Comments on the NOP are summarized below:

- Page 2, Project Description (Summary), *Background* – The description states, “formerly the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project”, but the name of the site has not been officially changed to ReSource Center on the current Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP).
- Page 3, Project Description (Summary), *Proposed Project* – States that there will be a 14.25-acre capacity increase. The landfill is currently permitted for 118 acres of disposal and 357 total acres. Will there be any changes to the currently permitted acreage?
- Page 3, Project Description (Summary), *Proposed Project* – States that the capacity increase would provide approximately 6.1 mcy of additional air space. The landfill is currently permitted with a 23,300,000 mcy design capacity. What would the new total design capacity be for the landfill? Will it be 29,400,000 mcy (23.3 mcy plus 6.1 mcy)?
- Page 3, Project Description (Summary), *Proposed Project* – If the start time for Waste Receipt, Disposal and Composting Operations changes from 7:00 am to 6:00 am and the Cover, Compaction and Maintenance hours currently start at 6:00 am (as stated on current SWFP), do you anticipate needing to change the Cover, Compaction and Maintenance hours to accommodate any necessary preparation of the site for the operating day before receiving waste?

## **Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight**

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for Santa Barbara County and responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including permitting and inspections. Please contact the LEA, Norma Campos-Bernal at 805-681-4942 or [Norma.CamposBernal@sbcphd.org](mailto:Norma.CamposBernal@sbcphd.org) 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 subsequent Draft EIR 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,

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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 916.324.0393 or by e-mail at [Gina.Weber@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:Gina.Weber@calrecycle.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Weber".

Gina Weber, Environmental Scientist  
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit  
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division  
CalRecycle

cc: Benjamin Escotto, CalRecycle  
Norma Campos-Bernal, LEA  
Jason Johnston, LEA