



Department of
Resources Recycling and Recovery

Yana Garcia
Secretary for Environmental Protection
Rachel Machi Wagoner
CalRecycle Director

October 31, 2023

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 – Draft Subsequent EIR for the Tajiguas Landfill Capacity Increase Project, SWIS 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 Draft 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 operational area. Tajiguas Landfill is located approximately 26 miles west of the city of Santa Barbara. Immediately south of the landfill is 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 increase in the permitted disposal area from 118 acres to 132.25 acres, which would provide around 6.1 million cubic yards (mcy) of additional airspace and increase the design capacity from 23.3 million cubic yards to 29.4 million cubic yards. The proposed project also proposes to increase the maximum elevation of the landfill by 30 feet from 620 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 650 feet amsl, change the permitted maximum 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), change the permitted 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 year from 2036 to December 2038. Additionally, the project would require removal, displacement and relocation of several physical structures and containers, stormwater features, and utilities. There will be no change to the hours of operation for cover, compaction, maintenance, and construction, to the currently permitted traffic volume of 184 vehicles per day, or to the total permitted acreage of 357 acres.

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 Subsequent EIR, in addition to the specific location noted. Comments on the EIR are summarized below:

- PDF Page 13, Introduction, *Document Purpose and Legal Authority*, third paragraph on the page – States that, “The project would provide 566,440 cubic yards of capacity...”. This is not consistent with other parts of the document which state that the proposed project would increase the permitted design capacity from 23.3 mcy to 29.4 mcy (an increase of 6.1 million cubic yards).
- PDF Page 66, Project Description, *Project Location* – The facility address is shown as 14470 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93117, but the current Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) has an address of 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, CA 93117.
- PDF Page 66, Project Description, *Tajiguas Landfill Overview* – The description states, “The Landfill property also houses the County’s ReSource Center (formerly known as the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project) ...”, but the name of the site has not been officially changed to ReSource Center on the current SWFP; it is still Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project and Sanitary Landfill.
- PDF Page 69, Project Overview, *Project Summary*, Table 3-2 – The table states, “No change” for “Hours of Operation – construction”, but the “Approved and Permitted” column lists hours that are not consistent with the current SWFP. The table shows, “6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays”, but the SWFP has, “Sundays 7 A.M. – 6 P.M.”.
- PDF Page 69, Project Overview, *Project Summary*, Table 3-2 – 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 the 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 (i.e., having the Cover, Compaction and Maintenance hours start earlier than 6:00 am to allow for any type of preparation before waste is received)?

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 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 Final Subsequent 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, 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.

Sincerely,



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