



September 27, 2023

Ms. Sharon Gong, Senior Planner
City of Berkeley Planning and Development Department
1947 Center Street, 2nd floor
Berkeley, CA 94704



Subject: SCH No. 2023080733 – Notice of Preparation for a Draft EIR for the City of Berkeley Solid Waste and Recycling Transfer Station Replacement Project (SWIS No. 01-AC-0029) - City of Berkeley

Dear Ms. Gong:

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 City of Berkeley, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for 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 City of Berkeley Solid Waste Management Center and Transfer Station is an existing transfer station located on 4.68 acres at 1201 Second Street in the City of Berkeley. The facility is owned by the City of Berkeley and operated by the City of Berkeley Public Works Department, Zero Waste Division.

The proposed project would involve the replacement of the existing solid waste transfer station and materials recovery facility (MRF) with new facilities and ancillary buildings. The proposed project would merge the six parcels into one; demolish the existing solid waste transfer station and MRF (Recycling Center) on the project site, including buildings, accessory structures, equipment and paving; and construct new buildings, accessory structures, equipment, and paving for a new solid waste transfer station and MRF. The proposed project does not propose any increase of tonnage or additional hours.

COMMENTS

Facility Address: the NOP states that the site is located at 699 Gilman Street, 1101, 1199-1231, 1201, and 1203 Second Street, and an unaddressed parcel on Second Street in the City of Berkeley. Additionally, it is stated that Second Street would be repaved and redeveloped as the main truck entry, while maintaining public access to the driveway of the adjacent property to the west, and relocating the public vehicle turnaround area to the south of its existing location. It is also stated that the six parcels would be merged into one.

- The current facility address for the transfer station is 1201 Second Street. Will the facility address change due to the proposed project? If so, what will the new address be?

Permitted Area: The NOP states that this is a 7.48-acre project site. The current permitted acreage is 4.68 acres, but it does not include the Recycling Center (MRF) in the permit.

- Will the MRF/Recycling Center be incorporated into the permitted boundary?
- Will the total acreage for the transfer station portion of the project change?
- Will any activities overlap requiring the transfer station footprint to exceed the currently permitted 4.68 acres?
- Will the permitted boundary change location or remain as in the current Solid Waste Facility Permit?

Transfer Station Activity: The NOP states that the existing solid waste transfer station and MRF will be demolished, including buildings, accessory structures, equipment and paving; and construct new buildings, accessory structures, equipment, and paving for a new solid waste transfer station.

- Will solid waste be handled or stored during this time? If so, will solid waste be handled or stored outside of the current permitted boundary? Please describe the intended process for handling and storing the solid waste during construction and demolition. Is there an alternative in place should the facility not be able to receive and/or handle waste during any stage of construction/demolition?

Substitute Public Meeting: If the permitted acreage will increase from the currently permitted level of 4.68 acres, a revision of the permit will be required. Pursuant to Title 27 California Code of Regulations (27 CCR) Section 21660.2, CalRecycle, as the enforcement agency (EA), shall conduct an informational meeting for revised solid waste facility permits. Pursuant to 27 CCR Section 21660.4, the EA may substitute the informational meeting with a previously held public meeting on the same project. The City of Berkeley will need to conduct public hearings as part of the EIR certification process.

- Please work with CalRecycle staff on allowing attendance of the public hearings in order for CalRecycle to possibly use the public hearings as a substitute meeting, as part of the permit revision process.

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 Draft EIR and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process. CalRecycle also looks forward to working with the Lead Agency on the public meeting process.

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

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 641-6772 or by e-mail at joy.bowers@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Joy Bowers, Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Alexenia Aldape, WEEB, CalRecycle
Randy Friedlander, WEEB, CalRecycle
Benjamin Escotto, PAB, CalRecycle.