



December 8, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Dec 08 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Wayne Morrell, Director of Planning
City of Santa Fe Springs
Planning and Development Department
11710 Telegraph Road
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

**Subject: SCH No. 2023110317 – Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for
Universal Waste Systems (SWIS No. 19-AA-1140) – Los Angeles County**

Dear Mr. Morrell:

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 Santa Fe Springs Planning and Development Department, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (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.

Amendment to CUP No. 733 - Universal Waste Systems, Inc., Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station (proposed project) is located at 9016 Norwalk Boulevard, Santa Fe Springs, CA 9070. The City of Santa Fe Springs is located in southeastern Los Angeles County, approximately eight miles southeast of downtown City of Los Angeles. Santa Fe Springs is bounded by the cities of La Marda and Norwalk on the south, Downey on the west, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, referred to as West Whittier, on the north, and the City of Whittier on the east. The proposed project site is zoned M2 (Heavy Manufacturing) and has a General Plan designation of Industrial. It is located in the northern portion of the City of Santa Fe Springs. Industrial development abuts the site on the east, south, and north sides. A railroad right-of-way extends along the site's northern side and industrial uses are located adjacent to the project site on the south and east side. Industrial uses are located further west, along the west side of Norwalk Boulevard. Smaller commercial and industrial uses are located northwest of the project site, along both sides of Norwalk Boulevard. The nearest residential neighborhoods are located approximately 400 feet northwest (north of Perkins Avenue) and 600 feet to the north (north of Burke Street).

The proposed project is for Universal Waste Systems, Inc., a permitted large volume transfer/processing facility. The project would increase the permitted maximum tonnage and design capacity from 1,500 tons per day to 2,500 tons per day; expand the permitted hours of operation for receipt of waste from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday to 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday, and for operations and transfer from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday to 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday; addition of new organic waste processing equipment in Building B; decrease the number of parking spaces from 104 stalls to 54 stalls; and the addition of 22,800 square feet of lease railroad property to the 3.81-acre site for use as parking, trash compaction and circulation of solid waste vehicles.

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 MND, in addition to the specific location noted.

Page 3, Description, Building B. – It is stated that the existing building consists of 10,606 square feet of floor area and that approximately 8,000 square feet will be used for organic waste processing equipment and approximately 3,000 square feet would continue to be used for bale storage. The cited 8,000 and 3,000 square feet exceed the 10,606 square feet of available floor area. It is understood that these numbers are approximate, but suggest the sum equal the available 10,606 square feet of available floor area.

Page 3, Description, Railroad Property Addition. – It is stated that there will be an additional approximate 22,800 square feet of leased railroad property, in addition to the 3.81 acre site. The current Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) has a permitted area of 3.81 acres and 0.52 acres (22,500 square feet) of leased railroad right-of-way. Will the new permitted area be 3.81 acres and 1.04 acres of leased railroad right-of-way (45,300 square feet; sum of 22,800 and 22,500 square feet)?

Page 9, 2.1, Project Overview – It is stated that the new hours of receipt (open to the public) will be Monday through Sunday and that the new hours of transfer/operations will be Monday through Saturday. Confirming that is accurate and that the intention is to have Sunday as only for receipt of waste and not for transfer/operations?

Page 56, Mitigation Measures and Page 76, Mitigation Measures – There are duplicates in the numbering of the mitigation measures. On page 56, there is Mitigation Measure No. 16 (Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts) and Mitigation Measure No. 17 (Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts). On page 76, there is Mitigation Measure No. 16 (Traffic Impacts) and Mitigation Measure No. 17 (Traffic Impacts). Suggest to renumber the mitigation measures so there are no duplicates in the numbering.

Draft MND – The proposed changes are considered significant, pursuant to Title 27 California Code of Regulations (27 CCR) Section 21563(d)(6). In order to incorporate

the changes into the SWFP, a permit revision will be required, pursuant to 27 CCR Section 21665(e). Please work with the Los Angeles County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) on the permit revision process.

Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is the LEA for Los Angeles County and responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including permitting and inspections. Please contact the LEA, Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, at 626.430.5540 or dlugo@ph.lacounty.gov 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 Final 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 916.341.6138 or by e-mail at benjamin.escotto@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Escotto, Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Nai Teurn – CalRecycle
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo – LEA