

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

FROM: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 133-151-087 **Case No.:** Not Applicable

Location: 4004 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos, California 93441

Project Title: Foxen Canyon Landfill Condensate Tank Replacement Project

Project Description: The Foxen Canyon Landfill (FCL), which is located on the same site as the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS), is a County-managed closed landfill facility with an active landfill gas (LFG) collection system and a candlestick flare located at 4004 Foxen Canyon Road in Los Olivos, California. The FCL operated as a Class III landfill from November 11, 1970 until landfilling operations were discontinued in July 2003. The site began operation as the SYVRTS in July 2003. Waste received at the SYVRTS is sorted to remove recyclable material and then transferred to the County operated Tajiguas Landfill along the Gaviota coast. Final closure of the FCL was completed in 2009. The SYVRTS continues to operate to serve the solid waste disposal needs of the Santa Ynez Valley. The SYVRTS occupies a lease area of ~12.6 acres.

The FCL condensate tank replacement project consists of removing the two existing 250-gallon condensate tanks and demolishing the individual concrete pads on which the tanks rest and replacing those items with a new 1,000-gallon tank that will rest on a newly constructed 10' x 10' reinforced concrete pad on the same location as the two 250-gallon tanks. The new 1,000-gallon tank is 6.5 feet in diameter and approximately 5 feet tall. The new concrete pad will have a 4 inch curb/dike around the perimeter as secondary containment and the back/retaining portion of the dike will be 14 inches. A drainage valve will be installed within the 4-inch curb to allow for drainage from the secondary containment. Historically, condensate, which is a byproduct of the LFG collection, was allowed to be used over the closed landfill surface, the replacement is needed due to a change in Regional Water Quality Control Board regulatory policy. The new policy states that the condensate captured in the tanks can no longer be sprayed on the slopes of the landfill and now must be transported off-site for disposal. The cost to the county to transport the condensate off-site is based on the number of trips the hauler must make. By increasing the capacity of the condensate storage at the FCL, the county reduces the number of trips required for collection and off-site disposal. The contractor transports the condensate to a permitted waste water treatment facility. The location supporting the new concrete pad will be graded flat to accommodate the new concrete pad but the grading will not cut into the final engineered cover of the landfill. Dirt will be imported from an on-site stockpile to complete the grading and only fill will be used for grading. A native seed mix will be applied to the disturbed area after completion to accelerate revegetation of bare areas. The new 1,000-gallon tank and associated piping will then be installed and connected to the existing LFG collection system.

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Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara Public Work Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD).

Exempt Status: (Check one)

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Not a Project (Section 15378(b)(5))

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: The replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced are categorically exempt from CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction).

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 (Class 2), the proposed project involves the replacement of two existing 250-gallon condensate tanks and individual concrete secondary containment basins with one 1,000-gallon condensate tank and one 10'x10' concrete foundation with secondary containment. The new tank and concrete pad will be in the same location as the existing tanks and pads and will serve the same purpose. No other changes to the existing LFG and condensate collection system are proposed. The collection of condensate is a result of the extraction of LFG from the decomposition of waste historically disposed of in the FCL. The overall capacity of the tank will increase from 500 gallons to 1,000 gallons, but the increase is to allow storage of additional condensate before off-site transport is needed to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled to dispose of the waste and associated transportation related air quality and greenhouse emissions. Therefore, the project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the**

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project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 is a Class 2 exemption; therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Other minor structures approved/constructed at the FCL and SYVRTS facility include an employee shade cover structure, an E-waste cover structure and several small facilities (e.g., vegetated swale and storm water treatment units) to address protection of storm water. In addition, a 7 foot x 12 foot (84 square foot) portable bathroom facility has been installed at the site. All structures are within the developed areas of the site and serve the existing permitted operations. A leaking 10,000 gallon water tank was replaced with two new 5,000 gallon tanks that were installed on top of a new 15'x30' reinforced concrete pad in a new location. These facilities are located on the SYVRTS portion of the facility which is approximately 700 feet from the proposed condensate tank replacement and there are no cumulative impacts associated with these minor facilities and no other facilities are proposed at the FCL/SYVRTS site that would contribute to cumulatively significant impacts. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The project would be constructed at an existing closed landfill facility that has not been in operation since 2003. The FCL is located west of the SYVRTS. There are no unusual circumstances that are present at the site or surrounding area that would result in a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The project would be constructed at an existing closed landfill facility that has not been in operation since 2003. The FCL is located west of the SYVRTS. Private land to the east and north of the FCL/SYVRTS has been planted with Coast Live Oak and Valley Oak trees that are part of the mitigation requirements for the Santa Ynez Valley Waste Management Plan. Construction of the cover structures would not impact these mitigation areas. Foxen Canyon Road, although not formally designated as a Scenic Highway, is identified as scenic rural road in the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan. No portion of the new condensate tank is visible from

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Foxen Canyon Road. The project would not result in the removal of any trees, buildings, rock outcroppings or other scenic resources. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The project site is located west of the SYVRTS. The FCL was operated as a Class III municipal landfill and underwent final closure in 2009. The landfill is not listed as a hazardous waste site. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The project would be constructed at an existing closed landfill facility that has not been in operation since 2003. The site is paved but includes un-paved bench roads for access to all parts of the landfill. The slopes of the landfill are densely vegetated. Nearby landfill infrastructure includes LFG collection pipes and a flare station consisting of a vacuum/blower and candlestick flare for destruction of the extracted methane. The project is not close enough to any of the existing infrastructure to require any change in the operation LFG collection system. The LFG collection system will not be shut down for any period of time as a result of construction activities. The remaining areas consist of moderately vegetated hillsides, administrative buildings, storm water retention basins and a parking lot. Based on prior environmental documents prepared for the site (90-EIR-14 and 97-SD-02), no archaeological or historical resources are known to occur in the project area. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joey Costa, Recycle, Organics and Refuse Supervisor, RRWMD

Phone #: (805) 686-5084



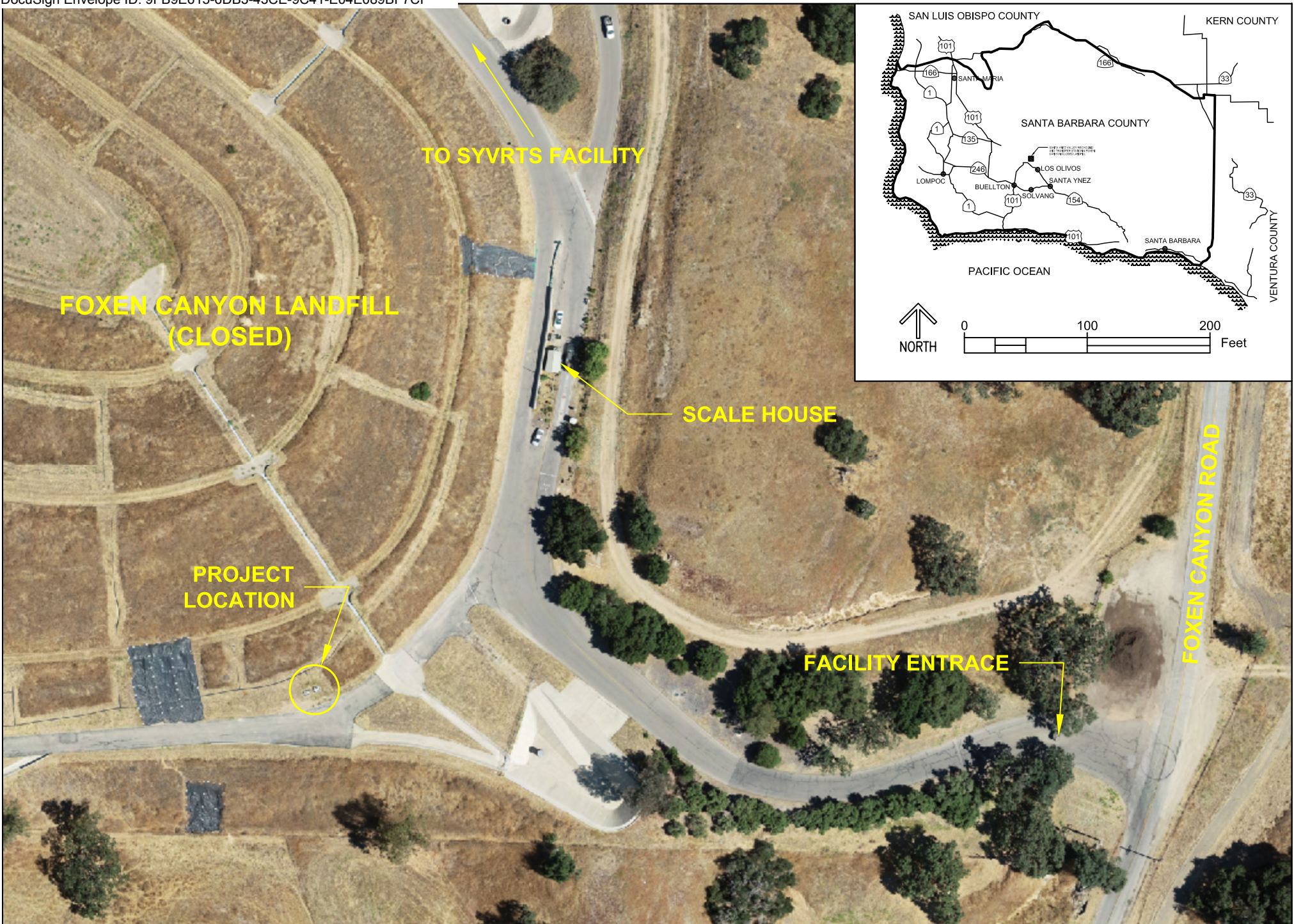
Department/Division Representative: Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner

Date: February 9, 2024

Acceptance Date: February 9, 2024

NOTE: A copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and the State Clearinghouse after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Date Filed by County Clerk:



DESIGNED BY:		
BRWM DESIGN ENGINEER	DATE	
REVIEWED BY:		
BRWM ENGINEERING MANAGER	DATE	
REVIEWED BY:		
BRWM DEPUTY DIRECTOR	DATE	

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
 RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE
 MANAGEMENT DIVISION
 130 E. VICTORIA STREET, SUITE 100
 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110
 (805) 862-3600



**CONDENSATE TANK
 REPLACEMENT**

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION
 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SITE MAP

DESIGNED BY:	
DRAWN BY:	FIGURE 1
CHECKED BY:	SHEET 1 OF 1
JL	02/09/2024