

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CUP No.733 AMENDMENT
UNIVERSAL WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.
9016 NORWALK BOULEVARD
SANTA FE SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



LEAD AGENCY:

**CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
11710 TELEGRAPH ROAD
SANTA FE SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 90670**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SFSP 078

1. INTRODUCTION & PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed project al Study evaluates the environmental impacts associated with a request by Universal Waste Systems, Inc. (UWS), to obtain a Modification to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 733. The proposed Modification if approved, would permit the following: 1. an increase of the processing capacity of the existing Universal Waste Systems, Inc. (UWS) facility from the current 1,500 tons per day (TPD) to 2,500 TPD; 2. the addition of organic waste processing equipment in Building “B” to accommodate new equipment that would be required to process and recycle organic waste pursuant to SB 1383; 3 a revision of the facility’s hours of operation; and 4. A revision of the parking layout to decrease parking from 104 to 54 spaces.

The City of Santa Fe Springs determined, as part of the Initial Study’s preparation, that a Mitigated Negative Declaration was the appropriate environmental document for the proposed project’s CEQA review. Certain projects or actions may also require oversight approvals or permits from other public agencies. The Initial Study and the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was forwarded to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the public for review and comment. A 30-day public review period was provided to allow these entities and other interested parties to comment on the proposed project and the findings of the Initial Study. Comment letters were received from the following entities:

- State of California – Department of Resource Conservation Recycling and Recovery. Letter dated July 25, 2024.’
- State of California, Department of Transportation. Letter dated July 5, 2024.
- Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Letter dated August 27, 2024.

2. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

2.1 COMMENTS & RESPONSES - CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND RECYCLING

Comment #1

Page 3, Description, Building B and Page 13, 2.3 Environmental Setting, Building B. – It is stated that the existing building consists of 10,606 square feet of floor area and that approximately 8,500 square feet will be used for storage of organic waste processing equipment and 3,500 square feet of floor area will remain devoted to bale storage. The cited 8,500 and 3,500 square feet exceed the 10,606 square feet of available floor area. It is understood that these numbers are approximate, but suggest the sum equals the available 10,606 square feet of available floor area.

Response #1

This existing building consists of 10,606 square feet of floor area. Approximately 8,500 square feet of floor area would be used for the storage of organic waste processing equipment while approximately 3,500 square feet of floor area would continue to be used for bale storage. Other areas that may exceed the total is related to other floor area that is not directly related to the activity that were cited.

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Comment #2

Page 3, Description, Railroad Property Addition. – It is stated that there will be an additional approximately 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)?

Response #2

The leased property was to be used for parking and access. A Parking Modification is also being requested by the Applicant. The parking layout would change and the number of spaces would decrease from 104 parking stalls to 54 stalls. This modification is due to a portion of the adjacent railroad right-of-way being leased in late 2017, making the facility operator revise onsite circulation patterns which rendered some parking spaces unusable. A total of 54 parking spaces will also be provided, a reduction from the previous CUP approval of 104 parking spaces.

Comment #3

Page 9, 2.1 Project Overview and Page 18, Second Paragraph – 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?

Response #3

The above statement is correct. The Sunday hours are to encourage the public's use of the facility.

Comment #4

Page 9, 2.2 Project Location, Second Paragraph – It is stated that the assessor's parcel numbers (APNs) that are applicable to the site include 8168-001-014 and 8168-001-015. The current UWS facility SWFP APN is 8168-001-044. Suggest to reverify the APNs for accuracy.

Response #4

The comment is noted for the record. The current APN number cited above would be incorporated into the approved ISMND by reference.

Comment #5

Page 54, Mitigation Measures and Page 71, Mitigation Measures – There are duplicates in the numbering of the mitigation measures. On page 54, there is Mitigation Measure No. 16 (Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts) and Mitigation Measure No. 17 (Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts). On page 71, there is Mitigation Measure No. 16 (Traffic Impacts) and Mitigation Measure No. 17 (Traffic Impacts). Suggest renumbering the mitigation measures so there are no duplicates in the numbering.

Response #5

The mitigation measure number was corrected in the final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

2.2 COMMENTS & RESPONSES – CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS).

Comment #1

Caltrans concurs with the Project’s objective for creating more “infill” development, which is seen as an important strategy in combating the release of GHG emissions. Infill development provides a regional benefit in terms of a reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). In addition to promoting transportation-efficient land use patterns, infill development reduces the number of single-passenger vehicle trips and alleviates congestion on roadways.

Response #1

The comment is noted for the record. No response is required.

Comment #2

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized transport vehicles on State Highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends limiting construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans’ review. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure potential impacts to the highway facilities and traveling public are discussed and addressed before work begins.

Response #2

The comment is noted for the record. No response is required.

2.3 COMMENTS & RESPONSES – LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS.

Comment #1

The wastewater flow originating from the proposed project will discharge to a local sewer line, which is not maintained by the Districts, for conveyance to the Districts’ Orr and Day Road Trunk Sewer, located in Millergrove Drive, south of Rivera Road. The Districts’ 27-inch diameter trunk sewer has a capacity of 8.5 million gallons per day (mgd) and conveyed a peak flow of 2.6 mgd when last measured in 2019. A copy of the District’s average wastewater generation factors is available on our website at Table 1, Loadings for Each Class of Land Use.

Response #1

The proposed project will also conform to Consistency Criteria 2 since it will not significantly affect any regional population, housing, and employment projections prepared for the City of Santa Fe Springs. Projects that are consistent with the projections of employment and population forecasts identified in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) prepared by SCAG are considered consistent with the AQMP growth projections, since the RTP/SCS forms the basis of the land use and transportation control portions of the AQMP. According to the most recent adopted Demographics and Growth Forecast Appendix prepared by SCAG for the 2020-2045 RTP/SCS, the City of Santa Fe Springs is projected to add a total of 1,400 new jobs through the year 2050.¹ According to the State of California Employment Development Department, the City's current unemployment rate is 3.7 percent, which means there are up to 300 residents actively seeking work. The proposed project, once operational, will add between two to three persons per shift. The number of new jobs is well within SCAG's employment projections for the City of Santa Fe Springs and the proposed project will not violate Consistency Criteria 2.

Comment #2

The wastewater generated by the proposed project will be treated at the A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility (formerly Joint Water Pollution Control Plant) located in the City of Carson, which has a capacity of 400 mgd and currently processes an average flow of 247.2 mgd, or the Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant located in the City of Cerritos, which has a capacity of 37.5 mgd and currently processes an average flow of 18.8 mgd.

Response #2

The IS/MND indicated the City of Santa Fe Springs is located within the service area of the Sanitation District 2 of Los Angeles County. The nearest wastewater treatment plant to Santa Fe Springs is the Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) located in Cerritos. The Los Coyotes WRP is located at 16515 Piuma Avenue in the City of Cerritos and occupies 34 acres at the northwest junction of the San Gabriel River (I-605) and the Artesia (SR-91) Freeways. The plant was placed in operation on May 25, 1950, and initially had a capacity of 12.5 million gallons per day and consisted of primary treatment and secondary treatment with activated sludge. The Los Coyotes WRP provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for 37.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. The plant serves a population of approximately 370,000 people. Over 5 million gallons per day of the reclaimed water is reused at over 270 reuse sites. Reuse includes landscape irrigation of schools, golf courses, parks, nurseries, and greenbelts; and industrial use at local companies for carpet dyeing and concrete mixing. The remainder of the effluent is discharged to the San Gabriel River. Treated wastewater is disinfected with chlorine and conveyed to the Pacific Ocean. The reclamation projects utilize pump stations from the two largest Sanitation Districts' Water Reclamation plants includes the San Jose Creek WRP in Whittier and Los Coyotes WRP in Cerritos. The Los Coyotes WRP has a design capacity of 37.5 million gallons per day (mgd) and currently processes an average flow of 20.36 mgd. In addition, the new plumbing fixtures that will be installed will consist of water conserving fixtures as is required by the current City Code requirements. No new or expanded sewage and/or water treatment facilities will be required to accommodate the proposed project.

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The proposed project's estimated daily effluent is 12,836 gallons per day. The proposed project's estimated water consumption will be 19,253 gallons per day. As indicated previously, all of the new plumbing fixtures that will be installed will consist of water conserving fixtures as is required by the current City Code requirements. As a result, no sewage and/or water treatment facilities will be required to accommodate the proposed project.

Comment #3

The Districts are empowered by the California Health and Safety Code to charge a fee to connect facilities (directly or indirectly) to the Districts' Sewerage System or to increase the strength or quantity of wastewater discharged from connected facilities. This connection fee is used by the Districts for its capital facilities. Payment of a connection fee may be required before this project is permitted to discharge to the Districts' Sewerage System. For more information and a copy of the Connection Fee Information Sheet, go to www.lacsd.org, under Services, then Wastewater (Sewage) and select Rates & Fees. In determining the impact to the Sewerage System and applicable connection fees, the Districts will determine the user category (e.g. Condominium, Single Family Home, etc.) that best represents the actual or anticipated use of the parcel(s) or facilities on the parcel(s) in the development. For more specific information regarding the connection fee application procedure and fees, please contact the Districts' Wastewater Fee Public Counter at (562) 908-4288, extension 2727.

Response #3

The comment is noted for the record. No response is required.

Comment #4

In order for the Districts to conform to the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the capacities of the Districts' wastewater treatment facilities are based on the regional growth forecast adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Specific policies included in the development of the SCAG regional growth forecast are incorporated into clean air plans, which are prepared by the South Coast and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management Districts in order to improve air quality in the South Coast and Mojave Desert Air Basins as mandated by the CAA. All expansions of Districts' facilities must be sized and service phased in a manner that will be consistent with the SCAG regional growth forecast for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial. The available capacity of the Districts' treatment facilities will, therefore, be limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG. As such, this letter does not constitute a guarantee of wastewater service but is to advise the City that the Districts intend to provide this service up to the levels that are legally permitted and to inform the City of the currently existing capacity and any proposed expansion of the Districts' facilities.

Response #4

The comment is noted for the record. No response is required.