

784
SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Waste Management Department

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 21, 2003

SUBJECT: Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion Project

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

1. Approval of the Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion Project.
2. Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. 38691, based upon the findings in the Initial Study and the conclusion that the proposed expansion of the Lamb Canyon Landfill will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures incorporated into the project.
3. Adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring Program for EA No. 38691.

BACKGROUND:

The project is a proposal to expand the Lamb Canyon Landfill, which is located in the mid Riverside County region at 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, or State Highway 79, between Interstate 10 and the City of Beaumont to the north and State Highway 74 and the City of San Jacinto to the south, in an unincorporated area of the County. The landfill, which is a municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal facility that has been in operation since 1970, is owned and operated by the Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD).

Continued



Joseph R. McCann
General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA:

CURRENT YEAR COST	\$ 0	ANNUAL COST:	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET:	N/A
		BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FY:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Costs to implement expansion project will be identified upon subsequent consideration by the Board of Supervisors of related construction contract(s).

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature



Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

12.5

Department Recommendation: Policy Policy

Per Executive Office: Consent Policy

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Approximately 1,109 acres comprise the entire property in RCWMD ownership, of which approximately 1,088 acres represent the total landfill permit area. Of this amount, the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) currently permits approximately 137.8 acres for landfill disposal, of which approximately 78.3 acres have been utilized and represent the landfill footprint (approximately 73.6 acres are unlined and referred to as Phase I, and approximately 4.7 acres are lined and referred to as Phase II, Stage 1).

The Lamb Canyon Landfill is currently permitted to receive a maximum of 1900 tons per day (tpd) of non-hazardous solid waste. The local service area for the landfill is generally considered to include the Cities of Beaumont, Banning, San Jacinto, and Hemet and the unincorporated communities of Pine Cove, Idyllwild, Cherry Valley, Cabazon, Homeland, Romoland, and Winchester.

Ancillary facilities at the landfill site currently include the newly widened and lengthened access road, the new constructed fee collection booth, one (1) relocated truck scale, one (1) new truck scale, a refitted railroad boxcar used as a field office, the Central Accumulation Facility (CAF) for temporary storage of household hazardous waste, and a designated metallic recycling area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The liner construction of the Phase II, Stage 1 area was completed in Fall 2001, and it is projected that this stage will reach capacity in 2004. The project is a proposal to complete the Phase II expansion of the Lamb Canyon landfill, starting with development of Phase II, Stage 2, an area composed of approximately 15 acres that will be lined and prepared for the future receipt of waste. This stage is planned to start in Spring 2004.

The proposed project involves revising the landfill's SWFP in order to:

- Increase the daily disposal capacity from 1900 tpd to 3000 tpd to accommodate growth in the local service area over the next five years, as well as, waste from transfer stations in the Coachella Valley area (i.e., the existing Coachella Valley Transfer Station and the proposed Edom Hill Transfer Station, which will replace the Edom Hill Landfill when it closes near the end of 2004);
- Expand the permitted landfill disposal footprint area from 137.8 acres to 144.6, allowing for expansion to the west of the existing footprint;
- Increase the overall disposal capacity of the landfill from 8.3 million tons to 13.5 million tons;
- Expand the permit area for the landfill, ancillary facilities, and associated activities from 178.1 acres to 353.4 acres, allowing for excavated material to be stockpiled in two canyons located to the west of the proposed landfill footprint or disposal area (i.e., one canyon comprised of 15.3 acres will allow storage capacity for 1.7 million cubic yards of excavated material; the other comprised of 16.8 acres will have 1.3 million cubic yards of capacity); and,
- Increase in the total permitted number of vehicles from 603 vehicles to 756 vehicles.

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The following additional improvements will also be completed at the landfill site:

- Enlargement of the Metallic Recycling Area;
- Relocation of and improvements to the CAF;
- Construction of a new field office; and,
- Construction of public restrooms and addition of water tank.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Environmental Assessment (EA) No. 38691 was prepared by the Riverside County Waste Management Department to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed Lamb Canyon Expansion Project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15000 *et seq.*) and the Rules for Riverside County Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act. Based on the EA, potential impacts may occur in the following areas analyzed in the EA: 1) Seismicity/Soil/Slopes; 2) Water; 3) Transportation/Circulation; 4) Air Quality; 5) Biological Resources; 6) Public Health and Safety; 7) Noise; 8) Public Services; and, 9) Cultural/Paleontological Resources. Each of the potential impacts, however, can be avoided or fully mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the EA. A Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion Project, which requires adoption by the Board of Supervisors, has been prepared to incorporate these mitigation measures (see attached). Pursuant to CEQA (*CEQA Guidelines Section 15063*), a Mitigated Negative Declaration, documenting this finding that the project will not have any significant impacts, has also been prepared for adoption by the Board.

In accordance with CEQA, the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and EA No. 38691 were posted with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk and were transmitted to responsible agencies and interested parties for comment for a period that by regulation could not be less than 30 days (see attached Transmittal List). Public notices advertising the public comment period for the Notice of Intent and EA were also published in *The Press-Enterprise* and *La Prensa*, with additional notification in *The Valley Chronicle* and *The Record Gazette*, and. All documents could also be viewed on the Department's website (www.rivcowm.org). Lastly, copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and EA were made available to the public at the Riverside County Waste Management Department, the Banning Public Library, the Beaumont Library District, the Calimesa Public Library, the Hemet Public Library, the City of Riverside Main Library, and the San Jacinto Public Library.

During the comment period for the EA that officially began on June 13, 2003 and ended on July 14, 2003, the Department received a total of six (6) letters of comment from the following sources (see attached): 1) County of Riverside Community Health Agency, Department of Environmental Health; 2) Morongo Band of Mission Indians; 3) Department of Toxic Substances Control; 4) California Department of Transportation, District 8 (CalTrans); 5) the California Integrated Waste Management Board; and, 6) Southern California Association of Governments.

The Waste Management Department has reviewed the comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration to determine if the comments would result in a substantial revision of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, as defined in State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5, and has prepared responses (see attached Responses to Letters of Comment). While in staff's consideration, the comments do not warrant substantial revision of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, staff would note for the Board that the letter from CalTrans raises issue with the capacity analysis for State Highway 79, growth rates, and the length of a dedicated right turn lane for southbound access. These issues are addressed in the attached response. Mitigation measures have also been added that require the arrival rate of transfer trucks at the landfill to be closely monitored. In response to a request by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) has also been revised to incorporate two (2) recommended mitigation measures should cultural resources and/or human remains be discovered during grading. Staff continues to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration on the basis that potential project impacts, as identified in the EA, can be avoided or fully mitigated as previously noted.

CONSISTENCY WITH GENERAL PLAN, ZONING, AND OTHER APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS OR POLICIES

The Lamb Canyon Landfill is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the existing Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan and its elements. The landfill property, which is located in portions of the "Parks/Forests" and "Mountainous Areas" of the Open Space and Conservation Map, is designated as a public facility and active disposal site on the Public Services Map, the Utilities Map, and the Composite Environmental Hazards Map. Under the proposed Riverside County Integrated Plan, the Waste Management Department has been involved in the coordinated planning effort to ensure that the County's landfills and other waste-related public projects continue to be consistent.

The project site is zoned W-2 (Controlled Development), which identifies "Disposal Service Operations" as being conditionally permitted within this zone. However, as a "public project" under the provisions of Section 18.2.a.b.(1) of the Riverside County Land Use Ordinance No. 348, the proposed project is not subject to zoning requirements.

The Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion project is also consistent with the goals and policies of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP). The landfill, which is identified and described as an active landfill in the Summary Element, the Facility Capacity Component of the Source Reduction and Recycling Element, and the Countywide Siting Element of the CIWMP, enables Riverside County to provide for the long term waste disposal needs of its residents and helps protect the public health and safety of residents by providing for the safe disposal of non-hazardous solid waste.

**Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration**



**Riverside County
Waste Management Department**

Joseph R. McCann, General Manager-Chief Engineer

**Notice of Intent to Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration
For
Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion Project
Environmental Assessment No. 38691**

DATE: June 11, 2003
TO: Agencies and All Interested Persons
PROJECT NAME: Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion Project
PROJECT LOCATION: 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, off Highway 79 linking Interstate 10 to the north and Gilman Springs Road and Highway 74 to the south, between the Cities of Beaumont and San Jacinto, in unincorporated Riverside County

The Riverside County Waste Management Department, on behalf of Riverside County as Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed expansion of the Lamb Canyon Landfill, a municipal solid waste landfill that has been in existence since 1970, will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures and recommends that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”) for Environmental Assessment (“EA”) No. 38691 be adopted.

The proposed project involves revising the landfill’s Solid Waste Facility Permit in order to: 1) increase the daily disposal capacity from 1900 tons per day (“tpd”) to 3000 tpd to accommodate waste from the Coachella Valley area; 2) expand the permitted landfill disposal footprint area from 137.8 acres to 144.6, allowing for expansion to the west of the existing footprint; 3) increase the overall disposal capacity of the landfill from 8.3 million tons to 13.5 million tons; and, 4) expand the permit area for the landfill, ancillary facilities, and associated activities from 178.1 acres to 353.4 acres.

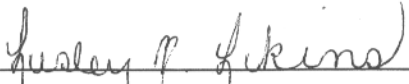
The MND and EA No. 38691 are available for public review at the following locations: Riverside County Waste Management Department on the website www.rivcowm.org or at 14310 Frederick Street in Moreno Valley and Riverside County Clerk at 2724 Gateway Drive in Riverside from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The documents have also been sent to the following libraries, but these libraries should be called directly for hours and availability of documents: Banning Public Library, 21 W. Nicolet Street in Banning (909.849.3192); Beaumont Library District, 125 E. Eighth Street in Beaumont (909.845.1357); Calimesa Public Library, 974 Calimesa Blvd. in Calimesa (909.795.9807); Hemet Public Library, 510 E. Florida Avenue in Hemet (909.765.2440); City of Riverside Main Library, 3581 Mission Inn Avenue in Riverside (909.826.5201); and San Jacinto Public Library, 500 Idyllwild Drive in San Jacinto (909.654.8635).

Any comments on the proposed project, the determination to adopt a MND, or requests for more information should be directed to:

Riverside County Waste Management Department
14310 Frederick Street
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
Attention: Mirtha Purkart, Planner III
Telephone 909.486.3284/Fax 909.486.3205

Written comments must be received at the above address by 8:00 a.m. on July 14, 2003. Any written comments received will be forwarded to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and will be considered, along with the EA and any oral testimony, before any action is taken on the project. The Board of Supervisors may consider this project on or after July 22, 2003. Any decision made by this body will be mailed to anyone requesting such notification.

**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Joseph R. McCann, General Manager – Chief Engineer**



Lesley B. Likins, Principal Planner