

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

814



**FROM:** Waste Management Department

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
October 27, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Revision to El Sobrante Landfill Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) No. 33-AA-0217 and Corresponding Joint Technical Document (JTD) to Extend Hours in "Operating Day" for Daily Cover Requirements.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Approval of Addendum to previously certified El Sobrante Landfill Expansion Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR), based on the finding that changes in the hours that define "operating day" in terms of daily cover do not cause new significant environmental impacts or increase the severity of previously identified impacts in the EIR.

**BACKGROUND:** On September 1, 1998, the Board of Supervisors approved the expansion of the El Sobrante Landfill Expansion Project and certified the corresponding Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was circulated through the State Clearinghouse as #1990020076. The expansion project, which was issued its Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) to operate in August 2001, allows for 24-hour operations, with nonwaste operations (i.e., application of cover, stockpiling of cover material, site maintenance, grading, vehicle maintenance) allowed anytime during the 24 hours and with disposal operations allowed from 4 A.M. to Midnight. Under the existing permit, soil cover and/or an approved alternative daily cover (ADC) are applied to the active working face of the landfill following the close of disposal operations at Midnight on Monday through Friday. The active working face is then immediately prepared or uncovered (in the case of using a tarp) before the start of disposal operations (4 A.M.) on the subsequent day. As a result, daily cover on the active working face is down, at most, a couple of hours, and its effectiveness is outweighed by the amount of time and manpower expended in this activity.

Departmental Concurrence

*Joseph R. McCann*  
Joseph R. McCann, General Manager-Chief Engineer

FORM APPROVED  
COUNTY COUNSEL  
OCT 28 2003

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

*H. J. [Signature]*

**County Executive Office Signature**

Policy  
 Consent  
 Dept't Recomm.:  
 Policy  
 Consent  
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: 1 | Agenda Number:

ATTACHMENTS FILED  
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

12.1

Current regulations require that waste be covered at the end of every operating day, but provisions allow that if operations are continuous, as in the case of El Sobrante, the "operating day" can be extended. The proposed revision to the El Sobrante Landfill SWFP and corresponding Joint Technical Document (JTD), for which the attached Addendum has been prepared, would suspend the requirement to apply soil cover and/or ADC to the active face of the landfill on a daily basis until the end of the "operating day," which would be defined as 3:00 A.M. Monday to 8:00 P.M. Saturday. However, waste at the active face that is exposed for periods longer than 12 hours (i.e., County holiday or Sunday) would continue to receive daily cover as required by regulations. In addition, intermediate cover of side slopes and top decks would continue to be applied, and daily cover would be required if needed to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, or scavenging.

Decreasing the number of applications of cover material at the active face of the landfill, as currently required, will result in approximately four (4) fewer applications of daily cover during the week. Since the EIR evaluated environmental impacts, such as air emissions (i.e., generation of dust, NO<sub>x</sub>) and noise, associated with the daily excavation and application of soil, the proposed change in operation will result in a net decrease in the level of impacts evaluated in the EIR. There are also no provisions in the Second El Sobrante Landfill Agreement or the certified EIR and corresponding Mitigation Monitoring Program for the El Sobrante Landfill Expansion project that preclude the proposed change. Since the proposed change in operation will not result in new significant environmental effects or in a substantial increase in the severity of significant effects previously identified in the certified EIR, a subsequent EIR, as described in §15162 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, was not required, and the attached Addendum to the EIR was prepared pursuant to §15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.

**ADDENDUM  
TO  
EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL EXPANSION PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)**

**(Comprised of April 1994 Draft EIR, April 1996 Final EIR, July 1998 Update to Final EIR)**

**SUBJECT:** Addendum to El Sobrante Landfill Expansion Project EIR (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 1990020076)

**PROJECT:** Revision to El Sobrante Landfill Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) No. 33-AA-0217 and Corresponding Joint Technical Document (JTD) to Extend Hours in "Operating Day" for Daily Cover Requirements

**PROJECT SPONSOR:** USA Waste of California (Subsidiary of Waste Management Inc.), Owner/Operator of El Sobrante Landfill

**PROJECT LOCATION:** El Sobrante Landfill, 10910 Dawson Canyon Road, located easterly of Interstate 15 and Temescal Canyon Road, approximately 7 miles southeast of City of Corona in Temescal Canyon area of unincorporated Riverside County, California

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is a revision to the SWFP and corresponding JTD to suspend the requirement to apply soil cover and/or alternative daily cover (ADC) to the active face of the landfill on a daily basis until the end of the "operating day," which would be defined as 3:00 A.M. Monday to 8:00 P.M. Saturday.

**PURPOSE:** This Addendum to the El Sobrante Expansion Project EIR is being prepared pursuant to §15164 of the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines*, which allows for the lead agency to "prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in §15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred." The Riverside County Waste Management Department on behalf of Riverside County, as lead agency, has evaluated the proposed project and the previously certified EIR and determined that a subsequent EIR is not required, because the project as described is not a substantial change requiring major revisions of the previous EIR, and will not result in new significant environmental effects or in a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. There have also not been any substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which this project and the EIR for the expansion project were undertaken, nor has there been any new information discovered of substantial importance that would affect the proposed project.

## FINDINGS ON PROJECT:

1. On September 1, 1998, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors (BOS) took the following actions with respect to the vertical and lateral expansion of the El Sobrante Landfill:
  - Adopted Resolution No. 98-275, certifying the EIR, consisting of the Draft EIR (dated April 1994), the Final EIR (dated April 1996), and the Update to the Final EIR (dated July 1998).
  - Adopted Resolution No. 98-276, approving the El Sobrante Landfill Expansion Project and the Second El Sobrante Landfill Agreement, adopting Conditions of Approval and a Mitigation Monitoring Program and making Findings of Fact.
2. The El Sobrante Landfill Expansion, for which the EIR (circulated under SCH No. 1990020076) was certified, is comprised of the following major components:
  - An increase in landfill capacity to approximately 196.11 million cubic yards or approximately 109 million tons of municipal solid waste.
  - An increase in the daily disposal capacity up to 10,000 tons.
  - An increase in the landfill area to a total of 1,322 acres.
  - An increase in the landfill footprint to 495 acres.
  - An increase in the hours of operation, allowing 24-hour continuous operations, 7 days a week, for nonwaste functions (i.e., application of daily cover, stockpiling of daily cover, site maintenance, grading, and vehicle maintenance) and allowing disposal operations from 4:00 A.M. to Midnight (Draft EIR, §3.3.6.1, Operating Schedule and Personnel, page 3-33).
3. Title 27 of *California Code of Regulations*, §20680(a) under "CIWMB - Daily Cover" and §20690(a)(2) under "CIWMB - Alternative Daily Cover," requires that disposed solid waste be covered with a minimum of six inches of compacted earthen material or an approved alternative daily cover (ADC) daily cover at the end of each operating day or at more frequent intervals, if necessary, to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging. Accordingly, the EIR evaluated the landfill being expanded or developed utilizing a "fill and cover" sequence, where waste is deposited, compacted and covered in a series of cells and where daily cover would be placed over the waste at the end of each working day (Draft EIR, §3.3.3, FILL AND DAILY COVER, page 3-13).
4. The active working face of the landfill is distinguished from the daily working face of the landfill (the area where each day's operations are conducted) as being the actual area of exposed waste at a given time (Draft EIR, §3.3.3, FILL AND DAILY COVER, page 3-13).
5. On July 21, 2001, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Santa Ana Region, approved the issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 01-53 for the El Sobrante Landfill Expansion Project. Condition 17 of the WDRs requires that daily cover or an approved ADC be placed over the active face of the landfill at the end of each operating day, as defined in the landfill's SWFP, or when landfill operations cease for more than a 12-hour period.
6. While the operating day is also defined in Title 27 of *California Code of Regulations*, §20680(a) and §20690(a)(2), as the hours of operations specified in the SWFP, it

allows for the operating day to be extended for more than 24 hours if operations are continuous.

7. On August 6, 2001, the Riverside County Environmental Health Department, Local Enforcement Agency, with concurrence from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), issued SWFP No. 33-AA-0217.
8. SWFP No. 33-AA-0217 and the corresponding JTD for the El Sobrante Landfill define the operating day as a 24-hour operation, 7 days per week, except on recognized County holidays, with disposal operations allowed from 4:00 A.M. to Midnight and with only nonwaste operations (i.e., application of cover, stockpiling of cover material, site maintenance, grading, vehicle maintenance) allowed from Midnight to 4:00 A.M.
9. With the exception of Saturday, when the landfill is open to the public from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., and on Sunday, when the landfill is closed, the El Sobrante Landfill is a 24-hour operation on Monday through Friday, operating continuously Monday through Saturday.
10. Under the existing permit, soil cover and/or an approved ADC are applied to the active working face of the landfill following the close of disposal operations at Midnight on Monday through Friday. The active working face is then immediately prepared or uncovered (in the case of using a tarp) before the start of disposal operations (4 A.M.) on the subsequent day.
11. The project is a proposal to revise the SWFP and the corresponding JTD to extend the hours that define the "operating day" as 3:00 A.M. Monday to 8:00 P.M. Saturday and to suspend the requirement to apply soil cover and/or ADC to the active face of the landfill on a daily basis until the end of the "operating day" (8:00 P.M. Saturday) or when landfill operations cease for more than a 12-hour period, in accordance with the landfill's WDRs and as allowed by §20680(a) and §20690(a)(2) of Title 27.
12. The EIR evaluated environmental impacts, such as air emissions (i.e., generation of dust, NO<sub>x</sub>) and noise, associated with the daily excavation and application of soil cover or ADC. The Findings of Fact adopted by the BOS on September 1, 1998 found that all potential impacts of the El Sobrante Landfill Expansion (direct, indirect, and cumulative) could be fully mitigated to below a level of significance by the implementation of mitigation measures identified in the adopted Mitigation Monitoring Program.
13. Decreasing the number of applications of cover material at the active face of the landfill will not result in a corresponding increase of impacts, because: 1) landfill operations are continuous; 2) intermediate cover of side slopes and top decks will continue to be applied as required by regulations; 3) waste at the active face that is exposed for periods longer than 12 hours (i.e., County holiday or Sunday) will continue to receive daily cover as required by regulations; and, 4) regulations require daily cover as necessary to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging.
14. Decreasing the number of applications of cover material at the active face of the landfill, as currently required, will result in approximately 4 fewer applications of daily cover during the week, therefore resulting in a net decrease in the level of air quality (e.g., dust, NO<sub>x</sub>) and noise impacts evaluated in the EIR and otherwise generated by the daily excavation and application of soil and/or alternative daily cover, such as a tarp.

15. There are no provisions in the Second El Sobrante Landfill Agreement or the certified EIR and corresponding Mitigation Monitoring Program for the El Sobrante Landfill Expansion that preclude the change in operation as proposed by the project.
16. The proposed changes to the SWFP and corresponding JTD are in compliance with Condition 17 of the landfill's WDRs and §20680(a) and §20690(a)(2) of Title 27.
17. The proposed changes will not result in new significant environmental effects or in a substantial increase in the severity of significant effects previously identified in the certified EIR for the El Sobrante Expansion Project, and, therefore, a subsequent EIR, as described in §15162 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, is not required, and an Addendum to the EIR can be prepared pursuant to §15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.

If there are any questions regarding the above matter, please contact Lesley Likins at the Riverside County Waste Management Department at (909) 486-3200.

**Joseph R. McCann, General Manager – Chief Engineer  
Riverside County Waste Management Department**

By:   
**Michael Schier**

Title: Planning Manager

Date: 10-27-03