

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

709



FROM: Waste Management Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
November 14, 2005

SUBJECT: Solid Waste Facility Permit Revision for Coachella Valley Transfer Station

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

1. **Adoption** of a DeMinimis Impact Finding that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on biological resources.
2. **Approval** of the Solid Waste Facility Permit Revision for the Coachella Valley Transfer Station.
3. **Adoption** of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. 40253, based upon the findings in the Initial Study and the conclusion that the proposed revision to the Coachella Valley Transfer Station Solid Waste Facility Permit will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures incorporated into the project.
4. **Adoption** of the Mitigation Monitoring Program for EA No. 40253.

BACKGROUND: The project is a proposal to revise the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) of the Coachella Valley Transfer Station (CVTS), which is located in eastern Riverside County at 87-011A Landfill Road, approximately two miles northeast of the Interstate 10/Dillon Road interchange and immediately north and west of Coachella city limits. The CVTS, which was formerly called the Coachella/Indio Transfer/Recycling Station, is a municipal solid waste (MSW) transfer station and recycling facility that has been in operation since July 2000 and is operating under SWFP No. 33-AA-0248/97-01, issued by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) of the Riverside County Environmental Health Department in April 1997. The CVTS is situated on approximately 14.47 acres

(Continued)

Hans W. Kernkamp, General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ -0-	In Current Year Budget:	NA
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ -0-	Budget Adjustment:	NA
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ -0-	For Fiscal Year:	NA

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

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent
- Policy
- Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** 4 | **Agenda Number:**

**ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD**

12.1

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL

NOV 17 2005

Departmental Concurrence

BY

Coachella Valley Transfer Station Solid Waste Facility Permit Revision

F11 Submittal Date: November 14, 2005

BOS Hearing Date: November 29, 2005

Page 2

within the 640-acre property limits of the closed Coachella Landfill. The project site is leased from the Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD) by the Cities of Coachella and Indio as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Burrtec Waste Industries, who is the operator of the facility under contract to the JPA, constructed the existing transfer station, which consists of the following:

- A pre-engineered metal transfer building, comprising approximately 15,000 square feet, with a maximum height of 32 feet, a 614-square foot office with restrooms and break room, approximately three (3) individually operated roll-up doors for vehicles, a tipping floor of approximately 9,500 square feet, and two (2) below-grade transfer truck load-out docks totaling approximately 2,250 square feet.
- An existing truck scale and scalehouse that were previously used by the landfill operation.
- Eight (8) parking stalls along the west side of the transfer station building, with on-site parking for waste transport vehicles.
- A household hazardous waste storage container and used oil container.
- Buy-back/drop off to self-haulers for recyclable materials.
- Storage containers for recyclable materials, used tires, and white goods.

The current SWFP allows the CVTS to receive a maximum of 1,100 tons per day (TPD) of MSW, which includes residential waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction/demolition debris, green waste, and recyclables. The proposed project to revise the SWFP does not include increasing this daily tonnage limit.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project to revise the SWFP for the CVTS will result in the following revisions to the permit and improvements at the project site:

- Update of the SWFP to reflect the change in facility name from Coachella/Indio Transfer/Recycling Station to Coachella Valley Transfer Station.
- Update of the SWFP to reflect the address of the CVTS as 87-011A Landfill Road, and not 87-011 Landfill Road, in Coachella, CA 92236.
- Change in hours of operation from Monday through Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., allowing operations on Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. upon proper notification to the LEA, to the following permitted hours:

Scalehouse (Inbound Receipt of Waste/ABOP)

Monday through Sunday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Outbound Residuals and Recyclables

Monday through Saturday 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Internal Operations (Office and Facility/Site Maintenance)

Monday through Sunday 24 hours

- Update of the SWFP to reflect just the maximum daily tonnage of 1,100 TPD.
- Update of the SWFP to reflect just the total maximum traffic volume of 344 vehicles per day for all activities.
- Update of the SWFP to reflect the current lease area of 14.47 acres.
- Update of the SWFP to reflect that quarterly monitoring reports to the Regional Water Quality Control Board are not required for this facility.
- Expansion of the transfer and recycling facility.
- Addition of an ABOP (Anti-Freeze, Battery, Oil, Paint) collection operation.

Expansion of Transfer and Recycling Facility:

The proposed expansion of the CVTS will include the following improvements to the project site:

- Enlargement of the transfer station facility by adding approximately 27,000 square feet onto the east side of the existing building.
- Construction of two (2) below-grade transfer truck load-out ports along the north side of the expanded transfer building.
- Construction of a new employee and transfer truck parking lot immediately north of the scalehouse, providing for an additional 48 car stalls and 8 truck stalls.
- Construction of a second 70-foot truck scale at the entrance to the facility.
- Construction of a transfer truck tarping facility.
- Construction of a new transfer truck entrance ramp along the south and east side of the transfer building.
- Construction of an approximately 2,000 square foot canopy on the outside of the expanded transfer building along the north half of the east side, in conjunction with paved, outdoor storage for bulky wastes, including tires and E-waste, and other incidental storage.
- Installation of four (4) roll-up doors for use by commercial vehicles.
- Installation of additional security features, including lighting and chain link fencing.

In addition, the expansion will provide for approximately 24,750 additional square feet of tipping floor that will be utilized solely by commercial vehicles, while the floor within the existing portion of the CVTS will be designated for self-haul customers.

Addition of ABOP Operation:

The addition of an ABOP operation will allow the public (self-haulers) to drop-off ABOP-type household hazardous waste (HHW), in addition to certain recyclable materials, in an area designated for self-haul unloading to the south of the existing transfer station building. HHW that is collected as part of the ABOP operation or hazardous waste that is retrieved from the waste stream through the load checking program will be consolidated and stored in structurally sound, leak-proof containers and transported within required time frames (generally 90 days), in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Environmental Assessment (EA) No. 40253 was prepared by the RCWMD to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed revisions to the SWFP for the CVTS, 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 information contained within the EA, potential impacts may occur in the following areas:

- Seismicity/Soil/Slopes
- Water
- Air Quality
- Public Health and Safety;
- Noise
- Public Services
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Cultural/Paleontological Resources

All potential impacts 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), which requires adoption by the Board of Supervisors, incorporates these mitigation measures (see attached). Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines Section 15063*, a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which also requires adoption by the Board of Supervisors, has been prepared that documents the finding that the project will not result in any significant impacts.

In accordance with CEQA, a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and EA No. 40253 were posted with the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk and transmitted to responsible agencies and interested parties for comment for a period of time that by regulation could not be less than 30 days (see attached Transmittal List). A public notice advertising the Notice of Intent and EA was also published in *The Press-Enterprise* and *The Desert Sun*. All documents were also posted on the Department's internet 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 Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the Coachella Library, the Indio Library, the La Quinta Library, and the Cathedral City Library.

During the comment period for the EA, which officially began on September 7, 2005 and ended on October 7, 2005, and as of the writing of this Form 11, the Department received one (1) letter of no comment from the Coachella Valley Water District and three letters of comment from the following sources (see attached): 1) Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 2) the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and, 3) the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). Although not required by CEQA, responses to comments have been prepared and are attached for review by the Board in its consideration of approval of the project.

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

According to the *Riverside County General Plan* (adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on October 7, 2003), the project site is designated as "PF" (Public Facilities) on the Western Coachella Valley Area Plan – Land Use Map (Figure 3). The operation of a transfer and recycling facility, which offers essential solid waste services to the County and its cities, is consistent with this land use designation and the *General Plan*.

The proposed project is compatible with surrounding land uses, which include the closed landfill and vacant desert area or open space, with an existing compost facility to the south of the closed landfill within the landfill property. Beyond the landfill property boundaries, there are some existing sand and gravel operations located to the north and agriculture located to the west.

The CVTS site is Zoned N-A, Natural Assets. However, the Riverside County Waste Management Department is a public agency and the project proponent. As such, the proposed project is deemed a "public project" under the provisions of Section 18.2.a.b.(1) of Riverside County Land Use and Zoning Ordinance No. 348, which states, in part, that "no federal, state, county or city governmental project shall be subject to the provisions of this ordinance." The project is, therefore, not subject to the zoning requirements.

The revision to the SWFP for the CVTS is consistent with the goals and policies of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP), with the facility being appropriately identified and described in the Riverside County Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE), an element of the CIWMP. The transfer station provides opportunities for recycling to local residents by offering buy-back/drop-off of recyclable commodities. The transfer station will also accept some source-separated recyclables

from curbside collection and will provide for some separation and sorting of easy-to-segregate and/or valuable recoverable materials from the MSW delivered to the facility. These efforts will serve to preserve landfill capacity and assist the jurisdictions it serves in meeting mandated diversion goals (Assembly Bill 939, et seq.). The CVTS provides a convenient, environmentally acceptable, and cost-effective facility for solid waste services in the eastern Coachella Valley area, significantly reducing the number of vehicle miles that would be traveled if waste went directly to a landfill, significantly reducing the air quality impacts attributed to longer hauling distances, and reducing the potential for illegal dumping by operating a transfer station at the former Coachella Landfill where users traditionally disposed of their MSW for approximately 25 years. Expansion of the transfer tipping floor will provide for a more efficient operation during peak periods. Operation of an ABOP household hazardous waste facility at the site will provide a further convenience to local residents.

Lastly, the project site is disturbed, containing an established land use, and does not contain any biological habitats. In addition, the project site is not located within any proposed conservation area identified in the *Public Draft Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (MSHCP/NCCP)*, dated October 15, 2004.