

746

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



**FROM:** Waste Management Department

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
December 4, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Oasis Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Revision

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

1. **Approval** of the Solid Waste Facility Permit Revision for the Oasis Landfill.
2. **Adoption** of Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment (EA) No. 40947, based upon the findings in the Initial Study and the conclusion that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect on the environment, because the mitigation measures described in the EA have been incorporated into the project.
3. **Adoption** of a De Minimis Impact Finding that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on biological resources.
4. **Adoption** of the Mitigation Monitoring Program for E.A. No. 40947.

**BACKGROUND:** On February 28, 2006, the Board authorized the Waste Management Department to submit an application for a revision to the Solid Waste Facility Permit for the Oasis landfill in order to reflect expanded operations from two days per year to two days per week. The need for expanded operations at the Oasis landfill is the result of the projected closure of the Mecca II landfill and will provide the community with a continuing outlet for residents and businesses that are exempt from mandatory collection while continuing to help combat illegal dumping. (Cont'd)

  
Hans W. Kernkamp, General Manager-Chief Engineer

Departmental Concurrence

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	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**

**County Executive Office Signature** 

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

SOOR DEC -E VW11:30  
RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Oasis Landfill services the unincorporated communities of Oasis and Mecca and the surrounding agricultural areas. Since January 7, 1998, the landfill has been open just two days per year; the second Saturday of October and April. In order to accommodate the anticipated growth in waste disposal from the local landfill service area, the proposed project involves revising the landfill's SWFP as follows:

**Change in Hours and Days of Operation**

The days of operation will increase up to two days per week. The hours of operation will change to 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Change in Peak Daily Tonnage**

The maximum daily disposal tonnage at the landfill will remain at 400 tons per day (tpd), but the peak daily tonnage on the SWFP will be increased from 400 tpd to 450 tpd to account for the up to 50 tpd of ground greenwaste that may be used at the site as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) to cover the working face of the landfill at the end of each operating day.

**Change in Estimated Closure Date**

The closure date for the Oasis Landfill will change from 2186 to August 2021 due to increased tonnage per year and increased operations.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:** Environmental Assessment (EA) No. 40947 was prepared by the Riverside County Waste Management Department (Department) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from the revision to the Solid Waste Facility Permit for the Oasis Landfill and to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate these impacts. The EA was prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 et. seq., and the Riverside County Rules to Implement CEQA.

While the EA has identified that the proposed project has the potential to impact or be impacted by seismicity/soils/slopes, water quality, traffic, air quality, public health and safety, noise, and public services, each of these potential impacts can be fully mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the EA. As a result, the Department has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for adoption by the Board, pursuant to Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines.

In accordance with CEQA, the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and EA were posted with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk and were transmitted to responsible agencies and interested parties (see attached Transmittal List) for a 30-day comment period that began on October 13, 2006 and ended on November 15, 2006. Public notices advertising the public comment period for the Notice of Intent and EA were also published in the *The Press-Enterprise* and *Desert Sun*. All documents could also be viewed on the Department's website at [www.rivcom.org](http://www.rivcom.org). Lastly, copies of the EA were made available to the public at the Riverside County Waste Management Department, the Mecca Public Library, the Coachella Public Library, and the City of Riverside Central Library.

During the comment period, the Department received a total of four (4) letters of comment from the following sources (see attached): 1) California Integrated Waste Management Board; 2) Department of Toxic Substances Control; 3) County of Riverside Transportation and Land Management Agency - Planning Department; and, 4) 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. While *CEQA Guidelines* do not require the Lead Agency to prepare written responses of comment on the Negative Declaration, the Department has prepared responses to those agencies with specific comments about the project (see attached Responses to Comments). In staff's consideration, the comments do not warrant any revision of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Staff is recommending 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 Finding with Riverside County General Plan, Zoning, Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) 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 Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan- Land Use Map. The Public Facility Area Plan Land Use Designation policies specifically allow landfill operations and call for protection of landfills from encroachment of incompatible land uses. The operation of the Oasis Sanitary Landfill, which provides essential solid waste services to the unincorporated community of Oasis and surrounding agricultural land, is consistent with this land use designation and the General Plan.

Per Riverside County Land Use and Zoning Ordinance No. 348, the W-2 zoning classification identifies "Disposal Service Operations" as being conditionally permitted within this zone. In addition, since the RCWMD is a public agency and the project proponent, the proposed project is deemed a "public project" under the provisions of Section 18.2.a.b.(1) of this ordinance, which states, in part, that "no federal, state, county or city governmental project shall be subject to the provisions of this ordinance." The Oasis Landfill is a County landfill operated for the benefit of the public and is, therefore, not subject to zoning requirements.

The project site is not located within any conservation area identified or proposed in the Draft Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition, the Oasis Landfill is an existing facility, and no new construction will occur as a result of the proposed project that would cause any disturbance to native habitat.

The Oasis Landfill is consistent with the goals and policies of the CIWMP. The goals of the Siting Element of the CIWMP address the need for providing long-term disposal capacity and economically and environmentally safe operation of the landfill system. The proposed revisions to the SWFP ensure that the landfill site will continue to provide long-term disposal capacity to meet the needs of County residents within the unincorporated communities of Oasis, Mecca, North Shore and Thermal.