

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

723



FROM: Waste Management Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 9, 2009

SUBJECT: Lamb Canyon Landfill Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Revision Project

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. APPROVE the Lamb Canyon Landfill SWFP Revision Project;
2. ADOPT a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Environmental Assessment (EA) No. 39652, based upon the findings in the Initial Study and the conclusion that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures incorporated into the project; and,
3. ADOPT the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for EA No. 39652.

BACKGROUND: The Lamb Canyon Landfill property encompasses a total of 1,189 acres located at 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, off State Highway 79, between the City of Beaumont and the City of San Jacinto, in an unincorporated area of Riverside County. The Lamb Canyon Landfill, which is owned and operated by the Riverside County Waste Management Department, has been in operation since 1970 and is defined as a Class III sanitary landfill facility, providing solid waste disposal capacity to its local service area (generally considered to include the Cities of Beaumont, (Continued)

Hans W. Kernkamp, General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA	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:	N/A

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

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:
Alex Gann

County Executive Office Signature

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

3000-111 TW 10:00
 Prev. Agn. Ref.:
 DISTRICT 5

District: 5

Agenda Number:

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Banning, San Jacinto, and Hemet and surrounding unincorporated communities) and to the Coachella Valley, receiving waste for disposal from two transfer stations, the Edom Hill Transfer Station and the Coachella Valley Transfer Station.

The landfill's SWFP was previously revised in 2003, primarily to increase the daily disposal capacity to 3,000 tons per day (tpd) and to expand the landfill disposal footprint, and again in 2005 to allow waste acceptance during non-daylight hours occurring between 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM and to allow the use of artificial lighting.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is a proposal to revise Lamb Canyon Landfill SWFP No. 33-AA-0007 and to implement other ancillary activities and improvements at the landfill. The primary purpose of the proposed SWFP is to:

- Increase the maximum daily disposal capacity from 3,000 tpd to 5,000 tpd (not including 500 tpd of processed green waste received at the landfill for *Alternative Daily Cover* or for erosion control) and increase the maximum daily traffic volume from 756 vehicles to 913 vehicles, in order to accommodate future growth and waste disposal from the local landfill service area, from the Coachella Valley area, and from the Badlands Landfill;
- Enlarge the area permitted for active landfill operations from 353.4 acres to 580.5 acres to allow for dirt management activities to be conducted within approximately 202 acres located to the west of the currently active landfill area, which may include landfill cover excavation and stockpiling activities, access road excavation activity, and activities associated with technical field studies, such as trenching and borings to determine the viability of using this area for future landfill disposal; and,
- Change the landfill hours to allow 24-hour ancillary or non-disposal operations, 7 days per week, and to allow the landfill gate hours and the receipt of waste to extend from 4 AM to 9 PM, 7 days per week, if longer gate hours are ever needed to accommodate off-peak deliveries of waste from transfer stations and to reduce traffic congestion and air emissions.

The project also encompasses future actions within the existing area permitted for landfill operations, which includes, but is not limited to, 1) final closure of a portion of Phase I of the landfill disposal footprint (approximately 13 acres of 73.6 acres); 2) closure of the existing Central Accumulation Facility (CAF) where hazardous waste separated through the load check program is consolidated; 3) build-out and increased diversion activities within an area referred to as the Waste Recycle Park (WRP) that may include processing tires, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, and green/woody waste; 4) expansion of the area for equipment maintenance into the area where the existing field office is located; and, 5) the potential installation of a landfill gas-to-energy facility.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS: EA No. 39652 was prepared by the Riverside County Waste Management Department to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Lamb Canyon Landfill SWFP Revision Project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and *CEQA Guidelines* (Section 15000 *et seq.*). Based on the EA, the Department identified that potential impacts may occur in the following areas analyzed in the EA: 1) Seismicity/Soils/Slopes; 2) Water; 3) Transportation/Circulation; 4) Air Quality, 5) Biological Resources; 6) Public Health and Safety; 7) Noise; 8) Public Services; 9) Utilities and Service Systems; and 10) Cultural/Paleontological Resources. However, each of these potential impacts was either found to be less than significant or can be avoided or fully mitigated to below a level of significance with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the EA. A MMP for the

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Lamb Canyon Landfill SWFP Revision Project, which requires adoption by the Board of Supervisors, has been prepared to incorporate these mitigation measures (see attached). In addition, a MND, documenting the finding that the project will not have any significant impacts, has also been prepared for adoption by the Board, pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15063.

In accordance with CEQA, the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and EA No. 39652 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 December 31, 2008 and ended on February 2, 2009. A public notice advertising the public comment period for the Notice of Intent and EA was also published in *The Record Gazette*, *The Valley Chronicle*, and *The Press Enterprise* (in English and Spanish). All documents could also be viewed on the Department's website (www.rivcowm.org). Lastly, copies of the EA were made available to the public at the offices of the Riverside County Waste Management Department in Moreno Valley and at public libraries in the Cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Banning, Hemet, San Jacinto, and Riverside.

During the comment period the Department received a total of eight (8) letters of comment from the following sources (see attached): 1) Environmental Health Department - Hazardous Materials Management Division; 2) Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (comments via two E-mails); 3) City of Beaumont; 4) Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; 5) Riverside County Fire Department; 6) California Integrated Waste Management Board; 7) Department of Toxic Substances. The Waste Management Department has reviewed the comments on the proposed MND to determine if the comments would result in a substantial revision of the MND, as defined in State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5. While CEQA Guidelines do not require the Lead Agency to prepare written responses to the comments on the MND, the Department has prepared responses to those agencies with specific comments about the project (see attached Letters of Comment and Responses to Comments). Staff has determined that the comments do not warrant any revision, and Staff continues to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the MND on the basis that potential project impacts, as identified in the EA, can be avoided or fully mitigated as previously noted.

Consistency with Riverside County General Plan, Zoning, and Other Applicable Environmental Plans or Policies

The Lamb Canyon Landfill is consistent with the Riverside County General Plan and its land use designation of "PF" (Public Facilities), pursuant to the land use maps for both the San Jacinto Area Plan and The Pass Area Plan. The PF land use designation policies specifically allow landfill operations and protect landfills from encroachment of incompatible land uses.

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.

Other environmental plans or policies that apply to the Lamb Canyon Landfill and proposed project include the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and the Riverside Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP). According to the Western Riverside County MSHCP, the proposed project is located within Criteria Area. Under Section 7.3, *Covered Activities Inside Criteria Area*, of the MSHCP, the landfill is identified as a "Covered Activity" in Table 7-15. The MSHCP stipulates that operations, maintenance and expansion activities at

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existing waste management facilities are a covered activity if performed within the property boundaries of the facility. As such, the proposed project is a covered activity, providing the Waste Management Department, as a Permittee, fulfills its obligations under the MSHCP and its Implementation Agreement, which will require that the Department submit an application for Joint Project Review (JPR) to the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) for review and approval prior to any new disturbance (see Mitigation Measure B-6 under Biological Resources in MMP).

The existing landfill and its operations, as well as the proposed project, are consistent with the goals and policies of the CIWMP in providing for long-term disposal capacity. The Waste Management Department has also implemented practices and programs consistent with the goals of the CIWMP's Siting Element to ensure that the operation of the landfill system is economically efficient and environmentally-safe. Lastly, existing and proposed activities within the area denoted as the WRP not only preserve landfill capacity, but also serve to promote the benefits of recycling, reuse, and safe disposal practices, consistent with the goals of other CIWMP Elements (i.e., the County's and each City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Household Hazardous Waste Element).