

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Simi Valley Landfill Expansion, Case No. LU07-0048

The County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, Planning Division currently is processing an application for a Major Modification to a Conditional Use Permit for the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center as described below. The Planning Division completed an Initial Study for the proposed project and determined that the proposed project (individually and cumulatively) may have a significant effect on the environment and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. The purpose of this notice is to call your attention to this project, and to request that you assist the Planning Division identify any issues that should be addressed in the EIR. Information on the proposed project and instructions on how to provide commentary on the scope of the EIR are provided below.

Project Location: The project site is located within the unincorporated area of Ventura County, north of the City of Simi Valley, at 2801 Madera Road. The project site entrance is located approximately 1,500 feet west of Madera Road, and adjacent to State Route 118. The proposed project is located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute Simi Valley West topographic quadrangle, T 2 North, R 18 West, within sections 5 (northwest $\frac{1}{4}$) and section 6 (northeast $\frac{1}{4}$), T 3 North, R 18 West within sections 31 (southeast $\frac{1}{4}$) and section 32 (southwest $\frac{1}{4}$).

Project Description (Summary): The project consists of an application for a Major Modification (No. 8) to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Case No. 3142, in order to allow: additional recycling facilities; consolidation of local refuse and recycling collection operations; a lateral and vertical expansion of existing landfill operations; and, an extension of the disposal capacity and life of the landfill. The current daily tonnage limit for all materials entering the landfill (disposal tons and recyclables) is proposed to remain at 9,250 tons per day (TPD); however, the allocation of material types would change from 3,000 TPD of material for disposal and 6,250 TPD of recyclable material, to 6,000 TPD of material for disposal and 3,250 TPD of recyclable material.

The project also includes the consolidation of the applicants' existing facilities by relocating the applicants' waste hauling yard (which is currently located at 195 W. Los Angeles Avenue, in the City of Simi Valley) to the project site. In order to accommodate the consolidation of the facilities, the applicant is proposing to construct: office and maintenance buildings; a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)/Recyclables Transfer Facility (RTF); a household hazardous waste collection facility (Simi Valley Environmental Collection Center – SVECC); an environmental education center; construction and demolition (C&D) processing area; a new landfill gas to liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility; and, an expansion of the existing landfill gas to energy program to include three additional generators and an expansion of the green waste recycling area. The landfill footprint would be expanded to a total of 371 acres for waste disposal and the CUP

boundary would expand to a total of 887 acres, including a 516-acre buffer area surrounding the proposed disposal footprint. (Please see the Initial Study that was prepared for this project for a more detailed project description.)

Potentially Significant Impacts for Analysis in the EIR: The Planning Division prepared an Initial Study which revealed that the project has the potential to create a significant impact to the following resources, which must be analyzed as part of an EIR: agricultural soils; General Plan environmental goals and policies; community character; housing; air quality; endangered, threatened, or rare species; wetland habitat; wildlife migration corridors; locally important species and habitat communities; agricultural resources (soils and air quality/microclimate); visual resources (scenic highway and scenic area/feature); paleontological resources; cultural resources (archaeological and historical resources); noise and vibration; public roads and highways (level of service); and, waste treatment/disposal (individual sewage disposal). The Initial Study also revealed that the project has the potential to create a potentially significant, but mitigable, impact to visual resources (glare), which also must be evaluated as part of the EIR.

Availability of the Initial Study: For responsible agencies, trustee agencies, affected cities, and other governmental agencies, a copy of the Initial Study has been included with this Notice of Preparation. For all others, you may request a copy of the Initial Study from Dan Klemann, M.A., Senior Planner, at (805) 654-3588 or via email at daniel.klemann@ventura.org.

Public Input: The purpose of this notice is to call your attention to this project and to request that you assist the Planning Division identify any issues that should be addressed in the EIR. Comments on the scope of analysis of the EIR must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days after receipt of this Notice of Preparation. Please send your comments to:

Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Planning Division
Attn.: Dan Klemann, M.A., Senior Planner
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#1740
Ventura, CA 93009

Alternatively, you may email your comments to Mr. Klemann at daniel.klemann@ventura.org or fax them at (805) 654-2509.

Scoping Meeting: Pursuant to the *State CEQA Guidelines* [California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, §15082(c)(1), §15206(b)(5), and §15380], the proposed project is of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance and, therefore, the Planning Division will be conducting a scoping meeting for the EIR. A separate notice indicating the date, time, and location of the scoping meeting will be prepared; if you would like to receive a copy of the notice for the scoping meeting, please submit a written request to Mr. Klemann using the contact information provided above.

If you have questions or concerns, or would like to meet with County staff to discuss the contents of this notice, please contact Pat Richards, Manager, Land Use Permits Section, at (805) 654-5192, Becky Linder, Senior Planner, at (805) 662-6519 or Daniel Klemann, Senior Planner, at (805) 654-3588, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kimberly L. Rodriguez, Director
Planning Division

Attachment 1 - Notice of Preparation Mailing List
Attachment 2 - Initial Study