



Department of
Resources Recycling and Recovery

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Ken DaRosa
CalRecycle Acting Director

July 3, 2020

7/6/2020

Janice Mayes, Planner III
Kern County Planning & Natural
Resources Department
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
mayesj@kerncounty.com

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 03 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Subject: SCH No. 2004111015 - Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Shafter Wasco Recycling & Sanitary Landfill Compost and Waste Diversion Project, Facility No. 15-AA-0057, Kern County

Dear Ms. Mayes:

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) staff offer the following comments for this proposed project as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) in preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in order to comply with CEQA and to provide information to, and solicit consultation with, Responsible Agencies in the approval of the proposed project.

Project Description

The Shafter-Wasco Composting and Waste Diversion Project (proposed Project) site is in the unincorporated area of western Kern County, California. The Project is located within the 407.69-acre Shafter-Wasco Recycling and Sanitary Landfill (RSLF), which is an existing class III municipal solid waste landfill owned by the County of Kern and operated by the Public Works Department. RSLF is located at 17621 Scofield Avenue, Shafter, California, approximately eight miles west of the City of Shafter and nine miles northeast of the City of Wasco in an unincorporated area of Kern County. The Tax Assessor's parcel numbers (APN) for the property that comprises the 357.48-acre project site include 088-100-08, 088-100-38, and 088-100-40. Surrounding land uses within two miles of the landfill consist of agricultural cultivation except for four dairies. The nearest dwelling is 1/2 mile west of the site. The permitted facility boundary encompasses 357.48 acres of which 135 acres are permitted for disposal and approximately 92 acres contain the existing refuse footprint area. The landfill consists of five modules total - one unlined module (Module 1), two lined modules (Modules 2 and 3) currently constructed, and two additional lined modules (Modules 4 and 5) planned for construction in the future.

The proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a covered aerated static pile (CASP) forced aeration composting system, which would include positive or negative aeration infrastructure to push or pull air flow into the compost material during the active compost phase. The Public Works Department may utilize an engineered membrane fabric cover technology or a biocover (such as 12 inches of finished compost or wood chips) to cover a compost pile. The proposed Project would include the following compostable organic feedstocks, as defined by Title 14 CCR and Senate Bill 1383 – green material, food material, vegetative food material, organic waste, manure, and agricultural material. Construction of the facility may occur in two phases.

As such, construction of Phase 1 (16 bunkers at 50,000 TPY) would be initially constructed. Operations of Phase 1 would run concurrently with the construction of Phase 2 (an additional 16 bunkers at 50,000 TPY). Total operational capacity of the proposed composting facility would be 32 bunkers and 100,000 TPY. The construction of the compost and self-haul facility is anticipated to begin in 2021 and operational in 2022.

The proposed Project also includes an enhancement to existing diversion activities by providing additional self-haul transfer and processing activities at a dedicated location in the diversion area of the northern buffer area. Items targeted for diversion include, but are not limited to, scrap metal, wood waste, dimensional lumber, tires, tree trimmings, brush, grass clippings, organic wastes, inerts (concrete, asphalt, tile, etc.), drywall, electronic waste, mixed recyclables (cardboard, paper, aluminum, plastics, etc.), mattresses, and carpet. Residual solid wastes that cannot be salvaged would be sent to disposal.

The proposed project would request the following modifications to CUP No.1, Map #78; and General Plan Amendment No. 10, Map #78 (PP20404):

- (1) Increase to the permitted hours for the Receipt of Refuse/Waste from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days per week to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days per week. Hours for the Receipt of Waste is defined as the days and hours open to all customers for the deposition of waste and diversion materials.
- (2) Change in Ancillary and Facility Operating Hours from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days per week to 24-hours a day, seven days per week;
- (a) Facility Operating Hours is defined as the days and hours during which non-disposal activities occur, including but not limited to:
Prescriptive cover placement; Alternative daily cover placement and removal; Facility and equipment maintenance; Dust control activities; Stockpile management; Processing, loading, handling, and transporting of diversion materials; Maintenance and operation of the compost facility; Environmental monitoring system maintenance, installation, and monitoring; and Other non-disposal related activities associated with the operation, maintenance, and monitoring of a solid waste disposal facility, compost facility, and diversion operation.

Solid Waste Buffer Area

- (3) Addition of 50.21 acres into the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) as permitted facility boundary and into the CUP as solid waste disposal buffer. The 50.21 acres is a portion of APN 088-100-08. No landfilling activities will occur on the parcel.

- (4) Utilize the property consistent with the existing CUP and identified land use approvals, (a) includes: borrow area, drainage facilities, landfill gas, and groundwater monitoring, passive energy collection facilities, and with prior written approval of the Director of the Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Department construction and closure activities.

Upon certification of the SEIR, the existing SWFP (Solid Waste Information Number 15-AA-0057) will be revised to reflect the following:

- Increase the permitted facility boundary to 407.69 acres that will include the additional buffer area;
- Increase the composting design capacity from zero tons per year to 100,000 tons per year; Increase the hours for the receipt of waste from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days per week to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days per week;
- Increase facility operating hours, including ancillary activities and non-disposal operations, from seven days per week 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 24 hours a day, seven days per week; and
- Update estimated closure year from 2059 to 2055.

COMMENTS

The current Shafter-Wasco Landfill Solid Waste Facilities Permit will require a revision to reflect the above noted changes and any specific terms and conditions applicable to the operations to comply with State Minimum Standards as determined appropriate by the LEA. Prior to implementation of the project, the operator shall submit an application package for a solid waste facilities permit revision pursuant to 27 CCR, section 21570 which shall be processed by the Local Enforcement Agency pursuant to 27 CCR, section 21650.

The Report of Facility Information/Joint Technical Document will also need to be updated through the permit revision process to describe the above changes with the addition of a Report of Composting Site Information and an updated Preliminary Closure Post-Closure Maintenance Plan and Non-Water Corrective Action Plan, if not currently on file.

The link below provides guidance in the preparation of environmental documents in complying with the CEQA requirements for solid waste facilities.

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Permitting/CEQA/Documents/Guidance/Disposal.htm>

Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight

The Kern County, Environmental Health Department is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including inspections. Please contact the LEA, Karen Sanford at (661) 862-8703 or KARENS@kerncounty.com to comply with the regulatory requirements for the proposed project.

CONCLUSION


CalRecycle staff thanks the Lead Agency for the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental document and hopes that this comment letter will be useful to the Lead Agency preparing the EIR and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process.

If the environmental document is certified during a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notice of this hearing. If the document is certified without a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notification of the date of certification and proposed project approval by the decision making body.

CalRecycle staff requests copies of any subsequent environmental documents, Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations (if one is required), Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, copies of public notices and any Notices of Determination for this proposed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 341-6304 or e-mail me at Christine.Karl@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Christine Karl
Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch, North Section
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division

cc: Karen Sanford, Kern County Environmental Health Department