

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DOCUMENT PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that local, regional, and State agencies and special purpose districts prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for any discretionary action that may have the potential to significantly affect the quality of the environment. The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RRWMD) has prepared this Subsequent EIR for the proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project (or Resource Recovery Project) to comply with the provisions of CEQA.

In accordance with Section 15121 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the purpose of this EIR is to serve as an informational document that:

"...will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project..."

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors certified an EIR (01-EIR-05) for, and approved, the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project (Front Canyon Expansion) on August 13, 2002. All applicable permits to construct and operate the expansion were received in 2003 and waste disposal is currently occurring in the permitted area. The Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project consists of the horizontal and vertical expansion of the landfill outside of the Coastal Zone, providing 8.2 million cubic yards of additional waste disposal capacity for a total permitted capacity of 23.3 million cubic yards.

Reconfiguration of the waste footprint associated with the Expansion Project (Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project) was proposed to reduce earthwork requirements and improve waste disposal operations. A Subsequent EIR (08EIR-00000-00007) was prepared for this project and certified by the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2009.

The State CEQA Guidelines provide guidance on the appropriate document for revisions to a previously certified EIR. Section 15162 requires that no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for a project unless the Lead Agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following:

- 1 (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the
2 previous EIR;
- 3 (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe
4 than shown in the previous EIR;
- 5 (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible
6 would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more
7 significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt
8 the mitigation measure or alternative; or
- 9 (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from
10 those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more
11 significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to
12 adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

13 The proposed project includes solid waste processing facilities (~~~56,500~~ 60,000 square
14 foot Material Recovery Facility [MRF], ~~~63,600~~ 63,360 square foot Anaerobic Digestion [AD]
15 Facility¹, Energy Facility and 5 acre composting area), office and visitor space, and operations
16 new to the landfill, not addressed in prior EIRs. The scoping document prepared for the project
17 in April 2012 identified the potential for significant impacts that would be new or substantially
18 different as compared to past EIRs prepared for landfill operations. Therefore, the Lead Agency
19 (Santa Barbara County) has determined that a Subsequent EIR is the appropriate CEQA
20 document to address the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

21 While AD facilities and MRFs can operate independently, the proposed operation of the
22 Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project is in concert with permitted Tajiguas Landfill operations
23 and specifically intended to reduce landfilling and thereby extend the life of the Tajiguas Landfill.

24 1.2 GENERAL OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

25 The RRWMD is responsible for the management of solid waste resources in Santa
26 Barbara County. RRWMD's mission is to protect the public health by providing County
27 residents with cost effective, innovative, and environmentally sound solutions in waste
28 management. RRWMD provides an integrated waste management system consisting of:
29 recycling programs for commingled recyclables and green-waste collection, programs for
30 residential and small business hazardous waste, sharps and pharmaceutical collection,
31 electronic waste collection and recycling, education, the operation of four recycling and transfer
32 stations, the operation of one household hazardous waste collection center, operation of the
33 Tajiguas Landfill, and management of ten closed landfills. In addition, the RRWMD is
34 responsible for administering the franchise agreements for the collection of solid waste
35 materials from residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County by private
36 solid waste collection firms, as well as the enforcement of local solid waste management
37 ordinances.

38 ¹ Square footage listed are waste processing building footprints

1 The Tajiguas Landfill has been in operation since 1967. An expansion of the landfill
2 (Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project) was approved in 2002. Minor changes to the Tajiguas
3 Landfill Expansion Project were approved in 2006 (elimination of the Southeast Corner
4 Modification and the reconfiguration of the North Slope borrow/stockpile area), and a
5 reconfiguration of the waste footprint associated with the Expansion Project (Tajiguas Landfill
6 Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project) was approved in 2009, with each project
7 being first analyzed pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act
8 (CEQA) (see Section 1.4 below). Collectively, the approved and permitted Tajiguas Landfill
9 Expansion Project as modified in 2006 and again in 2009 is herein after referred to as the
10 “Tajiguas Landfill Project”.

11 Since approval of the Tajiguas Landfill Project in 2002, the RRWMD staff has been
12 considering potential alternatives to landfilling. This effort has included two feasibility studies,
13 development of a request for proposals, a proposal review process, and a comprehensive public
14 outreach effort that has included over 100 presentations to stakeholders over the past five
15 years. The culmination of this research and public dialogue is the proposed modification of the
16 approved Tajiguas Landfill Project to include the construction and operation of a Resource
17 Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill to further recover recyclable material from the waste
18 stream and to provide an alternative to burying organic waste.

19 Recycling programs are extremely successful in the communities served by the Tajiguas
20 Landfill. These communities include the unincorporated areas of the South Coast, Cuyama and
21 Santa Ynez Valleys, as well as the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton.
22 Together these communities recycle more than 70 percent of the waste they generate.
23 However even with these programs, over 165,000 tons of waste was still buried at the Tajiguas
24 Landfill in 2012. Approximately half of this residual waste is recyclables like metals, and organic
25 waste. To capture and divert this additional recyclable material, the County is proposing a
26 Resource Recovery Project that would recover any recyclables still left in our trash cans as well
27 as any food and other organic waste to be converted into green energy and compost and/or soil
28 amendments.

29 Therefore, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21166 and State
30 CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, the County of Santa Barbara, RRWMD will be the Lead
31 Agency for the preparation of a Subsequent EIR for the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project (a
32 modification of the Tajiguas Landfill Project). A Subsequent EIR is being prepared because the
33 construction and operation of the Resource Recovery Project may represent a substantial
34 change to the approved and permitted Tajiguas Landfill Project; and the Resource Recovery
35 Project may result in changes in the types and magnitude of impacts identified in the previously
36 certified CEQA documents. The project reviewed in these prior CEQA documents, and
37 ultimately approved, involved municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal up to a maximum capacity
38 of 23.3 million cubic yards at the Tajiguas Landfill solely through burial. The Subsequent EIR
39 will compare the environmental impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project with the
40 environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of the
41 Resource Recovery Project (modified landfill project) at the Tajiguas Landfill.

1 **1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTY’S EXISTING WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

2 The following sections describe how MSW and recyclables are currently collected and
3 managed within the Tajiguas Landfill watershed and provide background information on the
4 composition and volume of the MSW disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill.

5 **1.3.1 MSW Collection and Recyclable Materials Management**

6 Since 1967, the County of Santa Barbara has been primarily responsible for waste
7 management and disposal for the communities that are currently served by the Tajiguas
8 Landfill. Almost all residents of these communities are a part of a three bin curbside collection
9 system that includes:

- 10 • Trash (MSW) in a brown bin;
- 11 • Commingled Recyclables in a blue bin; and
- 12 • Green-waste in a green bin.

13 All brown bin trash (MSW) is collected by either Waste Management Incorporated or
14 MarBorg Industries in packer or front loading trucks and then brought to the Tajiguas Landfill for
15 disposal. In some cases, MSW collected by MarBorg Industries is consolidated at their
16 MRF/Transfer Station in the City of Santa Barbara and brought to the Tajiguas Landfill in larger
17 capacity trailer trucks.

18 In the Santa Ynez Valley, blue bin recyclables are collected by MarBorg in the City of
19 Buellton and in the City of Solvang and the unincorporated area by Waste Management
20 Incorporated and, as contracted with the County of Santa Barbara, are taken to Waste
21 Management’s Materials Recovery Facility near Santa Maria, where the material is processed
22 and shipped out for sale. On the South Coast (including the cities of Santa Barbara and
23 Goleta), residential curbside recyclables are collected by MarBorg Industries and brought to the
24 South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station where the material is consolidated and taken to the
25 Gold Coast Materials Recycling Facility (Gold Coast) in Ventura. Gold Coast is currently
26 contracted to separate, bale and sell the recovered recyclables. About 10-15 percent of the
27 material brought to Gold Coast is non-recyclable which is back-hauled by the County and
28 disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill. A small portion of mixed recyclables collected from
29 commercial customers serviced by MarBorg Industries are brought back to MarBorg’s
30 MRF/Transfer Station in the City of Santa Barbara where recovered materials are separated,
31 baled and sold, and the non-recyclable residual is delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill for burial.

32 In the Santa Ynez Valley, in the city of Buellton, green bin green-waste is collected by
33 MarBorg and in the City of Solvang and in the unincorporated area by Waste Management, and
34 is taken to Waste Management’s yard in Santa Maria and is processed and delivered to Engel &
35 Gray facility for composting. On the South Coast (including the cities of Santa Barbara and
36 Goleta) source-separated green-waste is collected by MarBorg Industries and delivered to the
37 Tajiguas Landfill to be processed into a mulch and later distributed to residents, schools, parks
38 and agricultural operations.

1 As specified in Solid Waste Facility Permit 42-AA-0015, the Tajiguas Landfill is
2 prohibited from accepting any hazardous waste, designated waste, liquid waste, liquid sludge or
3 septic tank pumping, burning waste or hot ash, non-hazardous waste requiring special handling,
4 radioactive waste or medical waste (as defined in the California Health and Safety Code,
5 Division 104, Part 14, Section 117690) except as identified in the Joint Technical Document and
6 LEA-approved amendments thereto and as approved by other federal, state, and local
7 agencies.

8 Medical waste is a type of hazardous waste that may include sharps waste and
9 unwanted medications. As defined in the California Health & Safety Code, sharps waste
10 includes hypodermic needles, contaminated syringes, acupuncture needles, root canal files,
11 broken pipettes and blood vials, and trauma scene waste. For residents who generate sharps
12 waste at home, the County provides free storage containers and collects the full containers at its
13 Public Health clinics. The Public Health Department contracts with a medical waste company to
14 pick up and dispose of the waste. Also included in the County's exclusive franchise agreement
15 for solid waste collection is the provision of postage pre-paid used sharps collection containers
16 provided free of charge. The County also has a program for the collection of household
17 medications (Operation Medicine Cabinet). This program is available at each of the Sheriff's
18 nine substations throughout the County. Residents can deposit all unwanted medications, both
19 prescription and over-the-counter, in drop-boxes located outside the substations. The collected
20 medications are sent to an out-of-county facility for incineration.

21 Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) collection and recycling is offered on Fridays to
22 businesses and on the weekends to residents at the Community Hazardous Waste Collection
23 Center operated at the University of California at Santa Barbara campus, under contract with
24 the County. HHW is also collected at annual events held throughout the County. Recyclable
25 and less hazardous materials (i.e., antifreeze, batteries, motor oil, oil filters, and latex paint), are
26 collected at area transfer stations operated by the County and the private haulers.

27 Electronic waste and large appliances such as refrigerators and hot water heaters are
28 collected for recycling at the County owned and operated recycling and transfer stations as well
29 as facilities operated by the private haulers.

30 **1.3.2 Waste Characterization**

31 The Tajiguas Landfill receives various substreams of waste for disposal, including:
32 residential and commercial waste collected by contracted and franchised haulers as described
33 above; waste from four area transfer stations; residuals from the commingled recyclables
34 processed by Gold Coast in Ventura County; self-hauled waste (i.e., waste delivered by anyone
35 other than a contracted or franchised hauler, including waste hauled by individuals, businesses
36 or government agencies); and other waste including dead animals (farm animals such as horses
37 and cows) and hard to handle materials and grit (see Table 1-1).

38

1 **Table 1-1. Source of Waste Disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill (Calendar Year 2009)¹**

Waste Source	Tons	Percent of Total
Single-Family Residential ⁽²⁾	42,362	20.2
Multi-Family Residential ⁽²⁾	10,533	5.0
Commercial ⁽²⁾	80,301	38.2
Roll-offs/ Compactors ⁽²⁾	6,350	3.0
Transfer Stations ⁽³⁾	59,787	28.5
MRF Residuals ⁽⁴⁾	4,881	2.3
Self-Haul ⁽⁵⁾	5,246	2.5
Other ⁽⁶⁾	612	0.3
Total	210,072	100.0

2 (1) Source: Waste Characterization Study for the Tajiguas Landfill, SCS Engineers with Cascadia, March
 3 31, 2009

4 (2) Waste collected by contracted and franchised haulers.

5 (3) Waste brought to the Landfill in transfer trailers from four area transfer stations.

6 (4) Waste brought to the Landfill from the material recovery facility that could not be recovered for
 7 recycling or reuse.

8 (5) Waste delivered by anyone other than a contracted or franchised hauler, including waste hauled by
 9 individuals, businesses or government agencies.

10 (6) Includes dead animals, hard to handle materials, and grit.

11 The County completed a Waste Characterization Study in 2009 (SCS Engineers, March
 12 31, 2009) that included sampling and characterization of the various substreams of waste
 13 disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill. The substreams that were characterized in 2009 constitute
 14 approximately 97 percent (204,580 tons) of the waste that was disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill
 15 in 2008. Table 1-2 summarizes the overall composition of the waste stream that was
 16 characterized. As can be seen from Table 1-2, a large percentage of the waste was recyclable
 17 materials and organics.

18

**Table 1-2. Composition of Waste Disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill
(from 2009 Waste Characterization Study)⁽¹⁾**

Material	Tons	Percent
Paper	34,868	17.0
Glass	4,543	2.2
Metal	11,412	5.6
Plastic	14,817	7.2
Organics Food	39,260	19.2
Organics Other	36,872	18.0
Construction/Demolition	41,353	20.2
Special	6,531	3.2
HHW	233	0.1
Mixed Residue	14,691	7.2
Total⁽²⁾	204,580	100.0

⁽¹⁾ Source: Waste Characterization Study for the Tajiguas Landfill, SCS Engineers with Cascadia, March 2009.

⁽²⁾ Excludes 4,881 tons of MRF Residuals and 612 tons of "Other" waste that was disposed at the landfill in 2008 but that was not sampled in the 2009 characterization study. Totals are not exact due to rounding.

1.3.3 Landfill Waste and Traffic Volumes

Landfill waste and traffic volumes from the period from 2004 to 2012 are presented in Table 1-3. Note that decline in total tons received between 2008 and 2012 coincides with the economic down turn. The economy can affect the amount of waste generated because consumers buy less and in turn dispose of less, demand for products and services declines which translates into less commercial waste and construction of new homes and remodels of existing homes slows which reduces construction and demolition waste (SWANA, 2009).

1.4 BACKGROUND ON THE TAJIGUAS LANDFILL

The Tajiguas Landfill is a Class III non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility located in Santa Barbara County, California approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara (see Figures 3-1 and 3-2). The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, RRWMD is the owner and permitted operator of the landfill. The total landfill project site area is 497 acres, with a permitted operational area of 357 acres, a total permitted waste footprint of 118 acres, and a permitted capacity of 22.3 million cubic yards (Figure 3-3). The permitted waste area is comprised of both lined and unlined (pre-Subtitle D) areas. MSW currently delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill is generated by the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang, the unincorporated areas of southern Santa Barbara County, and the Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys. MSW is transported to the landfill from the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, the New Cuyama Transfer Station, and the Ventucopa Transfer Station, all operated by RRWMD.

1

Table 1-3. Summary of Peak Day Solid Waste Received and Vehicles

Year	Total Tons Received ^a	Peak Total Tons/Day	Peak Vehicles per Day ^b
2004	303,403.38	1,457	129
2005	307,128.00	1,563	128
2006	278,641.10	1,363	120
2007	267,599.83	1,642	127
2008	261,589.09	1,388	132
2009	233,456.62	1,475	114
2010	233,034.17	1,490	115
2011	241,518.19	1,405	109
2012	236,995.66	1,297	97
Average	262,596.23	1,453	119

^aIncludes all material received (MSW, green-waste, alternative daily cover)

^bDoes not include employee and other vehicles.

2

Private waste collection companies and limited numbers of private individuals also haul solid waste to the Tajiguas Landfill directly. Green-waste is brought directly to the Tajiguas Landfill by the franchise waste haulers (currently only MarBorg Industries at this time), and is also transferred in County transfer trucks from the South Coast and Santa Ynez Recycling and Transfer Stations. Currently, the Tajiguas Landfill is permitted to accept a maximum of 1,500 tons/day of MSW and green-waste. Based on current waste disposal rates, the Tajiguas Landfill is projected to reach its permitted capacity in approximately year 2026.

9

The Tajiguas Landfill site has been in operation since 1967 for the disposal of MSW. The initial siting, design and operation of the landfill was not subject to review under CEQA as the landfill predates adoption of CEQA in 1970. The Tajiguas Landfill also predates adoption of the Coastal Act, which designated coastal zones in California in 1976.

13

Several environmental documents have been prepared over the years to address approvals/permits associated with expansion and operation of the Tajiguas Landfill and to address other minor design or operational changes at the landfill. These documents and the projects they analyzed are described below².

17

² Other small projects at the landfill have been evaluated and approved under categorical exemptions.

1.4.1 Prior Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents

The following environmental documents were prepared for previous projects at the Tajiguas Landfill. In 1987, an EIR was prepared and certified for a proposed lateral expansion of the landfill into the northern portions of Cañada de la Pila (87-EIR-08). An addendum to 87-EIR-08 was prepared in 1988 and adopted by the County on July 21, 1988 for a vertical expansion of the existing waste footprint to an elevation of 500 feet above mean sea level (msl). The lateral expansion reviewed under the 1987 EIR was never implemented but the vertical expansion was completed.

To provide an interim increase in capacity, on August 3, 1999, the Board of Supervisors directed the RRWMD to proceed with the Tajiguas Landfill Bench Plan. The Bench Plan increased the permitted disposal design capacity of the landfill from 12.0 million cubic yards to 15.1 million cubic yards by re-grading and filling the outside faces of the landfill. The Bench Plan project was determined to be within the scope of the analysis of 87-EIR-08 and the July 21, 1988 addendum.

1.4.2 Environmental Documents for Current Landfill Operations

Following the Tajiguas Landfill Bench Plan project, the County moved forward with a proposal for a vertical and lateral expansion of the landfill to increase the volume of waste that could be disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill and to extend the landfill life by approximately 15 years (referred to as the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project). On August 13, 2002, the Board of Supervisors certified an EIR (01-EIR-05) for, and approved, the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project (Front Canyon Expansion³). The expansion, as permitted, consists of a 40 acre horizontal expansion (for a total permitted area of 118 acres) and 120-foot vertical expansion (for a maximum height limit of 620 feet above msl) of the landfill outside of the coastal zone, providing 8.2 million cubic yards of additional waste disposal capacity for a total capacity of 23.3 million cubic yards⁴.

Some modifications to the landfill design/operations occurred following the expansion approved in 2002. On December 5, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved minor changes to the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project. The changes included elimination of the Coastal Zone Southeast Corner Modification and reconfiguration of the North Slope borrow/stockpile area. These project changes were analyzed in a November 8, 2006 Addendum to 01-EIR-05 (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164).

³ Two landfill configurations (Front Canyon and Back Canyon) were analyzed in the EIR at project level of detail.

⁴ It should be noted that 01-EIR-05 analyzed a larger horizontal and vertical expansion than what was ultimately permitted.

1 In 2007, the County proposed a change in the location of the Green-waste Processing
2 Area and found, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (Planning and Development
3 15162 determination letter dated April 19, 2007), that no substantial changes were proposed in
4 the project, no substantial changes occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the
5 project was undertaken, and no new information of substantial importance was received with
6 respect to the project or the mitigation measures, and therefore no new Environmental Impact
7 Report was required for the approval of the proposed change to the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion
8 Project associated with relocating the Green-waste Processing Area.

9 On May 5, 2009, the Board of Supervisors certified a Subsequent EIR (08EIR-00000-
10 00007) for, and approved, the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration
11 Project. The project involved the reconfiguration of the waste footprint approved as a part of the
12 Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project which provided a number of engineering and environmental
13 benefits and the comprehensive restoration of native habitats on the County-owned Baron
14 Ranch to benefit the federally threatened California red-legged frog. The reconfiguration did not
15 modify any of the operational parameters (e.g., refuse capacity, operating hours, environmental
16 protection systems) reviewed in 01-EIR-05.

17 On March 18, 2014, Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (Planning and
18 Development 15162 determination letter dated December 19, 2013), the Board of Supervisors
19 found that no substantial changes were proposed in the project, no substantial changes
20 occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project was undertaken, and no
21 new information of substantial importance was received with respect to the project or the
22 mitigation measures, and therefore no new Environmental Impact Report was required for the
23 approval the Tajiguas Landfill Phase 3B Groundwater Protection System including a proposed
24 change in the location of temporary soil stockpiles for the project.

25 The Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project EIR (01-EIR-05) certified by the Board of
26 Supervisors on August 13, 2002, the November 8, 2006 Addendum accepted by the Board of
27 Supervisors on December 5, 2006, and the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch
28 Restoration Project Subsequent EIR (08EIR-00000-00007) certified by the Board of Supervisors
29 on May 5, 2009 are herein after referred to as the "Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents"

30 Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental
31 Documents are hereby incorporated by reference. These documents are available for review at
32 <http://conversiontechnologystudy.com/pages/downloads/environmental-documents.php>.

33 **1.4.3 Tajiguas Landfill Permits**

34 The Tajiguas Landfill is fully permitted and operational. The landfill operates under the
35 following permits:

- 36 • Solid Waste Facility Permit 42-AA-0015 issued ~~October 20, 2009~~ February 10,
37 2014⁵;

⁵ The Permit was updated to include disposal of treated wood waste.

- 1 • Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order Number R3-2010-0006 adopted
2 February 4, 2010;
- 3 • APCD Permit to Operate No. 9788-R3 and Part 70 Operating Permit No. 9788-
4 R3 issued December 22, 2010; and
- 5 • Industrial Storm Water Permit No. 3 42S000451 issued October 23, 1992.

6 The WDRs contain a Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2010-0006 which,
7 among other monitoring requirements, requires the monitoring of groundwater at the Tajiguas
8 Landfill. Groundwater south of the landfill is monitored in a series of groundwater monitoring
9 wells and a groundwater/leachate interceptor trench (GLCRS). Figure 1-1 presents historical
10 groundwater quality from sampling of the GLCRS. The linear trend line indicates an
11 improvement in groundwater quality between 1994 and 2013. The improvement in groundwater
12 quality is attributable to a number of actions at the landfill which include installation and
13 operation of the following groundwater protection measures:

- 14 • Landfill gas collection and recovery system;
- 15 • GLCRS to recover liquid flowing in the alluvium south of the landfill,
- 16 • Composite liner and leachate collection systems under portions of the landfill
17 disposal area; and
- 18 • Horizontal well dewatering system.

19 **1.5 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW**

20 The proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project is being implemented in response to,
21 and is supported by, a number of state initiatives and laws which are summarized below.

22 **1.5.1 State Assembly Bill 32**

23 Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, an act
24 which added Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) to the California Health and Safety
25 Code, set a goal of the reduction of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) generated in the State to
26 1990 levels by the year 2020. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has adopted a
27 Scoping Plan detailing the various state-wide GHG reduction actions that will be required to
28 achieve this unfunded State mandate. CARB approved the Scoping Plan on December 12,
29 2008. In August 2011, the Scoping Plan was re-approved by CARB.

30 ~~AB 32's "Scoping Plan" as well as the CARB-adopted plan of January 2009, includes~~
31 ~~increased recycling and landfill methane capture as key components of achieving this significant~~
32 ~~reduction in GHGs. CARB estimates a total statewide reduction of 1.5 million metric tons of~~
33 ~~carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO₂e) through the establishment of better waste management~~
34 ~~practices similar to those proposed in the Resource Recovery Project.~~

1 AB 32's "Scoping Plan" as well as the CARB-adopted plan of January 2009, includes
2 increased recycling and landfill methane capture as key components of achieving this significant
3 reduction in GHGs. More recently, guidelines and recommendations were completed in March
4 2014 for the Waste Management Sector element of the 2013 Scoping Plan Update that
5 identified the need to divert an additional 22,000,000 tons of material from landfills in order to
6 achieve the necessary GHG reductions. The report indicates that in order to meet these GHG
7 emission and waste reduction goals, "we must maximize recycling and diversion from landfills
8 and build the necessary infrastructure to support a sustainable, low-carbon waste management
9 system within California". A Working Paper specifically for Composting and Anaerobic
10 Digestion was completed as an attachment to the Update further supporting the need to expand
11 the state's ability to compost organics and generate renewable energy through anaerobic
12 digestion. In addition, CARB in conjunction with CalRecycle is currently considering additional
13 regulation to be passed in 2018 that would effectively eliminate all organics from disposal in
14 landfills by 2025.

15 **1.5.2 State-wide Anaerobic Digestion Initiative and Program EIR (SCH# 2010042100)**

16 The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is
17 responsible for overseeing the State's recycling and waste management programs and
18 responsible for permitting landfills, recycling facilities and composting operations pursuant to
19 Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. Under its Strategic Directive 6.1, CalRecycle
20 seeks to reduce by 50 percent the amount of organic waste disposed in the state's landfills by
21 2020. In addition to helping conserve limited landfill capacity, this CalRecycle policy recognizes
22 that organic wastes are a resource, not just solid wastes that must be disposed. Organic
23 wastes have an energy value that can be captured and utilized and are also a necessary
24 component of compost, soil amendments, and other useful products.

25 Directive 6.1 also encompasses one of CalRecycle's actions to help California
26 significantly reduce its generation of greenhouse gases. The development of Anaerobic
27 Digestion (AD) facilities is one of CalRecycle's charges under the AB 32 Climate Change
28 Scoping Plan. The AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan estimates that AD facilities in
29 California could reduce methane emissions from landfills at a level of 2 million MTCO₂e per year
30 by the year 2020 (CARB, 2008). AD also can contribute to meeting the state's Renewable
31 Portfolio Standard and Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

32 Specifically the Initiative states:

33 *"It is the policy of CalRecycle to encourage the development of AD facilities in California*
34 *as an alternative to the landfill disposal of organic solid waste. Specifically, as an initial*
35 *measure, CalRecycle will encourage the establishment of in-vessel digesters located at*
36 *existing or new solid waste facilities and in areas zoned for industrial or solid waste*
37 *handling activities."*

1 CalRecycle prepared and certified a Final Program EIR (SCH#2010042100) for the
2 Statewide Anaerobic Digestion Initiative and approved the Initiative on June 22, 2011. The
3 Program EIR determined that on a programmatic level all the impacts of AD facilities could be
4 mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the mitigation measures
5 identified in the EIR. The Program EIR identified that individual projects could result in localized
6 impacts that would need to be analyzed in a tiered CEQA document.

7 Subsequent to the approval, CalRecycle prepared a guidance document (CalRecycle,
8 August 2011) to assist jurisdictions, such as Santa Barbara County, in using the Program EIR to
9 evaluate AD facilities on a local project-specific level. Pursuant to this guidance and as allowed
10 pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15152, §15153 and §15168, where appropriate the Subsequent
11 EIR for the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project will tier off of the CalRecycle Program EIR and
12 will thus focus solely on issues specific to the proposed project.

13 **1.5.3 State Assembly Bill 341**

14 Signed into law by Governor Brown on October 5th, 2011, AB 341 amends sections of
15 the Public Resources Code relating to solid waste and sets a goal for the state to recycle 75
16 percent of waste by 2020. The bill specifically calls out composting of organics currently
17 disposed of in landfills as a method of achieving this goal. The Resource Recovery Project is
18 consistent with the overall intent of this legislation to reduce landfilling of MSW, reduce the
19 production of greenhouse gases, and “encourage the development of additional solid waste
20 processing and composting capacity that is needed to meet state objectives...”⁶

21 **1.5.4 Public Resources Code Division 30, Part 2, Chapter 4, Section 41701**

22 The California Public Resources Code Div. 30, Part 2, Chap. 4, Sec. 41701 and 41703,
23 as administered and enforced by CalRecycle, requires all jurisdictions in the State to plan for 15
24 years of disposal capacity for waste “that cannot be reduced, recycled or composted.” The
25 proposed Resource Recovery Project not only provides the jurisdictions currently served by the
26 Tajiguas Landfill with a 20-year plan for the safe handling and disposal of its solid waste, but
27 also expands the amount of materials that are recycled and composted through the proposed
28 MRF and AD Facility to achieve a total projected diversion rate well above 80 percent.

⁶ AB 341 Chesboro Section 2 (b)

1 **1.5.5 State Assembly Bill 1826**

2 Signed into law by Governor Brown on September 28, 2014, AB 1826 requires that by
3 April 1, 2016, a business generating 8 cubic yards or more of organic waste per week must
4 arrange for organics collection services. The number of businesses targeted increases to a
5 business generating 4 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week must arrange for
6 organics collection services on or after January 1, 2019. On or after January 1, 2020, if the
7 CalRecycle determines that statewide disposal of organic waste has not been reduced to 50
8 percent of the level of disposal during 2014, then a business that generates 2 cubic yards or
9 more per week of commercial solid waste must arrange for organic recycling services. The
10 development of the Resource Recovery Project offers a mechanism to recover organics from
11 the mixed waste stream as well as provide the infrastructure necessary to process the organic
12 material collected or recovered.

13 **1.5.6 State Assembly Bill 876**

14 Signed into law by Governor Brown on October 8, 2015, AB 876 requires that beginning
15 August 2017, local governments must include in their Annual Report to CalRecycle an estimate
16 of the amount of organic waste that will be generated in the region over a 15-year period, an
17 estimate of additional organics recycling infrastructure capacity needed to process the amount
18 of organics projected to be generated in the region, and identify locations for new or expanded
19 organic waste recycling facilities capable of safely meeting that need (similar to the 15 year
20 capacity requirement for disposal currently included in California Public Resources Code
21 Division 30).

22 **1.5.7 State Assembly Bill 1045**

23 Signed into law by Governor Brown on October 8, 2015, AB 1045 requires state
24 agencies to work together to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste
25 from landfills and to develop recommendations for promoting organic waste processing and
26 recycling infrastructure statewide.

27 **1.5.8 Federal Initiatives**

28 The federal government has followed California's lead establishing policies to remove
29 organics from landfills. On September 15 of this year, the U.S. EPA in partnership with the U.S.
30 Department of Agriculture announced the United States' first-ever national food waste reduction
31 goal calling for a 50 percent reduction of food waste by 2030.

32 **1.6 PROJECT BENEFITS**

33 Implementation of the project would provide a host of benefits to the region in addition to
34 assisting the South Coast, and Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys in meeting many state
35 mandates associated with solid waste management. Project benefits include:

- 36
 - The project would provide a long-term (20-year)⁷ waste management plan;

⁷ Assuming the project begins operation in 2016. The Landfill life would be extended by approximately 10 years (from closure in approximately year 2026 to a closure in approximately year 2036).

- 1 • The project provides a cost-effective solution (rates proposed by Mustang are
2 comparable to projected landfill costs and less than projected costs of exporting
3 waste to other landfills not located on the South Coast);
- 4 • The project supports the region’s recycling goals by providing the infrastructure
5 necessary to support existing and future waste management programs (material
6 recovery facility for recyclables, AD Facility for organics);
- 7 • The project assists the region in meeting CalRecycle’s 15-year disposal capacity
8 requirement (if built by 2016 the region would have enough disposal capacity
9 until 2036 at current disposal rates);
- 10 • Implementation of the project would increase the region’s diversion rate from 73
11 percent to approximately 80 percent without any changes to current programs
12 (meets AB 341 goal of 75 percent in 2020);
- 13 • As compared to landfilling, recycling activities associated with the project are is
14 expected to eliminate greenhouse gas levels equivalent to annual emissions from
15 approximately 22,000 13,270 vehicles/year⁸ (AB 32: greenhouse gas reductions
16 by 2020), and the reduction in landfilling of organic materials would result in a
17 decrease of nearly one million metric tons of CO₂e during the first 50 years
18 following project implementation; and
- 19 • The project would generate a net of approximately 1 megawatt of renewable
20 energy and is eligible for renewable energy credits.

21 **1.7 PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

22 The project objectives⁹ have been developed by the Public Participants who have
23 participated in a Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group established in 2002 to evaluate
24 alternatives to landfilling the area’s waste and with input from the community through over one
25 hundred community meetings and workshops held over the past five years. Pursuant to CEQA
26 Guidelines Section 15124(b) the underlying purpose of the project is to reduce landfill
27 dependence and provide a long-term waste management solution by diverting MSW that is not
28 currently recycled from landfill disposal by maximizing recovery of recyclable materials and
29 maximizing the conversion of organic material into beneficial products such as energy, fuels or
30 other marketable products through a public/private partnership. The primary objectives of the
31 proposed project (as modified in response to public comments during the NOP scoping period)
32 are:

- 33 1. Reduce landfill dependence by diverting MSW that is not currently recycled from
34 landfill disposal to:

⁸ Based on greenhouse gas reduction analysis conducted using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Waste Reduction Model (WARM). The WARM tool is based on a life-cycle approach, which reflects emissions and avoided emissions upstream and downstream from the point of use.

⁹ The project objectives were originally reflected as goals in the Request for Proposals (dated October 20, 2009) distributed for this project. The RFP is hereby incorporated by reference and available for review at <http://resource-recoveryproject.com/pages/downloads.php>

- 1 a) Meet or exceed the requirements of Assembly Bill 341 which requires all
2 jurisdictions to recycle 75 percent of their waste by 2020;
 - 3 b) Provide a long term solution (minimum operational life of 20 years) to the
4 region's solid waste management needs to meet or exceed CalRecycle's 15-
5 year disposal capacity requirement; and
 - 6 c) Substantially extend the life of the Tajiguas Landfill.
 - 7 2. Locate the proposed project elements in reasonable proximity to existing
8 developed solid waste facilities to:
 - 9 a) Ensure that the project elements can function together effectively and
10 efficiently; and
 - 11 b) Ensure that the facility is reasonably accessible to all communities currently
12 served by the Tajiguas Landfill while minimizing environmental and
13 community impacts.
 - 14 3. Provide long-term financial stability to limit impacts to the affected rate payers¹⁰.
- 15 Additional Project Objectives include:
- 16 A. Process MSW currently disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill with a diversion rate
17 goal of 60 percent.
 - 18 B. Maximize the reduction of future greenhouse gas emissions associated with the
19 transportation, processing and disposal of MSW consistent with CalRecycle's
20 Anaerobic Digestive Initiative and Assembly Bill 32.
 - 21 C. Provide green energy to the region by specifically producing energy that is
22 certified as "Renewable Portfolio Standard" eligible as defined by the California
23 Energy Commission.
 - 24 D. Provide a cost effective tipping fee for solid waste management services
25 compared to alternative disposal methods¹¹.
 - 26 E. Construct and operate a project that can adapt to the changing waste
27 management needs of the region.
 - 28 F. Provide a safe and humane work environment for all employees.

¹⁰ As a part of the 2009 Vendor RFP process, financial stability was determined to be reached through the Design, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (DBOOT) model, whereby, upon the expiration of the contract term, the Public Participants have the exclusive option to acquire the Facility for a payment of \$1.00 to better position the rate payers into the future. Financial stability may also be achieved through public financing and ownership of the facilities.

¹¹ As a part of the Vendor RFP process conducted in 2009 a cost effective tipping fee was determined to be less than \$100/ton.

1 **1.8 PROJECT APPROVALS, PERMITS, AND LEAD, RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE**
2 **AGENCIES**

3 Project implementation may require RRWMD and/or the Tajiguas Resource Recovery
4 Project Vendor to obtain permit amendments, modifications and/or other forms of approval from
5 Federal, State, and local agencies. In addition, these agencies would need to consider the
6 Subsequent EIR prepared for the proposed Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project in their
7 approvals. Agencies/jurisdictions expected to have a role in approving/permitting the project
8 may include, but are not limited to:

- 9 • Santa Barbara County: project approval, approval of waste service agreement
10 and ~~lease~~/disposal agreement, approval of material delivery agreements,
11 approval of possible amendment to the County's Non-Disposal Facility Element,
12 possible coastal development permits for ancillary project elements in the coastal
13 zone;
- 14 • Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton: approval of waste delivery
15 service agreements.
- 16 • Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District: authority to construct, permit
17 to operate and possible Clean Air Plan amendment;
- 18 • Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board: waste discharge
19 requirements for wastewater treatment system, new or amended landfill waste
20 discharge requirements, new industrial storm water permit or amended Landfill
21 industrial storm water permit, new construction storm water permit;
- 22 • State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
23 ("CalRecycle" – formerly California Integrated Waste Management Board): new
24 solid waste facility permit or revised Landfill solid waste facility permit, approval
25 of a potential amendment to the County's Non-Disposal Facility Element;
- 26 • Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services
27 (Local Enforcement Agency): new solid waste facility permit or amended Landfill
28 solid waste facility permit;
- 29 • Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services
30 Domestic Water Supply Permit and Onsite Sewage Treatment System Permit;
31 and
- 32 • California Public Utilities Commission (PUC): approvals related to energy
33 generated by combustion of bio-gas.

34 The State CEQA Guidelines define "lead", "responsible", and "trustee" agencies. The
35 project proponent is the Santa Barbara County RRWMD, and the Santa Barbara County
36 RRWMD is the Lead Agency for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act.

1 Responsible agencies are defined as non-Federal public agencies that have
2 discretionary approval power over certain aspects of the project. These agencies may utilize
3 this Subsequent EIR in their decision-making process. Responsible agencies for the proposed
4 project may include the Central Coast RWQCB, CalRecycle, Santa Barbara County
5 Environmental Health Services, the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton
6 (Project Participants) and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

7 Trustee agencies refer to agencies having jurisdiction by law over the natural resources
8 affected by a project which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. Based
9 upon this definition, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, which have jurisdiction over biological resources that may be impacted by the proposed
11 project, are trustee agencies.

12 **1.9 SCOPE AND CONTENT**

13 A Notice of Preparation (NOP) with the Subsequent EIR Scoping Document was
14 distributed to responsible and trustee agencies and members of the public on April 19, 2012
15 (see Appendix A). A copy of the NOP was also posted electronically on the RRWMD website.
16 A public scoping meeting was held on May 14, 2012 at the County Planning Commission
17 hearing room in Santa Barbara to accept input on the scope and content of this EIR. Public
18 testimony was provided by Mike Lunsford and Anna Citron (Gaviota Coast Conservancy), Bob
19 Keats and James Smallwood (Surfrider Foundation) and Bob Hart (local property owner).
20 Concerns expressed focused on extension of the life of the landfill, assessing urban alternative
21 locations, visual impacts and 24 hour operations.

22 RRWMD received 15 comment letters in response to the NOP from the following
23 agencies and interested parties:

- 24 • City of Santa Barbara, Michael Berman;
- 25 • Gaviota Planning Advisory Committee, Charles Kimbell;
- 26 • Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation;
- 27 • California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Betty Courtney;
- 28 • Community Environmental Council, Dave Davis;
- 29 • Surfrider Foundation, Bob Keats;
- 30 • League of Women Voters, Beth Pitton-August;
- 31 • City of Goleta, Anne Wells;
- 32 • California Department of Transportation, Chris Shaeffer;
- 33 • Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, Molly Pearson;
- 34 • Law Office of Marc Chytilo, on behalf of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy;
- 35 • CalRecycle, Dianne Ohiosumua;
- 36 • Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Roger Briggs;

- 1 • MarBorg Industries, Derek Carlson; and
- 2 • Native American Heritage Commission, Dave Singleton.

3 The NOP and response letters are attached as Appendices A and B, respectively.
4 Based on preliminary environmental review and concerns identified in comment letters
5 submitted in response to the NOP and at the public scoping meeting, the Subsequent EIR is
6 focused on the following issue areas:

- 7 • Aesthetics/Visual Resources;
- 8 • Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- 9 • Biological Resources;
- 10 • Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- 11 • Geologic Processes;
- 12 • Cultural Resources;
- 13 • Noise;
- 14 • Land Use;
- 15 • Transportation/Traffic;
- 16 • Water Resources;
- 17 • Public Health/Nuisance; and
- 18 • Environmental Justice.

19 This Subsequent EIR addresses the issues above and identifies any significant
20 environmental impacts particularly where modifications to the approved project substantially
21 change previously disclosed impacts or create new impacts. The Subsequent EIR also
22 recommends feasible mitigation measures, where possible, that would reduce or eliminate
23 significant environmental effects.

24 The discussion of project alternatives in this Subsequent EIR has been prepared in
25 accordance with Section 15126(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines. This Subsequent EIR
26 examines the impacts of the proposed project, alternative off-site locations for the MRF
27 component of the project, off-site aerobic composting as an alternative to anaerobic digestion,
28 landfill expansion, waste exportation, and the "No Project" alternative for each issue area. The
29 "environmentally superior" alternative is identified in Section 5.4 of this Subsequent EIR.

30 The level of detail contained throughout this EIR is consistent with the requirements of
31 CEQA and recent court decisions. The State CEQA Guidelines provide the standard by which
32 the adequacy of this EIR is based.

1 The Guidelines state:

2 *"An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide*
3 *decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision*
4 *which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An*
5 *evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be*
6 *exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what*
7 *is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR*
8 *inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement*
9 *among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection but for*
10 *adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure."*
11 (Section 15151).

12 **1.10 MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**

13 Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, a Mitigation Monitoring Plan has
14 been incorporated into this EIR to ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures
15 identified in the Subsequent EIR. The Plan would be adopted by the Santa Barbara County
16 Board of Supervisors in conjunction with the findings required under CEQA, when the Board
17 certifies the Subsequent EIR and approves the proposed project.

18 **1.11 CERTIFICATION OF THE FINAL SUBSEQUENT EIR**

19 The Draft Subsequent EIR ~~will be~~ was circulated for review by public agencies and
20 interested members of the public for a ~~minimum~~ period of ~~45~~ 59 days (August 11 to October 9,
21 2014). A This Final Subsequent EIR ~~will be prepared and~~ is comprised of the Draft Subsequent
22 EIR revised as necessary in response to public comments, regulatory and trustee agency
23 comments, and Section 9.0 of the Final Subsequent EIR includes a list of persons,
24 organizations, and public agencies that commented on the Draft Subsequent EIR pursuant to
25 State CEQA Guidelines Section 15132.

26 RRWMD is the Lead Agency and has the responsibility of determining the adequacy of
27 the Subsequent EIR pursuant to CEQA. The County Board of Supervisors will be required to
28 certify that the Subsequent EIR has been prepared in compliance with CEQA and for adopting
29 required findings if the Board takes action to approve the project.

TAJIGUAS LANDFILL
TIME SERIES GRAPH OF SUMMATION OF SELECT VOCS GLCRS
(1,4-Dichlorobenzene, cis-1,2-Dichloroethene, MTBE)

