

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED
RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT AT THE TAJIGUAS LANDFILL**

PUBLICATION DATE: April 19, 2012

FROM: Mr. Mark Schleich, Deputy Director
County of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department
Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division
130 East Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (12EIR-00000-00002) to the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project EIR (01-EIR-05, SCH# 98041003) certified August 13, 2002, the November 8, 2006 Addendum to 01-EIR-05 approved on December 5, 2006, and the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project Subsequent EIR (08EIR-00000-00007, SCH#2008021052) certified May 5, 2009

PROJECT NAME: Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) is the Lead Agency responsible for preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Subsequent EIR) for the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project in Santa Barbara County. In accordance with Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared for the Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project. This NOP is a request for comment on the scope of environmental issues that you or your organization believes should be addressed in the Subsequent EIR regarding the proposed project. Attached is a "scoping paper" which describes the issues currently anticipated to be addressed in the Subsequent EIR.

Background: The Tajiguas Landfill is an existing County-owned and operated municipal solid waste disposal facility located in a coastal canyon known as the Cañada de la Pila, located approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara, and 1,600 feet north of U.S. Highway 101, Santa Barbara County. The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, (RRWMD) is the owner and permitted operator of the landfill. In 2002/2003, the County obtained all the necessary approvals and permits to expand the landfill both vertically and laterally. On December 5, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved an Addendum to 01-EIR-05 which addressed minor changes to the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project and In May 2009, RRWMD prepared and the Board of Supervisors certified a Subsequent EIR and obtained all permits for a modification (reconfiguration) of the permitted landfill footprint and for AA /EEO Employer

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biological restoration activities on Baron Ranch (Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration). The proposed waste footprint design change (reconfiguration) did not modify any of the landfill's operational parameters, but did involve physical changes to the approved location of the waste footprint and associated disturbances for construction and equipment operations.

Since the Tajiguas Landfill was last approved for an expansion in 2002, the County has been looking into alternatives to landfilling. The proposed construction and operation of a Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill would allow further recovery of recyclable material from the communities' waste stream, provide an alternative to burying organic waste, generate green energy and reduce the amount of waste requiring burial.

Project Location: The project will be located at the Tajiguas Landfill approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara at 14470 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, California 93117. The landfill property encompasses approximately 497 acres on APNs 081-150-019, -026 and -042. The Resource Recovery Project Facilities would be located on approximately 6 acres on APN 081-150-019. The digestate curing site(s) would occupy ~4 to ~6 acres on APN 081-150-019 and/or APN 051-150-026 and the water storage facilities would be on 081-150-019 and 081-150-042.

Project Description (summary): The County of Santa Barbara proposes to develop a Resource Recovery Project that would process municipal solid waste from the communities currently served by the Tajiguas Landfill. The Resource Recovery Project will be designed and constructed to process various waste streams delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill from unincorporated areas of the South Coast of Santa Barbara, the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang as well as the unincorporated Santa Ynez and New Cuyama Valleys. The waste stream anticipated to be delivered for processing is mixed municipal solid waste. As an optional project element, commingled source separated recyclables and source separated organic waste from existing and future recycling programs could also be brought to the Resource Recovery Project for consolidated processing. The Resource Recovery Project would be located at the Tajiguas Landfill and would include a Materials Recovery Facility (to recover recyclable materials), a Dry Fermentation Anaerobic Digestion Facility (to process organic waste into biogas and digestate), and an Energy Facility that would use the biogas from the Anaerobic Digestion Facility to produce electricity. The digestate would be further cured in outdoor windrows at the landfill to create compost and/or soil amendments. Residual waste (residue) from the processing would be disposed of in the landfill. No change in the landfill's permitted capacity is proposed.

Potential Environmental Effects: A Subsequent EIR will be prepared to evaluate the changes in environmental impacts that this proposed project might cause. Issue areas proposed to be evaluated in the Subsequent EIR include: Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Risk of Upset/Fire Hazards/Health and Safety, Geologic Impacts, Noise, Land Use, Transportation/Traffic, Water Resources, and Nuisances. Alternatives to the proposed project will also be evaluated in the Subsequent EIR. A more detailed description of the proposed Resource Recovery Project and potential environmental effects are provided in the attached Resource Recovery Project, Notice of Preparation Scoping Paper.

Written Comments: In accordance with the time limits established by CEQA, **your response to this NOP must be received at the address underlined below at the earliest possible date, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 18th, 2012.** Your response should include your name, your agency's or organization's name, your address, and if applicable, the name of the specific contact person in your agency or organization. Comments should be mailed, e-mailed or hand delivered to: County of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 100, Santa Barbara, California 93101. Attention: Ms. Joddi Leipner. E-mail Address JLeipner@COSBPW.NET

Public Scoping Meeting: A public Scoping Meeting will also be held to accept comments regarding issues of concern that should be evaluated in the Subsequent EIR. The purpose of the Scoping Meeting is to provide the public and other affected government agencies with a formal opportunity to comment on the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the Subsequent EIR. The Scoping Meeting will focus on gathering public input on the environmental document and on feasible ways in which project impacts may be mitigated to reduce or eliminate the significance of the impact.

Date: Monday, May 14th, 2012
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Please contact Ms. Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner at (805) 882-3614 or Mr. Carlyle Johnston, Project Coordinator at (805) 882-3617, if you have any comments or questions regarding the Resource Recovery Project.

Respectfully,



Mark A. Schleich
Deputy Director – Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division

cc: Clerk of the Board (please post for 30 days)
Encl. Scoping Paper