



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: February 2, 2023

To: California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting for a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Project: North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2022020271
(formerly known as the "Acton/Aqua Dulce, Quartz Hill, Antelope Valley East, and Antelope Valley West Garbage Disposal Districts and/or Residential Franchise Program")

Lead Agency: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Review Period: February 2, 2023 through March 3, 2023

The County of Los Angeles, through the Department of Public Works, is the Lead Agency for the North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project (Project) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Project, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project description, location, and probable environmental effects are discussed below.

Public Works is soliciting input from interested parties and agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be evaluated in the proposed Project EIR. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the Project Description in this Notice of Preparation (NOP) and provide their comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The EIR will be used by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors when considering approval of the proposed Project, as well as any related discretionary actions.

SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

In accordance with section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this NOP is being circulated for a 30-day comment period, starting February 2, 2023, and ending March 3, 2023. Interested parties must submit their comments in writing by **March 3, 2023**. Comments must be submitted via postal or electronic mail to the following address:

Department of Public Works
Attention: Krystle K. Jafari, P.E.
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
e-mail: NoCoSolidWasteEIR@pw.lacounty.gov

SCOPING MEETING

Public Works will hold an online scoping meeting for the proposed Project EIR to receive comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the proposed Project and the CEQA process. The scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday February 16, 2023

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Register online for the ZOOM meeting using the following link. (Note: registration can be completed prior to or during the meeting, and each attendee is encouraged to complete their own registration.)

https://pwlacounty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WggGuK1EQDCmTqpHwtEZw

The meeting can also be accessed via telephone by dialing: 1 213 338 8477

Webinar ID: 881 5077 8022

Information regarding the scoping meeting, including the ZOOM meeting registration link and telephone call-in information, is also available on the Project website: pw.lacounty.gov/epd/NorthCountySolidWasteCollectionsvcs/CEQA.cfm.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project area is divided into four proposed service areas: Acton/Aqua Dulce, Antelope Valley East, Antelope Valley West, and Quartz Hill (Figure 1). Pursuant to section 21092.6 of the State CEQA Statute, the Project area includes properties that are on lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, including voluntary cleanup sites, school investigation sites, properties with leaking underground storage tank cleanups, and military evaluation sites, among others. However, the proposed Project, which involves changes to existing solid waste collection practices, would not adversely affect or disturb any such hazardous waste sites or facilities.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed Project consists of executing new contracts with solid waste haulers to establish either residential and commercial franchises or garbage disposal districts for the Acton/Aqua Dulce and Antelope Valley areas in the unincorporated territory of the County of Los Angeles. Selected waste haulers would provide refuse, recyclables, and organic waste hauling services to commercial and residential properties, as well as bulky item pickup. If the necessary voter approval is not achieved to establish garbage disposal districts, residential and commercial franchises would be established instead.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In February 2022, Public Works released an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the proposed Project, titled the "Acton, Aqua Dulce, and Antelope Valley Garbage Disposal District or Residential Franchise Contracts IS/ND." The IS/ND was circulated for 30 days of public review from February 11, 2022, to March 12, 2022. In response to the February 2022 IS/ND, members of the public raised concerns regarding potential fugitive dust impacts resulting from the increase in waste collection trucks traveling on unpaved roads. To address these concerns, Public Works revised the Project description such that collection trucks would not generally travel on privately-owned and maintained unpaved roads, unless permissions were obtained from property owners and unless property owners agreed to treat the unpaved roads with dust suppressants. If such conditions were not met, customers along private, unpaved roadways would need to haul their waste containers to an agreed upon location along the public right-of-way. The revised Project was analyzed in a recirculated IS/ND, which was circulated for a 30-day public review period from June 10, 2022, to July 9, 2022. In the June 2022 IS/ND, the Project name was revised to the "Acton/Aqua Dulce, Quartz Hill, Antelope Valley East, and Antelope Valley West Garbage Disposal Districts and/or Residential Franchise Program." No significant environmental impacts were identified in the June 2022 IS/ND.

Subsequent to circulation of the June 2022 IS/ND, Public Works received numerous comments expressing concerns about the feasibility of the revised Project. Specifically, property owners expressed concerns about the cost and logistics of treating private unpaved roads with dust suppressants, as well as the infeasibility of hauling their waste to the nearest public right-of-way. Based upon these comments and concerns, Public Works is revising the Project description again, such that the Project would include waste service along private unpaved roads even if such roads have not been treated with dust suppressants. Because Public Works does not have authority to control the maintenance of private roads, treatment with dust suppressants on private unpaved roads cannot be included as part of the Project. The proposed Project, as revised, would entail additional waste collection vehicles traveling along unpaved roads and may thereby result in potentially significant air quality impacts.

Section 15073.5(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines states: "If during the negative declaration process there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record, before the lead agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment which cannot be mitigated or avoided, the lead agency shall prepare a draft EIR and certify a final EIR prior to approving the project. It shall circulate the draft EIR for consultation and review pursuant to Sections 15086 and 15087, and advise reviewers in writing that a proposed negative declaration had previously been circulated for the project." Accordingly, Public Works is preparing a Draft EIR for the proposed Project, which has been renamed as the "North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project." While some changes to the Project description have occurred since the June 2022 IS/ND, the key parameters of the Project remain unchanged. Nevertheless, the previous ND is no longer valid because Public Works has determined that air quality impacts may be potentially significant; therefore, the June 2022 IS/ND has been revised to remove references to an ND. The IS checklist is being released for review with this NOP to indicate the reasons for determining that other effects, besides air quality, would not be significant or potentially significant.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The purpose of this EIR will be to disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed Project. As described above under "Project Background," the proposed Project is anticipated to result in potentially significant impacts on air quality. The proposed Project's effects in the category of air quality, including cumulative impacts, will be addressed in detail in the EIR.

The June 2022 IS/ND has been revised to remove references to an ND, and the IS checklist is being released for public review with this NOP to justify the reasoning for why impacts in all environmental categories except air quality would fall below a level of significance. As such, the following topics are not required to be discussed in the EIR: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

The EIR will include a discussion of alternatives to the proposed Project and the potential environmental impacts of such alternatives. Other topics to be covered include growth-inducing impacts and significant irreversible environmental changes.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

This NOP and the Initial Study for the proposed Project can be viewed online at pw.lacounty.gov/epd/NorthCountySolidWasteCollectionsvcs/CEQA.cfm. Future Project documents, including the Draft

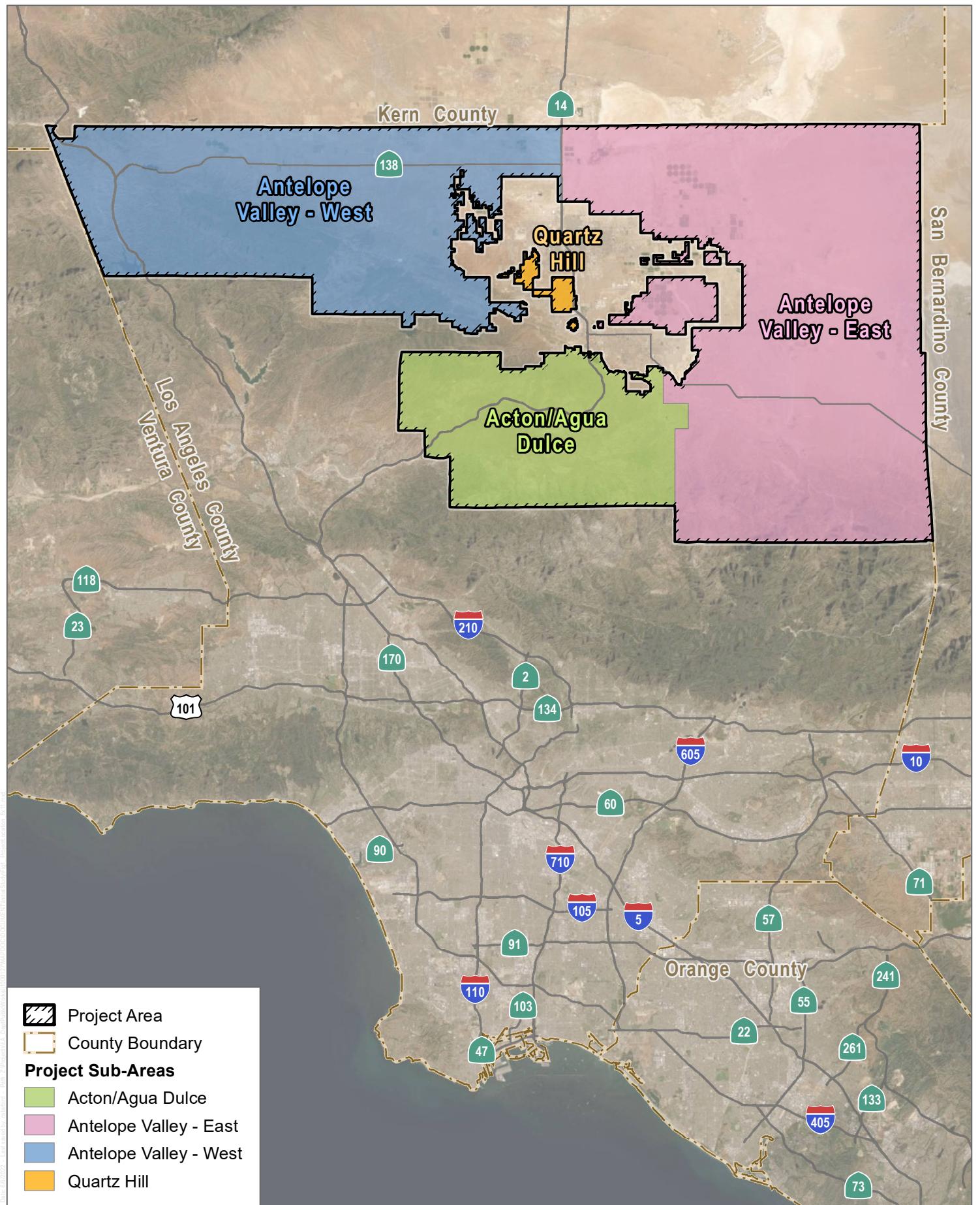
EIR and Final EIR, will also be made available at this website. Copies of the NOP and IS are also available at the following Public Library and County office locations:

- Public Works Environmental Programs Division, Annex 3rd Floor, 900 S Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
- Acton Agua Dulce Library, 33792 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510
- Lake Los Angeles Library, 16921 East Avenue O #A, Palmdale, CA 93591
- Littlerock Library, 35119 80th Street E, Littlerock, CA 93543
- Quartz Hill Library, 5040 W Avenue M-2, Quartz Hill, CA 93536

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Ms. Krystle K. Jafari, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer, (626) 458-3916 or NoCoSolidWasteEIR@pw.lacounty.gov, Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Si necesita asistencia con la traducción a Español, por favor comuníquese con el representante del departamento de Obras Públicas del Condado de Los Angeles, Sr. Art Correa (626) 458-3948.

ADA and Title VI Accommodations: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other languages or in an alternate format may contact the department coordinator at (626) 458-7901. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711.



SOURCE: Esri and Digital Globe, OpenStreetMap

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FIGURE 1
Project Area
North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project