

Environmental Justice Document



Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element

A Multi-Faceted Long-Term Solid Waste Management Plan

Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan



July 2021

COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT REVISION PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DOCUMENT
JULY 2021

Purpose

The purpose of the County of Los Angeles Public Works Department (Public Works) Countywide Siting Element (CSE) environmental justice document is to provide a framework to inform stakeholders within Los Angeles County, particularly environmentally sensitive communities, of the CSE revision. Public Resource Code section 41701 requires a countywide siting element, and any revision submitted on or after January 1, 2003, to include a description of the actions taken by the city or county to solicit public participation by the affected communities, including minority and low-income populations. See Section 6.5, Chapter 6 - Siting Criteria of the revised CSE for additional information on public participation and environmental justice in the siting and permitting process.

Public Works and its inter-disciplinary consultant team comprised of engineers, planners, outreach specialists, and graphic artists, the CSE Outreach Support Team (CSE-OST), will safely and efficiently provide information on the CSE to the public, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, geographic location or socioeconomic status.

The CSE is a long-term planning document that describes how the County, its unincorporated areas, and the cities within the County, plan to manage the disposal of their solid waste over a 15-year planning period as required by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). The existing CSE was published in 1997 and approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, now known as the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) in 1998. The CSE revision reflects updated waste generation forecasts and remaining disposal capacities based on landfill expansions and closures that have taken place since the time the original CSE was approved in 1998. The revised CSE, thereby, allows jurisdictions to appropriately plan for their future disposal needs. Additionally, the CSE contains goals and policies on a variety of solid waste management issues, such as extended producer responsibility, recycling and composting to preserve disposal capacity. The CSE also establishes criteria for the siting of solid waste facilities, such as landfills and conversion technology facilities, in the County. The revised CSE must be approved by a majority of the cities constituting a majority of the incorporated population in the County, followed by the County Board of Supervisors, and finally, CalRecycle.

Considering the CSE is pertinent to all 88 cities within the County and the unincorporated areas of the County, in addition to numerous public agencies, organizations, and special interest groups, stakeholder involvement is vital to the CSE's approval. Public Works is the agency responsible for the preparation and adoption

process of the CSE and certification of supporting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation. The CSE-OST will support Public Works, when requested, and counsel Public Works on environmental justice outreach over the course of the CSE adoption process.

Background Information

Environmental justice is a central concern in California, particularly after passage of legislation in 1999 mandating the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), and related agencies and departments, administer and enforce their programs in a way that “ensures fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and income levels, including minority populations and low-income populations” (Public Resources Code section 71110(a)). Environmental justice as defined in California Government Code Section 65040.12(e) is “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” In 2002, SB 1542 was passed, requiring the California Integrated Waste Management Board to provide local jurisdictions and businesses with information to assist in the consideration of environmental justice concerns regarding siting elements for solid waste disposal facilities. In addition, Assembly Bill 1497 (amending PRC Section 44004 (h)(1)(C)) requires the enforcement agency to consider environmental justice issues when preparing and distributing notification materials to ensure that they are concise and understandable for limited English-speaking populations.

Environmental justice communities are defined by the areas’ exposure to, and amount of, environmental health challenges. Such challenges leave these environmental justice communities to bear a disproportionate burden of pollution and other environmental impacts that yield health concerns. This includes communities that are in densely populated areas with low-income, minority residents, located near or adjacent to industry-related activities including landfills. In 2015, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the Green Zones Program which identifies communities that are disproportionately impacted by stationary sources of pollution as a result of incompatible land uses with the purpose of enhancing public health and land use compatibility. The siting criteria have been developed to provide planners and decision-makers with standards that may be used to identify significant siting concerns. It is important to acknowledge the green zones program to support the siting criteria’s objectives of protecting environmentally sensitive areas and populations.

This Environment Justice document identifies communities within Los Angeles County in proximity to potential new Alternative Technology facility locations identified in the CSE and existing permitted Major Class III (municipal solid waste) landfills. It recommends outreach strategies to ensure these communities are offered the opportunity to participate in the environmental review process for the CSE.

Identifying Environmental Justice Communities

After considering the above purpose and background information, the areas listed below have been identified as environmental justice communities for the identified potential Alternative Technology facility and existing permitted Major Class III landfill locations identified in the CSE. Under each community, several key community groups have been provided for outreach during the CSE and associate CEQA document approval process. All groups can be found in the CSE Stakeholder Database maintained by Public Works:

CSE Revision – Proposed Potential AT Facilities and Existing Permitted Major Class III Landfills



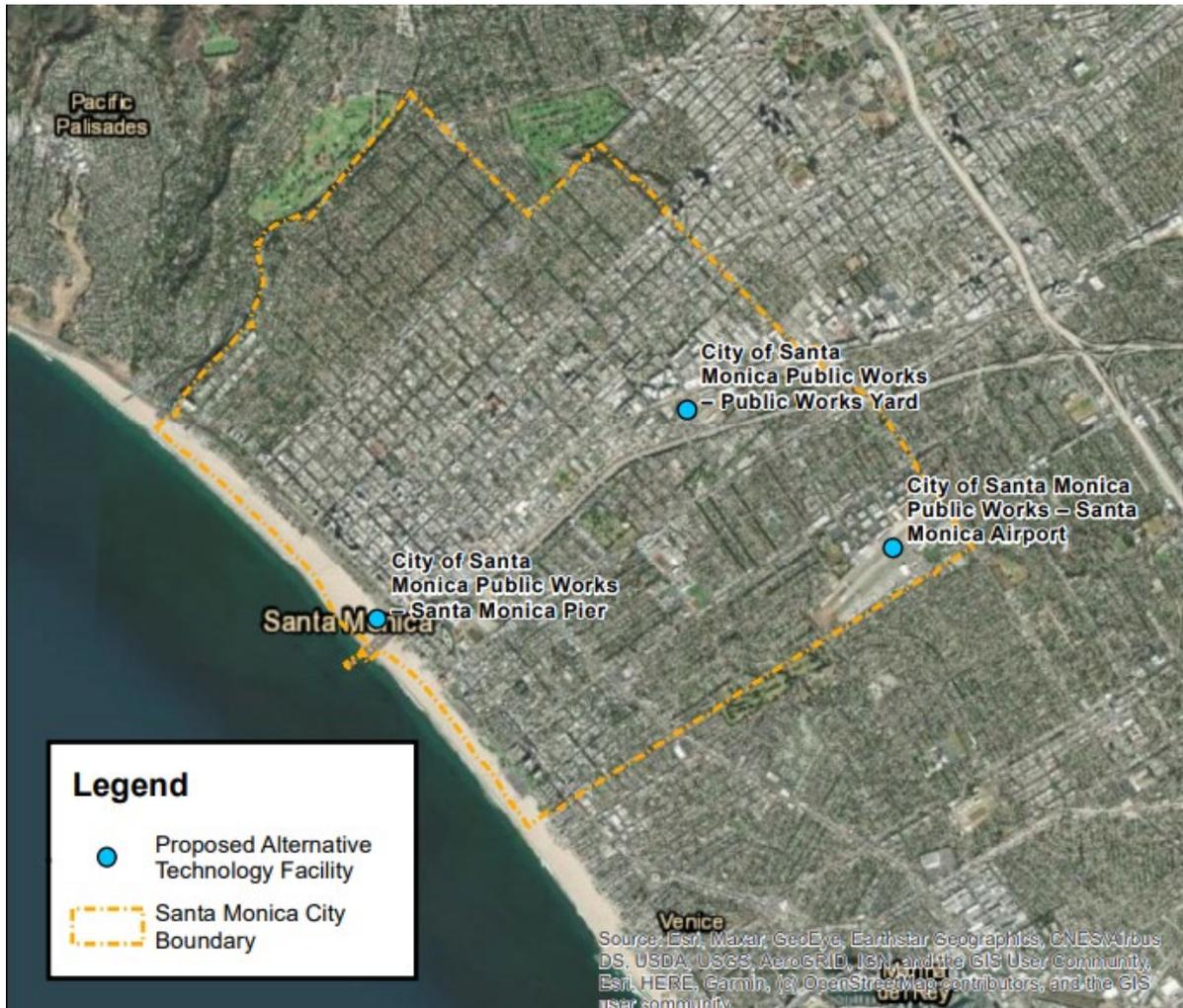
Proposed Potential AT Facilities

1. City of Santa Monica Public Works – Santa Monica Pier
2. City of Santa Monica Public Works – Santa Monica Airport
3. City of Santa Monica Public Works – Public Works Yard
4. City Terrace Recycling LLC
5. Interior Removal Specialists Inc.
6. Water Resources Recovery Inc.
7. City of Carson Public Works
8. Shell Oil Products US
9. CR&R Catalina

Existing Permitted Major Class III Landfills

1. Scholl Canyon Landfill
2. Antelope Valley
3. Lancaster Landfill
4. Chiquita Canyon Landfill
5. Sunshine Canyon Landfill
6. Calabasas Landfill

CSE Revision – Proposed Potential AT Facilities Location No. 1-3



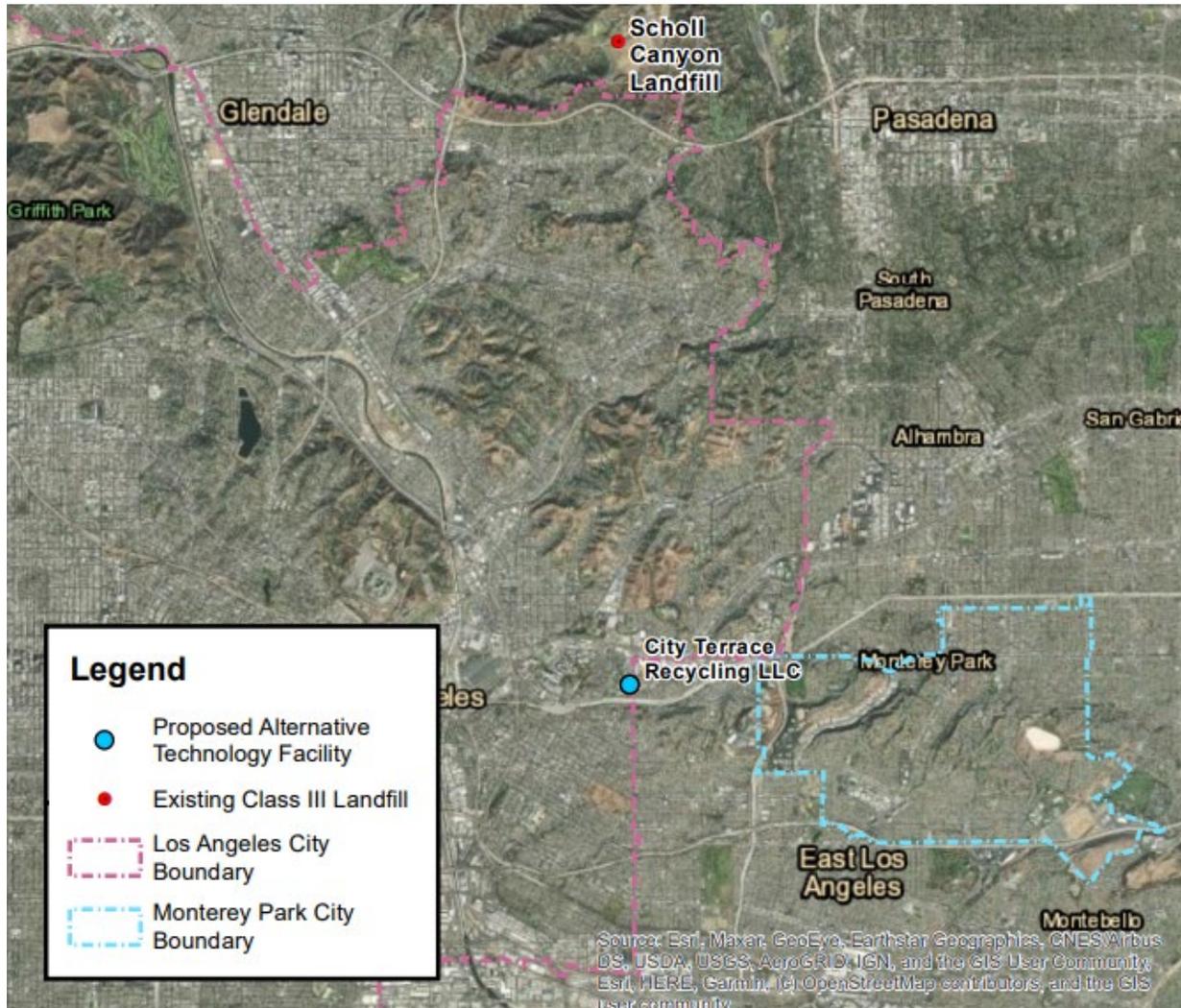
Supervisory District No. 3

Santa Monica

| Organization |
|---|
| Ballona Wetlands Land Trust |
| California Native Plant Society – LA/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter |
| Earth Rights Institute – West Coast Office |
| Endangered Habitats League |
| Environment California |
| Friends of Ballona Wetlands |
| Los Angeles Waterkeeper |
| National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) |
| Palos Verdes / South Bay Audubon Society |
| Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy |
| Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society |
| Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce |

| Organization |
|---|
| Santa Monica Conservancy |
| Sierra Club – West Los Angeles Regional Group |
| Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles, Malibu & Santa Monica Chapter |
| Sustainable Works |

CSE Revision – Proposed Potential AT Facility Location No. 4 and Existing Permitted Major Class III Landfill Location No. 1



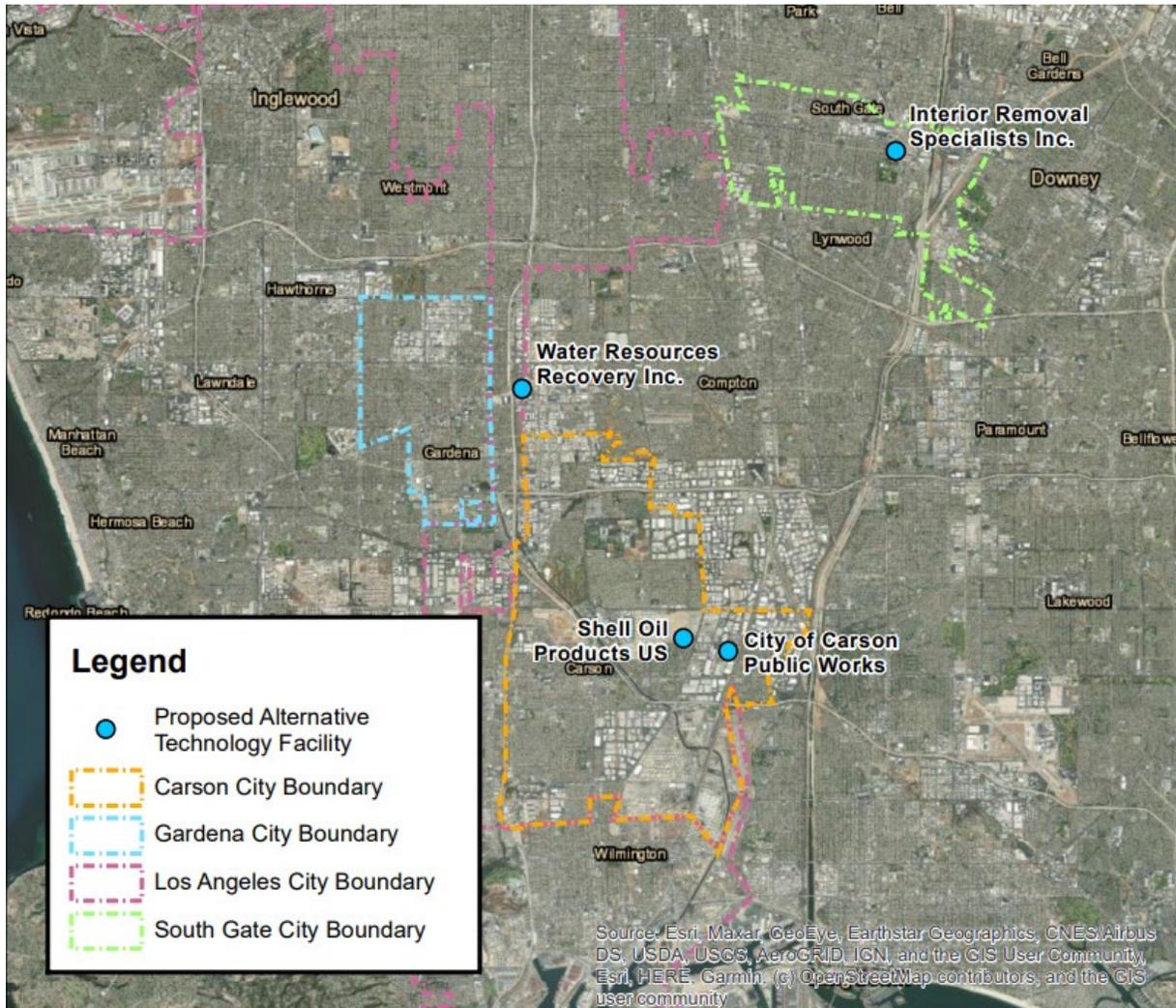
Supervisorial District No. 1

Parts of Downtown/East Los Angeles

| Organization |
|---|
| Alliance for a Better Community |
| Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) |
| Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) |
| COFEM |
| Community Coalition |
| Council for Watershed Health |
| East LA Community Corporation (ELACC) |
| East LA Rising |
| East LA YMCA |

| Organization |
|---|
| East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice |
| El Centro de Ayuda |
| Families In Schools |
| Independent City Association |
| KIPP LA Schools |
| Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) |
| Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters |
| Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust |
| Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) |
| Mujeres de la Tierra |
| River LA |
| Salvadoran-American Legal Education Fund (SALEF) |
| Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE) |

CSE Revision – Proposed Potential AT Facilities Location No. 5-8



Supervisorial District No. 2

Parts of South Los Angeles

| Organization |
|---|
| Alamitos Beach Cleanup |
| Algalita Marine Research and Foundation |
| Aquarium of the Pacific |
| Bikeable Communities |
| Boys & Girls Club of Carson |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of Wilmington |
| Boys And Girls Club of The Los Angeles Harbor |
| California Greenworks |
| California Native Plant Society - South Coast |
| Carpenters |
| Carson Chamber of Commerce |

| Organization |
|--|
| Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE) |
| Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC) |
| City of Refuge |
| Coalition for Clear Air |
| Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) |
| Cornerstone Church |
| Deconstruction & Reuse Network |
| Don't Waste Long Beach (DWLB) |
| El Dorado Audubon Society |
| Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) |
| Environmental Justice and Resilience in Long Beach |
| Environmentalism Through Inspirational, Nonviolent Action |
| Faith and Community Empowerment (FACE) |
| Friends of Colorado Lagoon |
| Gardena Chamber of Commerce |
| Gardena-Carson Family YMCA |
| Grades of Green |
| Greater Torrance Chamber of Commerce |
| Harbor City Neighborhood Council |
| Harbor Gateway Neighborhood Council North |
| Harbor UCLA Medical Center |
| IBEW Local 11 |
| Kaiser Permanente |
| LA OC Building and Construction Trades Council |
| Laborers Local 300 |
| Lomita Chamber of Commerce |
| Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma (LBACA) |
| Long Beach Chamber of Commerce |
| Long Beach Depot for Creative Reuse |
| Long Beach Environmental Alliance |
| Long Beach Forward |
| Long Beach Gray Panthers |
| Longshore Union ILWU Local 13 |
| Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust |
| Memorial Hospital of Gardena |
| New Life Foursquare Church |
| Partners of Parks |
| Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church |
| San Pedro Chamber of Commerce |
| Save Our Beach |
| Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce |
| Sierra Club |
| Sierra Club – Airport Marina Regional Group |
| Sierra Club – Long Beach Regional Group |
| SoCal Pipetrades District Council No. 16 |
| South Asian Network (SAN) |

| Organization |
|--|
| South Bay Associations of Chambers of Commerce |
| South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC) |
| South Bay Cities Council of Governments |
| South Bay Workforce Investment Board |
| Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers |
| St. Anthony of Padua Church & School |
| Surfrider Foundation – Huntington/Seal Beach Chapter |
| Surfrider Foundation – Long Beach Chapter |
| Surfrider Foundation - South Bay Chapter |
| Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC) |
| The South Bay Bicycle Coalition |
| Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation |
| Venice Beach Community Cleanups |
| Venice Chamber of Commerce |
| Venice Stakeholders Assn. |
| Wilmington Chamber of Commerce |
| Wilmington Neighborhood Council |

CSE Revision – Proposed Potential AT Facilities Location No. 9

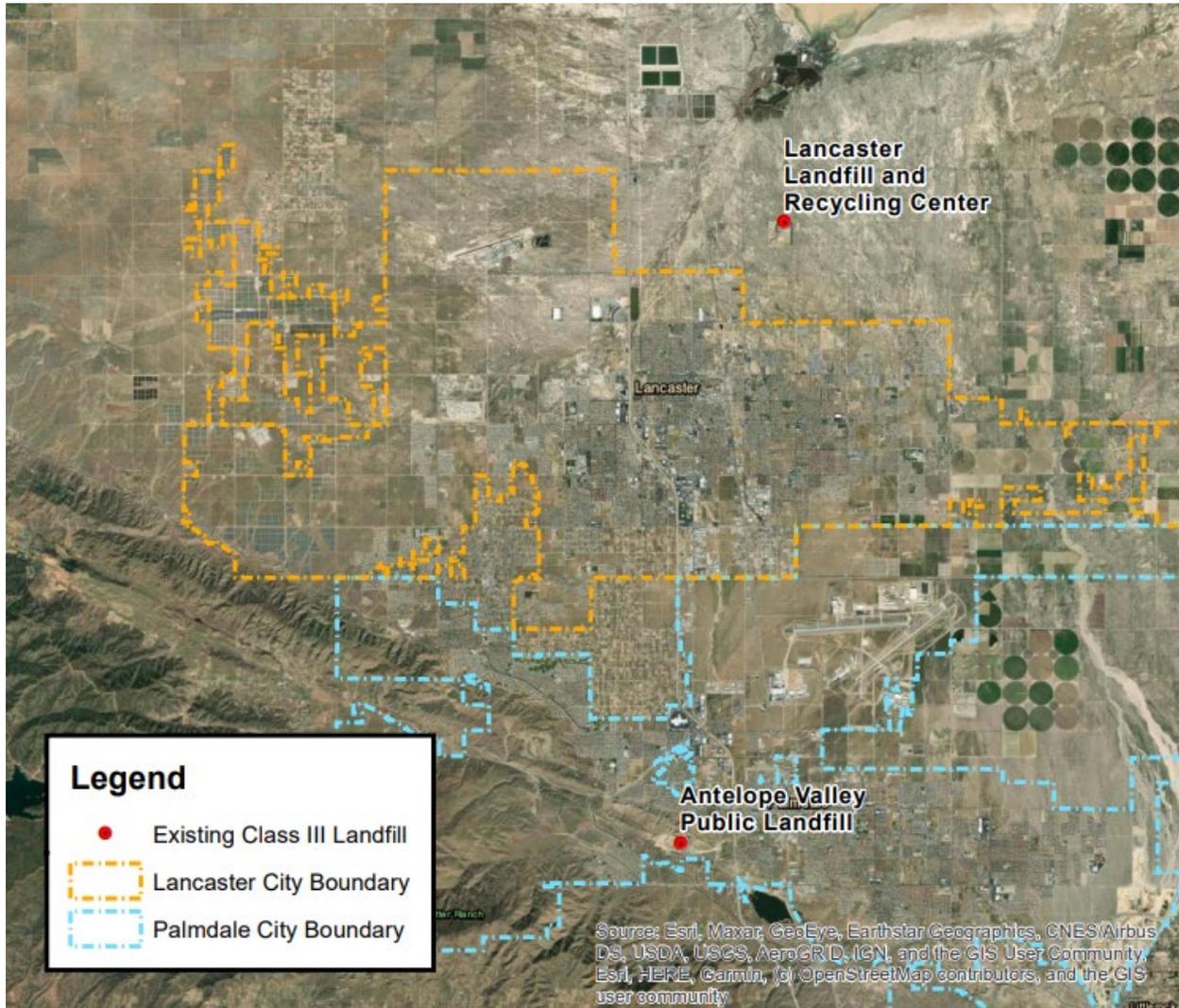


Supervisory District No. 4

Avalon

| Organization |
|-----------------------------------|
| Catalina Island Conservancy |
| Catalina Island Tourism Authority |

CSE Revision – Existing Permitted Major Class III Landfills (Municipal Solid Waste) Location No. 2 and 3



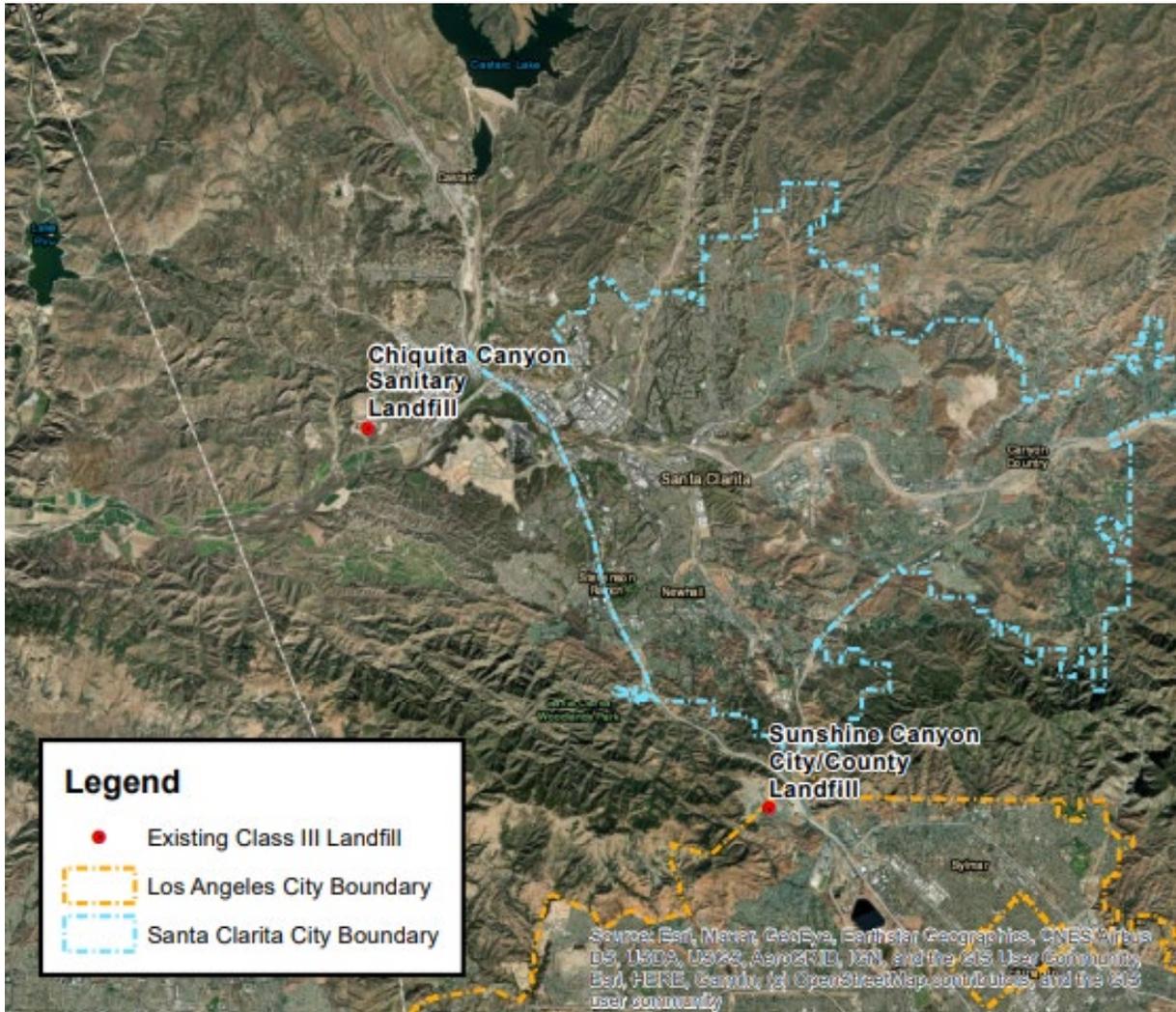
Supervisorial District 5

Antelope Valley

| Organization |
|--|
| Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce |
| Antelope Valley Conservancy |
| Antelope Valley Dream Center |
| Antelope Valley Economic Development and Growth Enterprise |
| Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce |
| Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Antelope Valley |
| Children's Bureau of Southern California |
| Grace Resource Center |

| Organization |
|----------------------------|
| Homes4Families |
| Joy To Nurture |
| Lancaster West Rotary Club |
| Run for Grace |
| The Outreach Center |

CSE Revision – Existing Permitted Major Class III Landfills (Municipal Solid Waste) Location No. 4 and 5

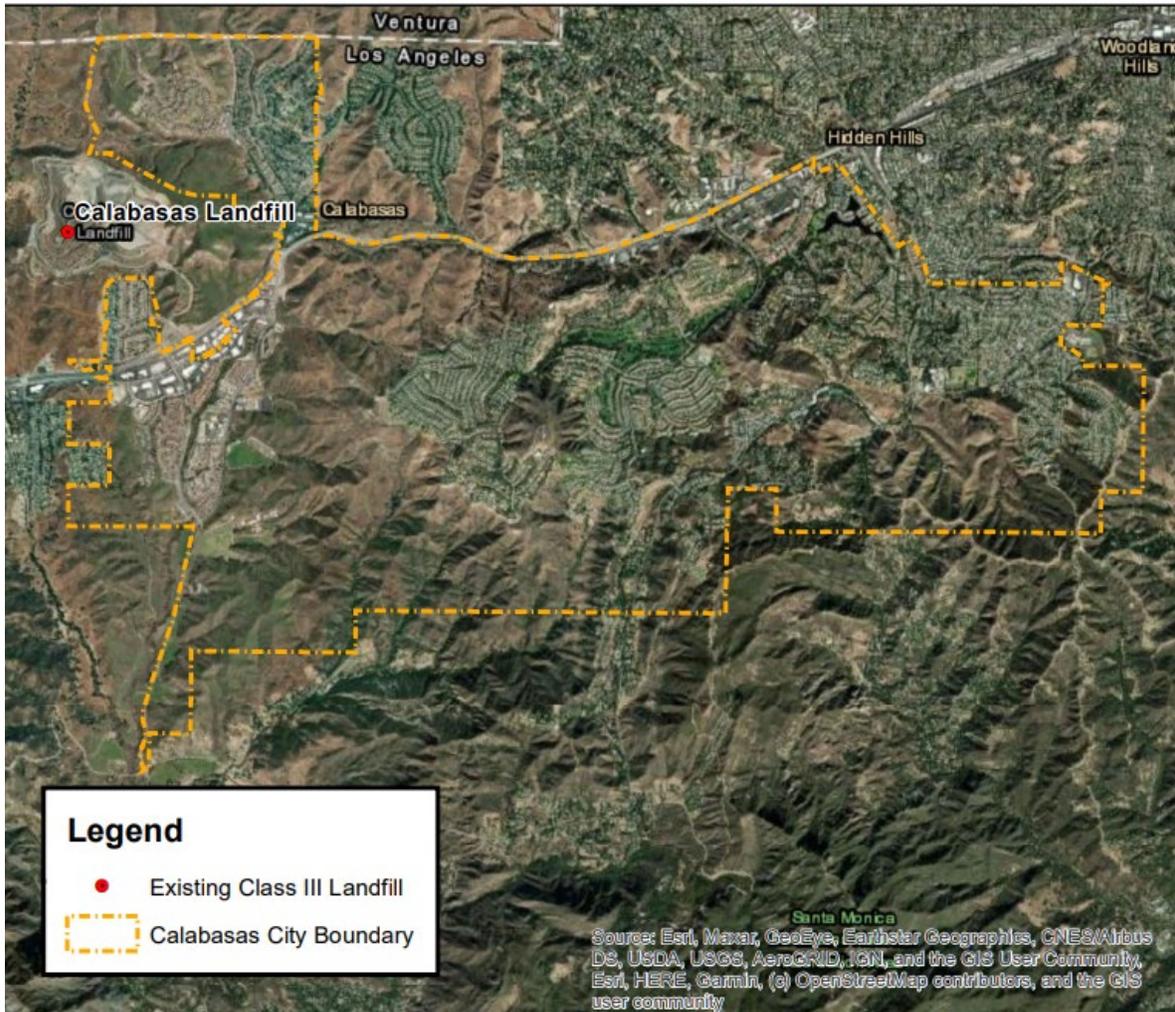


Supervisorial District 5

Castaic/Newhall/Santa Clarita

| Organization |
|--|
| Castaic Area Town Council |
| Gibbon Conservation Center |
| Junior Chamber International (JCI) Santa Clarita |
| Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce |
| The Earth Organization |
| Valley Industrial Assn. of Santa Clarita |

CSE Revision – Existing Permitted Major Class III Landfills (Municipal Solid Waste) Location No. 6



Supervisorial District 3

Calabasas

| Organization |
|---|
| A Call 2Peace Foundation |
| Calabasas Chamber of Commerce |
| California Wildlife Center |
| Free Artists Creative Equestrians |
| Malibu Chamber of Commerce |
| Mountains Recreation & Conversation Authority |
| Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council |
| Save LA River Open Space |
| Social And Environmental Entrepreneurs Inc |
| TreePeople |

These communities were identified based on density, income level, minority population, and proximity to proposed potential locations for Alternative Technology facilities and existing permitted Major Class III landfills. Community groups identified for these areas will be included in the CSE-OST's outreach efforts. The following regional stakeholders have also been identified for outreach during the CSE approval process.

Regional Stakeholders

| Organization |
|--|
| ACLU of Southern California |
| Advancement Project |
| After-School All Stars, Los Angeles |
| All People's Community Center |
| Alliance College Ready Public Schools |
| Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) |
| American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter |
| API Forward Movement (APIFM) |
| Asian Americans Advancing Justice, LA (AAAJLA) |
| Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) |
| Asians and Pacific Islanders for LGBT Equality (API Equality - LA) |
| Breathe California of Los Angeles |
| California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) |
| Liberty Hill Foundation |
| National Action Network (NAN) |
| National Pacific Islander Education Network (NPIEN) |
| Natural Resources Defense Council |
| Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) |
| Parent Organization Network (PON) |
| Parent Partnership for Public Education |
| Parent Revolution |
| Parents Advocate League Parents Helping Parents and Their Children Succeed |
| Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles |
| Plastic Pollution Coalition |

By consulting demographic data, the CSE-OST can determine how to best reach these communities based on the languages spoken, amongst other factors. Additional areas of focus may also come to light as Public Works engages cities on the CSE.

Green Zones Program

As previously mentioned, the County's Green Zones Program was initiated by the Board of Supervisors in 2015 with the purpose of enhancing public health and land use compatibility. The Green Zones Program identifies communities that are disproportionately impacted by stationary sources of pollution as a result of incompatible land uses. The program supports the goals of SB 1000 (also known as The Planning for Healthy Communities Act) and the implementation of environmental justice in

unincorporated LA County by regulating incompatible land use and introducing new permitting requirements and development standards. This includes policy and procedural updates for recycling and solid waste uses and specific industrial uses located within a 500-foot radius of sensitive uses on another unincorporated property or a residential property within incorporated city boundaries.

The Green Zones are located within the following communities:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Avocado Heights | Walnut Park | Victoria |
| East Los Angeles | West Athens-Westmont | Whittier-Los Nietos |
| East Rancho Dominguez | West Carson | Willowbrook |
| South San Jose Hills | West Rancho-Dominguez | |

Of the nine potential AT facility locations identified, City Terrace Recycling LLC was the only site that was located within a Green Zone (East LA).

In addition to community groups in environmentally sensitive areas and in proximity to potential Alternative Technology and permitted Major Class III landfill facility locations, the CSE-OST has provided a list below of environmental groups to be engaged during the CSE review and adoption process. All groups can be found in the CSE Stakeholder Database maintained by Public Works:

| Organization |
|--|
| California Green Communities |
| California League of Conservation Voters |
| Californians Against Waste |
| Climate Resolve Coalition for Clean Air |
| Community Association of Saratoga Hills |
| Desert Citizens Against Pollution |
| Eaton Canyon Nature Center |
| Environmental Defense Fund |
| Friends of the Los Angeles River |
| Global Green USA |
| Goldman Environmental Prize |
| Green LA Institute |
| Greenpeace |
| Heal the Bay |
| Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program |
| LA River Revitalization Corporation |
| Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) |
| Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter |

Public Works will hold public meetings on the CSE and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to provide the opportunity for any County of Los Angeles resident to participate. Sufficient notice will be provided (at least one month) for the public meetings and the meetings are scheduled at a time convenient to environmental justice communities with appropriate translation services. The meetings will be all virtual and at different times of day and days of the week to increase availability.

As Public Works meets with Supervisorial representatives and cities on the CSE adoption, these offices can be helpful in further identifying environmental justice communities and environmental justice leaders/advocates within their respective districts. It is recommended that Public Works requests input from cities, elected officials and other municipalities on communities where outreach should be conducted, as well as effective networks and means of communication to reach these communities. By using existing networks and relationships, whether a communication medium or individual stakeholder connected to the community, this information can be invaluable in executing a successful outreach campaign.

Environmental Justice Outreach Planning and Implementation

For those communities considered to be environmental justice areas based on potential environmental and health challenges, Public Works will be notifying stakeholder groups in those areas of the opportunities for public comment on the CSE environmental document to ensure these communities are equally informed and involved in the CSE process. County supervisors and their staff and city officials have been advised of the CSE and environmental document review process and any input on environmental justice areas within their communities will be considered during the stakeholder outreach process. Elected and city officials can be excellent resources in identifying environmental justice areas and in strategizing on the best outreach methods to effectively reach these communities.

As County supervisors and their staff and cities are briefed on the CSE and any information is gathered on their communities, that information and the research compiled above will be utilized to include environmental justice outreach in public meetings and efforts hosted by Public Works. Public Works hosted scoping meetings after the release of the Draft EIR Notice of Preparation/Initial Study and will be hosting virtual public information meetings during the Draft EIR comment period.

Environmental Document Scoping Meetings

The CSE-OST held six scoping meetings to present findings from the Initial Study and to obtain input on concerns or issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR (Schedule of Prices Item 50A). In selecting the locations for these meetings, the CSE-OST ensured each venue was located in a community that may be interested in the CSE and/or were located in environmentally sensitive communities. The CSE Strategy and Outreach Plan provides additional details on the locations chosen for these meetings.

In addition to the locations of these scoping meetings, any fact sheets and comment cards provided were translated into Spanish. Spanish interpretation services and equipment were provided at each scoping meeting for Spanish language speakers. If future meetings are conducted in a workshop format, more than one interpreter may be required, especially for communities with large percentages of non-English speakers. As the scoping meetings included only a presentation component with a small number of attendees, one interpreter was sufficient.

Noticing for public meetings is a critical way to reach environmental justice communities. The scoping meeting notice was distributed via email to all community, business and environmental groups in the CSE stakeholder database, including any recommendations made by the staff of County supervisors and city officials. Outreach to active environmental, community and business groups is essential, as they can each utilize their networks to further spread the meeting information. All information related to scoping meetings was included on the Public Works Twitter account and website.

Public Information Meetings

Public Works is holding five virtual public information meetings that will be held during the Draft CSE Revision and Draft EIR comment period. Considering the Draft EIR is more detailed on potential environmental impacts associated with the CSE, the availability of meetings will again be critical in reaching environmental justice communities. The CSE-OST will provide recommendations on additional languages for translation based on environmental justice community needs. The meeting presentations will be provided in both English and Spanish and hard copies of the CSE Revision and Draft EIR will be made available for those who do not have access to a computer.

As with scoping meetings, translation of materials will be essential to communicating the messages of the CSE to environmental justice communities. All presentations and comment cards will be translated in Spanish. Considering the more detailed information available and virtual meetings offered, Public Works should consider providing additional interpretation of the meeting materials in other prevalent languages. Based on the communities identified herein, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Khmer and Vietnamese are other languages recommended for interpretation.

Noticing for the five virtual public information meetings will be important to successfully reaching environmental justice communities and obtaining feedback from these communities on the Draft CSE and Draft EIR. Due to the more detailed information available and the number of meetings offered, noticing efforts will be enhanced. Advertisements in newspapers will be strategically placed in English and Spanish to notify communities of the meetings and locations. Notifications of CSE public meetings will be sent to all of the stakeholder groups identified in this environmental justice document, each of the 88 cities in the County and will be posted in the following major newspapers:

Los Angeles Times

Santa Clarita Valley Signal

Antelope Valley Press

Los Angeles Sentinel

Long Beach Press-Telegram

La Opinión

San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Meeting notices will also be circulated via email to the CSE Stakeholder Database, including all contacts identified in this environmental justice document and any additional contacts suggested by County supervisors, city officials and/or their staff. The CSE Stakeholder Database includes well-connected community, business and environmental organizations that can provide the meeting information to their networks. Notices of meetings will be sent to cities and unincorporated County community public works and/or planning departments for posting and to make available on their respective communication networks.

The Draft CSE Revision and Draft EIR will be available on the Public Works website and copies of the Draft CSE and Draft EIR should also be made available at select locations pending re-openings from COVID such as public libraries, city hall offices, community centers and other locations commonly used for such purpose. In addition, notices may be posted through various mediums that reach environmental justice stakeholders, such as community newsletters, public gathering places, websites, and blogs. Social media will also be an important medium through which information may be disseminated, so all meeting information will again be publicized on the Public Works Twitter account.

Each virtual public information meeting will be evaluated upon completion to determine any necessary changes prior to the next meeting. Part of this assessment will involve determining the level of participation from environmental justice communities. Based on that assessment, the CSE-OST can adjust its outreach strategies for future meetings.

Conclusion

To adhere to SB 1542 that specifically requires environmental justice outreach and documentation on all siting element approvals, the above strategies are recommended to ensure widespread participation in the CSE approval process. Considering the important issues to be discussed, and criteria to be determined by the CSE document, it is important that stakeholders from environmentally sensitive communities are able to participate in the public process for the Draft CSE Revision and Draft EIR Effective environmental justice outreach will also aid in the adoption of the CSE by a majority of the 88 cities with the majority of the population in the County.

Finally, environmental justice community participation in the CSE approval process will need to be documented to present a thorough CEQA document and environmental review process to CalRecycle. Through this environmental justice plan, Public Works

can take this opportunity to build relationships with important key stakeholders in environmentally sensitive communities for the CSE revision and future outreach efforts.