



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

GAIL FARBER - CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK - VICE CHAIR

August 6, 2013

Mr. David Pelsler, Director
City of Whittier Public Works Department
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

Dear Mr. Pelsler:

FINDING OF CONFORMANCE
SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL, 13919 EAST PENN STREET, WHITTIER, CA
SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT NO. 19-AH-0001

As a follow up to our enclosed letter of March 22, 2012, the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has reviewed your response letter dated May 4, 2012 (copy enclosed), in concert with the City of Whittier's application for a revised Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) for the subject facility as submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) – the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Solid Waste Management Program. According to the application submitted to the LEA, the revision would entail the following:

- Clarification on the increase of the total landfill capacity from 14.95 million cubic yards to 19.34 million cubic yards.
- Clarification of landfill maximum elevation from 900 feet to 910 feet at the ridgeline to include a 3% grade for drainage.
- Correction of disposal acreage listed in the existing SWFP from 132 acres to 102 acres.
- Revision of the landfill's estimated closure date from 2025 to 2055.
- Importation of 3,000 tons per day of inert debris for beneficial use at the subject facility.

Pursuant to the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE) dated June 1997, new solid waste disposal facilities, expansions of existing solid waste disposal facilities, or existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a significant change to their operation must obtain a Finding of Conformance (FOC) with the CSE

Mr. David Pelser
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from the Task Force. The purpose of the FOC is to ensure that any new and/or expansions of solid waste disposal facilities in Los Angeles County, including the cities and unincorporated communities, are consistent with the CSE and its siting criteria.

Chapter 10, Section 10.4, of the CSE defines "significant change" as (a) any change in the solid waste disposal facility's land use permit/conditional use permit and/or Waste Discharge Requirements Permit that requires compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended; (b) any revision in the facility's Solid Waste Facility Permit; or (c) any increase in daily permitted capacity as defined in Chapter 3 of the CSE.

As listed above, the facility instituted a "significant change" as defined in the CSE. As such, the proposal requires an FOC from the Task Force in order to ensure consistency with the CSE.

To apply for an FOC, please submit the required minimum information according to the enclosed Table 10-1. To demonstrate compliance with the siting criteria established in Chapter 6 of the Countywide Siting Element, please fill out the enclosed Siting Criteria form. A complete copy of the "Countywide Siting Element Volume I" can be downloaded by visiting www.LACountySWIMS.org or at the following direct link: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/swims/ShowDoc.aspx?id=115&hp=yes&type=PDF>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147 or Ms. Emiko Thompson, staff to the Task Force at ethomp@dpw.lacounty.gov or (626) 458-3521.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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Enc.

cc: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Cindy Chen, Gerry Villalobos, Dorcas Hanson-Lugo)
CalRecycle (Caroll Mortensen, Mark De Bie)
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee



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GAIL FARBER - CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK - VICE CHAIR

March 22, 2012

Mr. David Pelser
Director of Public Works Department
City of Whittier
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

Dear Mr. Pelser:

FINDING OF CONFORMANCE
SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL, 13919 EAST PENN STREET, WHITTIER, CA
SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT NO. 19-AH-0001

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) has been advised that the City of Whittier filed an application for a modified Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) for the subject facility with the Local Enforcement Agency, currently the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Solid Waste Management Program. The modification would provide for an increase in the subject site capacity from approximately 8.1 million cubic yards, as identified in the current SWFP issued on February 28, 1995, to 12.5 million cubic yards. The request also provides for changes in the final fill elevations in various areas. Overall, the proposal provides for an increase in the quantities of solid waste received by the landfill by approximately 2.64 million tons at an in place density of 1,200 pounds per cubic yards in accordance with the density used in the 1995 SWFP. Due to the said changes and unless the City substantiates otherwise, the proposal will necessitate a Finding of Conformance (FOC) from the Task Force to ensure consistency with the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element, dated June 1997.

Pursuant to the Countywide Siting Element, new solid waste disposal facilities, expansions of existing solid waste disposal facilities, or existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a significant change to their operation must obtain an FOC with the Countywide Siting Element from the Task Force. The Countywide Siting Element was approved by a majority of cities in the County of Los Angeles containing a majority of the cities' population, the County Board of Supervisors, and the former California Integrated Waste Management Board on June 24, 1998. The purpose of the FOC is to ensure that any new and/or expansions of solid waste disposal facilities in Los Angeles County, including the cities and unincorporated communities, are consistent with the Countywide Siting Element and its siting criteria.

Mr. Pelser
March 22, 2012
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To apply for an FOC, please submit the required minimum information according to the enclosed Table 10-1. To demonstrate compliance with the siting criteria established in Chapter 6 of the Countywide Siting Element, please fill out the attached Siting Criteria form. A complete copy of "Countywide Siting Element Vol. I" can be downloaded by visiting www.LACountySWIMS.org or at the following direct link: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/swims/ShowDoc.aspx?id=115&hp=yes&type=PDF>.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 million. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147, or Ms. Emiko Thompson, staff to the Task Force at (626) 458-3521, Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

Enc.

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cc: Mr. Jeff Collier, City Manager, City of Whittier
Ms. Carol Mortensen, Director, CalRecycle
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Cindy Chen, Gerry Villalobos)
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each Member of the Facility and Planning Subcommittee



May 4, 2012

Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
LA County SWM Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force
PO Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802

Dear Ms. Clark:

Subject: Finding of Conformance, Savage Canyon Landfill

This is in response to your letter of March 22, 2012, in which you requested the City of Whittier apply to the Task Force for a Finding of Conformance (FOC with the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) related to our current application to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for a modified solid waste facility permit for the City's Savage Canyon Landfill (SCLF).

The City has reviewed your letter and the CSE. We believe that a FOC is unnecessary. Our reasons are summarized below.

The CSE requires a FOC for the following events (CSE, p. 10-2):

1. New facilities;
2. Expansions of existing facilities, where expansion is defined (CSE, p. xx) as either an increase in the permitted elevation or an increase in the horizontal permitted boundary;
3. "Significant changes" requiring CEQA compliance;
4. Solid waste facility permit revisions;
5. Increase in daily permitted capacity.

None of these conditions apply to our permit modification application:

1. The SCLF is an existing facility listed in the CSE;
2. The revised grading plan that resulted in an increase in site life involves neither an increase to the maximum permitted elevation, nor a lateral expansion of the permitted boundary;

3. The modified permit does not require CEQA compliance for a significant change. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the City authorized preparation of an Initial Study (March, 2001). No adverse impacts were identified and no mitigation measures were recommended;
4. Our application is for a solid waste facility permit *modification*, not a revision;
5. There is no requested increase in daily permitted capacity.

In addition to these reasons, we offer the following information which may be of interest to the Task Force.

The SCLF is a "minor" landfill as defined by the CSE. The revised grading plan will result in an increase in site life, and yet it will still be a minor landfill with a correspondingly minor contribution to the County's disposal capacity. Nevertheless, the CSE includes policies to enhance the in-County landfill disposal capacity including specifically the following:

- "encourage and assist other jurisdictions in developing, to the maximum extent feasible, disposal capacity available for expansion within their boundaries" (CSE, p. 2-3)
- "encourage the full development of potentially available capacity at the Savage Canyon Landfill in the City of Whittier" (CSE, p 2-3).

Consistent with your policy is our current permit modification application for the revised grading plan, and our operational practices of using tarps for daily cover (CSE, p. 5-35) and our prohibition against disposal of green waste.

We have been frustrated that our permit renewal is taking so long. The City has provided multiple submittals of applications, permit documents (including complete Joint Technical Documents), and numerous updates of the same over the years while waiting for the LEA to complete the permit renewal process. Not only do we believe that a FOC is unnecessary according to your policies, but we appeal to the Task Force to "encourage and assist ... the full development of potentially available capacity at the Savage Canyon Landfill" by submitting a letter of support to the LEA for our permit modification. I make this request with all due respect to the Task Force members and to their important function since I served for many years as a member and Vice-Chair of the Sacramento Cities/County Task Force.

Sincerely,



David A. Pelsner, PE, BCEE
Director of Public Works

Table 10-1
Finding of Conformance Submittal Requirements

Proponents of solid waste disposal (landfill and transformation) facilities, except otherwise exempted, must submit proposals to the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force for an FOC. The facility proposal shall contain the following minimum information:

1. Identity of project proponent, owner, and operator.
2. Description of project location.
3. Project implementation schedule (as applicable) including planned dates for construction start, construction completion, start-up, planned expansion, and closure.
4. Project design capacity or acreage as appropriate.
5. Description of waste material to be handled.
6. Identification of waste sources.
7. Projection of waste quantity to be handled at start-up and at five-year intervals in project's life.
8. Identification of waste transport corridors and destination.
9. Technology to be used for treatment facilities.
10. Planned site classification for disposal sites.
11. Planned end uses for the land for disposal sites.
12. Final environmental documentation (initial study, negative declaration, categorical exemption, or an Environmental Impact Report) including all Notices of Determinations showing the posting dates with the County Clerk/City Clerk and the State Office of Planning and Research.
13. Planned market for materials/energy recovered from resource recovery projects.
14. Description of proposed waste diversion/salvage programs to be operated at the facility.
15. Information and operations plan for meeting applicable permit/regulatory requirements.
16. Demonstration of compliance with siting criteria requirements as established in Chapter 6 of the CSE.
17. Demonstration of compliance with general plan consistency requirements as required by the California Public Resources Code, Section 50000.5 and 50001, as applicable. In addition, a copy of the appropriate land use permit shall also be provided.
18. A tarping program designed to prevent the accidental release of litter from vehicles entering and leaving the site.
19. A waste load-checking program designed to prevent disposal of hazardous and other unacceptable waste from the site.

Table 10-1 (continued)

20. A set of plans, drawn-to-scale, clearly identifying property lines, adjacent land uses, all structures such as scale house, administration buildings, locations of any above ground or underground storage tanks, surrounding streets and access roads, etc. The plans must be a minimum of 2 feet by 3 feet in dimension, clearly labeled and bearing the signature and seal of a California Registered Civil Engineer. For land disposal facilities, the plans must show initial and final grades for and delineate the extent of the fill area. For transformation facilities, the plans must show drainage and wastewater discharge lines, the incineration building and equipment, and materials recovery area (if any).

In addition, the facility owner/operator will be required to implement the following measures/programs:

1. Project proponents of new Class III landfills and owners/operators of expansions of existing Class III landfills shall be required to implement the following seismic monitoring requirements:
 - a) Install an accelerometer on site to measure seismic ground motions by a date to be established by the Task Force. A set of as-built plans signed and sealed by a California Registered Civil Engineer shall be provided to the Local Enforcement Agency and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division for approval.
 - b) Following a major seismic event: 1) of magnitude 5.0 or greater in the Richter Scale, as recorded by the closest ground-motion monitoring device as maintained by the California Division of Mines and Geology, and 2) with an epicenter located within 25 miles from the Landfill (or as directed by the Task Force), thoroughly survey the landfill site for primary and secondary surface expressions of seismic activity (such as, surface ruptures, landslides, changes in spring flows, liquefaction, etc.). Submit a damage assessment report on the results of the survey to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division and the Local Enforcement Agency for review. The assessment report must describe and discuss all features, including damage to the site and infrastructure caused by the seismic event, and the measures that will be taken to mitigate the impact.
2. All Class III landfill owners/operators shall be required to submit a description of the program that will be implemented at the facility to:
 - a) Minimize disposal of inert waste at their facility.
 - b) Maximize density of disposed materials.
 - c) Use green waste or other appropriate materials for use as landfill daily cover other than soil, subject to approval of the appropriate Local Enforcement Agency, the CIWMB, and other appropriate permitting agencies.
3. All solid waste disposal facility operators shall be required to submit a description of the program that will be implemented at the facility to:
 - a) Acquire and provide to the County all data necessary for cities in Los Angeles County and the County to comply with the mandates of Assembly Bill 939. Additionally, disposal facility operators will be encouraged to institute waste salvage operations in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.
 - b) Discourage transportation of uncovered waste to the disposal facility through vehicle tarping enforcement at the gate.
 - c) Control litter on the streets, highways, and properties surrounding the disposal facility.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT FACILITY SITING CRITERIA**

Facility Name:

Location:

SITING FACTORS	GENERAL CRITERIA	CRITERIA MET		EXPLANATION FOR MEETING OR NOT MEETING CRITERIA
		YES	NO	
A. PROTECT THE RESIDENTS				
· Proximity to populations	Facility must be in conformance with local land use and zoning requirements of a county or city planning agency.			
	Construction of buildings or structures on or within 1,000 feet of a land disposal facility must contain a natural or manmade protective system.			
B. ENSURE THE STRUCTURAL STABILITY AND SAFETY OF THE FACILITY				
· Flood hazard areas	Disposal facilities must comply with requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended and local Stormwater/Urban Runoff requirements.			
	Land Disposal Facilities must be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return period.			
· Areas subject to tsunamis, seiches, and storm surges.	Disposal facilities should avoid areas subject to such events unless designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to preclude failure due to such events.			
· Proximity to active or potentially active faults/seismic	All facilities are to be designed and constructed in accordance with the local building code.			

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT FACILITY SITING CRITERIA**

	New or expansion of Class III landfill is prohibited on a known Holocene Fault.			
· Slope stability	Facilities should have engineered design safety features to assure structural stability.			
· Subsidence/liquefaction	All facilities should avoid locating in areas subject to such change unless designed, constructed, and maintained to preclude failure as a result of such change.			
· Dam failure inundation areas	Facilities should be located outside dam failure inundation areas.			
C. PROTECT SURFACE WATER				
· Aqueducts and reservoirs	New and existing Class III landfills should be fitted with subsurface barriers, as well as, precipitation and drainage control facilities.			
· Discharge of treated effluent	Facilities should be located in areas with adequate sewer capacity to accommodate the expected wastewater discharge. On site treatment should be considered if no sewers are available.			
	Facilities discharging into streams or into the ocean, directly or via storm drains, will require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.			

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT FACILITY SITING CRITERIA**

D. PROTECT GROUNDWATER				
<p>· Proximity to supply wells and well fields</p>	<p>Facilities must meet State of California's geologic setting criteria for ensuring no impairment of beneficial uses of surface water or of groundwater beneath or adjacent to the landfill.</p>			
<p>· Depth to groundwater</p>	<p>All containment structures must be capable of withstanding hydraulic pressure gradients to prevent failure due to settlement, compression, or uplift.</p>			
	<p>Class III landfills should be fitted with containment structures that meet specified Federal and State permeability standards. Facility to be fitted with groundwater collection system and leachate collection and removal systems.</p>			
<p>· Groundwater monitoring reliability</p>	<p>Facilities must comply with the California RWQCB permit requirements for groundwater monitoring.</p>			
<p>· Major aquifer recharge areas</p>	<p>Facilities must meet State of California's minimum requirements for ensuring no impairment of beneficial use of surface water or groundwater beneath or adjacent to landfill.</p>			
<p>· Permeability of surficial materials</p>	<p>Class III landfills should be underlain by a composite liner, consisting of lower clay liner and upper synthetic membrane, and which is of sufficient thickness to prevent vertical movement of fluids including waste and leachate.</p>			

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT FACILITY SITING CRITERIA**

<p>· Existing groundwater quality</p>	<p>Facility should meet California Water Quality Control Board's minimum water quality protection standards and criteria.</p>			
<p>E. PROTECT AIR QUALITY</p>				
<p>· Prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) areas</p>	<p>Facilities located in regions which are classified under PSD regulation as major stationary sources will be required to submit to preconstruction review and apply the Best Available Control Technology.</p>			
<p>· Non-attainment areas</p>	<p>Facilities with air emissions located in non-attainment areas and emitting air contaminants in excess of established limits will require preconstruction review under New Source Review requirements and the obtaining of a Permit to Construct and a Permit to Operate from the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District.</p>			
<p>· Landfill surface emissions</p>	<p>Class III land disposal facilities are subject to AVAQMD rules and regulations which includes installation of a landfill gas control system and perimeter monitoring probes, as well as, implementation of a monitoring program to ensure that landfill gas emissions do not exceed specified AVAQMD standards.</p>			

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT FACILITY SITING CRITERIA**

F. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS				
· Wetlands	Land disposal facilities should be located outside wetlands areas.			
· Proximity to habitats of threatened and endangered species	A facility should not locate in habitats of threatened or endangered species unless the local land use authority makes a determination that a proposed facility is compatible with the surrounding resources and does not pose a substantial threat to the resource.			
· Agricultural lands	A facility located in areas zoned for agricultural uses must obtain a local land use permit from the local jurisdiction.			
· Natural, recreational, cultural, and aesthetic resources	Facilities should avoid locating in these areas unless the applicant can demonstrate that a facility is compatible with the land use in the area.			
· Significant ecological areas	Location of a proposed facility must be in conformance with local jurisdiction's General Plan and abide by Federal and State regulations regarding unique or protected species and their habitat.			
G. ENSURE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF SOLID WASTE				
· Proximity to areas of waste generation	Facilities should be centrally located near wasteshed areas to minimize potential impacts associated with greater travel distances.			
	Alternate transportation, by rail, may be evaluated in regard to specific sites to be located at distant areas from the wasteshed.			

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT FACILITY SITING CRITERIA**

<p>· Distance from major route</p>	<p>Distance traveled on minor roads should be kept to a minimum.</p>			
<p>· Structures and properties fronting minor routes</p>	<p>Facilities should be located such that any minor routes from the major route to the facility are used by trucks, and the number of nonindustrial structures is minimal.</p>			
<p>· Highway accident rate</p>	<p>The minimum time path from major watershed areas to a facility should follow highways with low to moderate average annual daily traffic and accident rates.</p>			
<p>· Capacity vs. average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) of access roads</p>	<p>The changes in the ratio capacity to AADT should be negligible after calculating the number of trucks on the major and minor routes expected to service the facility.</p>			
<p>H. PROTECT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE COMMUNITY</p>				
<p>· Consistency with General Plan</p>	<p>The proposed facility must be consistent with the County or City General Plan. Also, it must be in conformance with the Countywide Siting Element of the County of Los Angeles, by obtaining FOC granted by Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/ Integrated Waste Management Task Force.</p>			