
4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

4.1 IMPACTS FOUND TO BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

The City of Los Angeles has determined through the preparation of an Initial Study (Appendix A-3) that the Proposed Project would not result in potentially significant impacts related to the environmental topics listed below. Title 14, Article 9, Section 15128 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines states:

“An EIR shall contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR. Such a statement may be contained in an attached copy of the Initial Study”

It has been determined that there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project would cause significant environmental effects in the following areas and that no further environmental review of these issues is necessary for the reasons described below.

Agricultural Resources

The project site has been used for landfill operations since 1958 and does not include any State-designated agricultural lands. According to the Los Angeles County Important Farmland Map, the project site is not included in the Important Farmland category. The project site is not zoned for agricultural use, nor is it subject to a Williamson Act Contract. Neither the project site nor nearby properties are currently utilized for agricultural activities. The Proposed Project would not involve the conversion of agricultural land to another use. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on farmland or agricultural resources.

Biological Resources

The project site is already disturbed and has been used for landfill operations since 1958. No removal or modification of habitat would occur as a result of activities associated with either Phase I or Phase II of the Proposed Project. No sensitive species are located on the project site. No riparian habitat, wetlands, or other sensitive habitat areas are located on the project site. The project site does not possess any characteristics of wetlands as defined in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The project site does not serve as a wildlife corridor and is not directly linked to areas with undisturbed habitat.

All trees presently located on the project site have been planted as part of the site landscaping. No trees would be removed as part of the Proposed Project and no trees subject to the provisions of the Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance would be affected by the Proposed Project. No approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans are applicable to the project site. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not impact any biological resources as identified above.

Cultural Resources

A records search was conducted for the project site by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) on March 6, 2002. According to this records search, there are no properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California State Historic Resource Inventory, the California Historical Landmarks or the California Points of Historic Interest within one-half mile of the project site. The records search indicated that one City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument is located approximately one-half mile east of the project site (No. 172, Stonehurst Recreation Center Building). This monument is sufficiently distant from the project site that the Proposed Project would not have the potential to impact it. The Proposed Project would not have the potential to impact historical resources.

All movement of soils required in order to bury refuse would occur in already disturbed areas within the existing landfill cap, which is located above the surrounding natural grade of the area. All soil used for cover operations is imported. No new subsurface excavations would be required in undisturbed areas under either Phase I or Phase II. As such, the potential for recovering any unique paleontological resources is extremely limited. A records search was conducted for the project site by the SCCIC on March 6, 2002. According to the records search, no prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or isolates have been identified within one-half mile of the project site. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not have the potential to result in the disturbance of archaeological or paleontological resources and no impact would occur.

The project site is located in an existing landfill. No new subsurface excavations would be required in undisturbed areas under either Phase I or Phase II. The Proposed Project would not have the potential to encounter human remains.

Mineral Resources

The project site is located in a Mineral Resource Zone 2 Area (MRZ-2) and a Surface Mining District (G). No oil extraction activities have historically occurred or are presently conducted on the project site. Mineral extraction activities that are presently ongoing in the area of the landfill would not be affected by activities under Phase I or Phase II of the Proposed Project. Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not represent conversion of existing or potential mineral extraction uses to another use. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not impact mineral resources.

Population and Housing

Under Phase I of the Proposed Project, existing landfill operations would increase from 1,500 tpd to 7,000 tpd until closure of the landfill in 2007. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, the existing landfill operation would be converted to a TS/MRF operation on or before the existing landfill's closing date. Neither Phase I nor Phase II of the Proposed Project includes any residential units and therefore would not result in a direct increase in permanent population growth in Los Angeles. Neither phase involves demolishing existing housing. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, on-site employment would increase by approximately 28 permanent, non-construction jobs in 2007 and 115 jobs by 2012. SCAG projections for the approximate three (3) mile radius from the project site estimate job growth of 11,401 between 2005 and 2010 and 9,350 jobs between 2010 and 2015 in this area. The projected job growth at

the BLRC would be within this forecast. Moreover, the BLRC site is adjacent to the City of Los Angeles Northeast Valley Enterprise Zone. Although not within the Enterprise Zone, the projected job growth at the BLRC would enhance economic activity in the area and would be consistent with the intent of the Enterprise Zone. This employment growth would not induce substantial housing growth in the area. Moreover, the area surrounding the project site is urbanized and served by existing infrastructure. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not induce substantial population growth or generate the need to expand existing urban infrastructure. No impacts related to growth inducement would occur.

Public Services

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) provides emergency, medical, and fire protection services to the project area. The nearest fire station is located at 8943 Glenoaks Boulevard (approximately 1.5 miles north of the project site). Under Phase I of the Proposed Project, existing landfill operations would continue and no increase in demand for fire protection services would occur. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, the existing landfill operation would be converted to a TS/MRF operation and demand for LAFD's services would be similar to the existing demand. Therefore, impacts related to fire protection services would be less than significant.

The City of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) provides police protection services in the project area. The project site has fences, walls, and gates to control unauthorized access to the site. A camera monitors and records gate and scale transactions 24 hours per day. Under Phase I of the Proposed Project, existing landfill operations would continue. No new demand for LAPD services would be associated with Phase I of the Proposed Project. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, the existing landfill operations would be converted to a TS/MRF operation, which would not generate new demand of LAPD services. Therefore, impacts related to police protection services would be less than significant.

Neither Phase I nor Phase II of the Proposed Project would generate permanent population growth in Los Angeles. Further, the project would not generate substantial new employment on the site. The Proposed Project would not generate any additional demand for school facilities, parks or other public facilities such as libraries and therefore, no impact on school services.

Recreation

Neither Phase I nor Phase II of the Proposed Project would result in substantial new employment or population growth. Thus the Proposed Project would not create any additional demand for public park facilities. No construction or expansion of park facilities would occur as a result of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impact to recreational facilities would occur.

Utilities

Water

Under Phase I of the Proposed Project, existing landfill operations would continue and construction of the TS/MRF would occur. The amount of water required for the operation of the landfill would not change. Some water may be required for wetting down of grading surfaces during the construction of the TS/MRF, but this amount would be minimal. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, overall water consumption would decrease because of reduced water usage for wetting down areas undergoing movement of soils. Therefore, impacts on water consumption would be less than significant.

Solid Waste

The project site is an existing and operational landfill. Under Phase I of the Proposed Project, existing landfill operations would continue and the landfill would remain available to serve the need for regional disposal capacity. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, the facility would remain available to serve regional disposal needs by providing for the efficient transfer of solid waste as well as providing increased capabilities for the processing of recyclable materials. Solid waste would be transferred from the proposed TS to other Waste Management-owned landfills that have already been permitted, including Lancaster, Antelope Valley and El Sobrante.

Landfill operations are conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. As required by the existing Litter Control Program, litter from the existing landfill is controlled by placing temporary, portable litter fences downwind from the working face. The fence, operational area and site in general are inspected daily and accumulated litter is removed. Litter found to have migrated offsite is immediately collected and returned to the disposal area. A permanent litter control fence has been installed along Glenoaks Boulevard at the northwest corner of the site. Under Phase I of the Proposed Project, existing landfill operations would continue and existing mitigation measures would remain in effect. Under Phase II of the Proposed Project, operations at the landfill site would continue to be in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. The Proposed Project would not adversely affect regional landfill capacity and no impacts related to solid waste regulations would occur.