

**INITIAL STUDY
Lamb Canyon Landfill (LCL)
Phase 3 Expansion Project
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared for:



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE RESOURCES
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June 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	1
1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE.....	1
1.1.1 Location.....	2
1.2 ZONING/LAND USE	2
1.3 REGIONAL SETTING.....	3
1.4 PROJECT BACKGROUND	3
1.5 COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA	4
1.6 PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
1.7 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	5
1.7.1 Project Schedule	10
1.8 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS.....	13
SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION	17
2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:	17
2.2 DETERMINATION	17
SECTION 3.0 – EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	18
SECTION 4.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	20
4.1 AESTHETICS.....	20
4.1.1 Impact Analysis	20
4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES	21
4.2.1 Impact Analysis	23
4.3 AIR QUALITY.....	24
4.3.1 Introduction	24
4.3.2 Environmental Setting	24
4.3.3 Impact Analysis	24
4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	26
4.4.1 Impact Analysis	26
4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES	27
4.5.1 Impact Analysis	29
4.6 ENERGY	29
4.6.1 Impact Analysis	30
4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS	31
4.7.1 Impact Analysis	32
4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	34
4.8.1 Impact Analysis	34
4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	34
4.9.1 Impact Analysis	35

4.10	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.....	37
4.10.1	Impact Analysis	38
4.11	LAND USE AND PLANNING	41
4.11.1	Impact Analysis	41
4.12	MINERAL RESOURCES	42
4.12.1	Impact Analysis	42
4.13	NOISE	43
4.13.1	Environmental Setting	43
4.13.2	Impact Analysis	43
4.14	POPULATION AND HOUSING	44
4.14.1	Impact Analysis	45
4.15	PUBLIC SERVICES.....	45
4.15.1	Impact Analysis	45
4.16	RECREATION	47
4.16.1	Impact Analysis	47
4.17	TRANSPORTATION	48
4.17.1	Impact Analysis	48
4.18	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES	49
4.18.1	Impact Analysis	49
4.19	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	50
4.19.1	Impact Analysis	50
4.20	WILDFIRE	52
4.20.1	Impact Analysis	52
SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES		54
REFERENCES.....		54

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 1 – Summary of Current and Proposed Landfill Conditions	1
Table 2 – Proposed Daily Personnel.....	11
Table 3 – Proposed Daily Peak Landfill Equipment.....	11

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map	14
Figure 2 – Proposed Study Area.....	15
Figure 3 – Conceptual Phase 3 Staging	16

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB 32	California’s Global Warming Solutions Act
AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
ADC	Alternative Daily Cover
APN	Assessors Parcel Number
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BMP	Best Management Practices
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CH4	Methane
CAF	Central Accumulation Facility
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CCR	California Code of Regulations

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGS	California Geological Survey
CIWMP	Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan
County	County of Riverside
DBESP	Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GP	General plans
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
HHWE	Household Hazardous Waste Elements
IS	Initial Study
JPR	Joint Project Review
LCL	Lamb Canyon Landfill
LFG	Landfill Gas
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Western Riverside County)
MSL	Mean Sea Level

ND	Negative Declaration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PF	Public Facilities
PRC	Public Resources Code
RCA	Regional Conservation Authority
RCDWR	Riverside County Department of Waste Resources
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SR 79	State Route 79
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SRRE	Source Reduction Recycling Elements
SWFP	Solid Waste Facility Permit
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TPD	Tons Per Day
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone
VMT	Vehicle miles traveled
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
WRP	Waste Recycle Park

SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this Initial Study is to describe the proposed project and evaluate the potential environmental impacts. This Initial Study (IS) is a public document that assesses the potential environmental effects of the proposed Lamb Canyon Landfill (LCL) Phase 3 Expansion Project (Project) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and in compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 1400 et seq.). This Initial Study serves as an informational document to be used in the local planning and decision-making process and does not recommend approval or denial of the Project. The Project addressed in the Initial Study involves the proposed expansion of the Lamb Canyon Landfill including operational and administrative changes. Table 1 below identifies the current permitted limits vs the project’s proposed permitted limits.

Table 1 – Summary of Current and Proposed Landfill Conditions

Landfill Conditions	Current Conditions	Proposed Conditions
Disturbance Area	703.4 acres	883.9 acres
Disposal Footprint	144.6 acres	502.2 acres
Maximum tons per day (tpd) of waste	5,000 tpd of General Non-Hazardous Materials ¹ and 500 tpd of beneficial reuse material	7,000 tpd and 500 tpd of beneficial reuse material
Permitted Hours of Operation	Monday through Sunday except certain County holidays. All landfill activities, including waste delivery, are permitted between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. 24 hrs/7 days for ancillary or maintenance activities.	Monday through Sunday except certain County holidays. All landfill activities, including waste delivery, are permitted between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. 24 hrs/7 days for ancillary or maintenance activities.
Permitted Traffic Volume per Day	913 vehicles	Approximately 1,280 vehicles ²
Permitted Disposal Site Capacity	20.7 million cubic yards	150.3 million cubic yards
Maximum Elevation	2,460 MSL	2,500 MSL
Maximum Depth	350 feet (ft BSG)	No Change
Landfill Access	The entrance to the Landfill is off State Route 79 (SR 79) which is a 4-lane state highway. The intersection between SR 79 and the landfill entrance road (Lamb Canyon Road) is signalized and configured to allow ingress and egress from the landfill site as follows: a left-turn pocket for inbound vehicles from the south and a	No Change

¹ General Non-Hazardous Materials include municipal solid wastes, agricultural wastes, animal wastes, construction demolition wastes, inert materials, dead animals, tires, urban wood wastes, white goods and large metallic materials (per County policy implementing State Public Resources Code Section No. 42170), Class III and inert wastes, Petroleum Contaminated Soils (as approved by the County Hazardous Materials Management Division and RWQCB), and treated medical waste.

² The proposed change in traffic volume per day is an estimate correlated to the 40% increase in tonnage. Further traffic analysis will be provided in the EIR.

Landfill Conditions	Current Conditions	Proposed Conditions
	right-turn deceleration lane for inbound vehicles from the north, and, for exiting traffic, a left-turn lane for northbound traffic onto SR 79 and a right-turn lane for southbound traffic onto SR 79.	
Estimated Closure Date	2029	2079

1.1.1 Location

The Lamb Canyon Landfill is located at 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, Beaumont, CA 92223 (State Route 79), in unincorporated land within Riverside County, south of Interstate 10 and city of Beaumont along State Route 79.

1.2 ZONING/LAND USE

The Project site is within The Pass and San Jacinto Valley Area Plans of the County General Plan, with a Public Facilities (PF) land use designation. The LCL property boundary contains Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 424-100-008, 424-100-010, 424-100-011, 424-100-012, 424-100-013, 424-120-004, 424-120-007, 424-120-009, 424-170-001, 424-170-002, 424-170-003, 424-170-004, 424-170-005, 424-180-001, 424-180-002, 424-190-003, 424-190-007, 424-190-008, 424-190-009, and 424-190-010. The Project Site is specifically located within the APNs: 424-100-008, 424-100-010, 424-100-011, 424-100-012, 424-100-013, 424-120-009, 424-170-001, 424-190-007, 424-190-008, 424-190-009, and 424-190-010. The Project is located on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) El Casco and Beaumont, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles, Township 3S, Range 1W, Sections 20, 21, and 29. The Project site is located just west of State Route 79 (SR 79) and is surrounded by open mountains. The elevation at the Project site ranges from 1,750 to 2,500 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Areas directly to the north, east, west and south of the Project site are also located within the unincorporated area of Riverside County and are zoned Controlled Development (W-2). There are no established local land uses within one mile of the property line of the landfill. The LCL property is zoned W-2 (Controlled Development Area).

Per Riverside County Land Use and Zoning Ordinance No. 348, the W-2 zoning classification identifies "Disposal Service Operations" as being conditionally permitted within this zone. In addition, the Department is a public agency and the project proponent. As a result, the proposed project is deemed a "public project" under the provisions of Section 18.2.a.b.(1) of this ordinance, which states, in part, that "no federal, state, county or city governmental project shall be subject to the provisions of this ordinance."

The primary zoning designation surrounding the landfill property is W-2, with M-M (Manufacturing-Medium) zoning designation applying to properties directly northwest, and M-H (Manufacturing-Heavy) zoning designation applying to a small piece of land south of and adjacent to the landfill property boundary. Vacant land and City of Beaumont is located to the east of the landfill. The prominent land use in the vicinity of the LCL is open space with steep hilly topography. No residences are located within one mile of the landfill property line. An aggregate mining and processing (other than oil and gas) site is located

approximately a mile west of the proposed Project site. The landfill property and the mining site are the only land uses along that stretch of SR 79 in the LCL area between San Jacinto and Beaumont.

Land uses directly surrounding the landfill property include:

- North: Vacant
- East: Vacant
- West: Vacant
- South: Vacant

1.3 REGIONAL SETTING

Riverside County is located in an area of Southern California referred to as the Inland Empire. The Inland Empire is an approximate 28,000 square mile metropolitan area primarily comprised of Riverside and San Bernadino counties, east of Los Angeles County.

The Project site is located within San Jacinto Valley Area Plan of the County General Plan. Specifically, the Project site is located in the upper portion of the San Timoteo Badlands area, an extensive pattern of dramatic and rugged mountainous terrain forming the eastern edge of the area plan. The San Timoteo Badlands area is recognized as a regional wildlife corridor, and current land uses in the area are predominantly open space and habitat conservation.

The landfill also accepts residual waste from two private transfer stations in Riverside County, namely, Edom Hill Transfer Station/Materials Recovery Facility (EHTS/MRF) and the Coachella Valley Transfer Station (CVTS).

1.4 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The LCL has been in operation since 1970 and is owned and operated by the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources (RCDWR). The Landfill is defined as a Class III sanitary landfill facility, pursuant to the provisions of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The primary access to the LCL is State Route 79 (SR 79) which is a 4-lane state highway. The intersection between SR 79 and the landfill entrance road (Lamb Canyon Road) is signalized and configured to allow ingress and egress from the landfill site as follows: a left-turn pocket for inbound vehicles from the south and a right-turn deceleration lane for inbound vehicles from the north, and, for exiting traffic, a left-turn lane for northbound traffic onto SR 79 and a right-turn lane for southbound traffic onto SR 79.

The LCL receives solid waste for disposal from its local service area which generally includes the Cities of Beaumont, Banning, San Jacinto, and Hemet and the unincorporated communities of Pine Cove, Idyllwild, Cherry Valley, Cabazon, Homeland, Romoland, and Winchester, as well as two transfer stations in the Coachella Valley, the Edom Hill Transfer Station and the Coachella Valley Transfer Station. Generally, waste originating from anywhere within Riverside County may be accepted for disposal at the landfill. As a regional facility, the landfill also provides disposal services to surrounding counties, namely Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Diego County, and San Bernardino County.

The LCL is currently permitted to receive a maximum of 5,000 tons per day (tpd) of non-hazardous solid waste, which includes residential waste, commercial waste, construction/demolition waste, and special waste as may be allowable under permits and/or approvals from regulatory agencies. 2,000 additional tpd are proposed and would generate approximately 91 additional transfer truck deliveries per day.

1.5 COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

Environmental information regarding the Lamb Canyon Landfill site and operation is contained in the following environmental documents, available at the RCDWR HQ, 14310 Frederick Street in Moreno Valley, CA and incorporated, herein, by reference:

- EA35752 was prepared for a Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Revision, for which an MND was adopted by the BOS on June 11, 1991 (SCH No. 1991032004).
- EA37160 was prepared for the increase in acreage to the landfill property, addressed a phased expansion of the site, and included installation of a composite liner, leachate collection system and landfill gas recovery and disposal system. A MND was adopted by the BOS on September 23, 1997 (SCH No. 1997081029).
- EA38691 was prepared for a revised SWFP to increase the daily disposal capacity from 1,900 tpd to 3,000 tpd, expand the landfill footprint, increase the permitted number of vehicles, relocate ancillary facilities, and modify the landfill footprint design. A MND was adopted by the BOS on July 29, 2003 (SCH No. 2003061074).
- An Addendum to EA38691 was prepared for the acceptance of refuse between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 pm and allowed the use of artificial lighting. An addendum was approved by the BOS on June 14, 2005.
- EA39652 was prepared to revise the SWFP to increase the daily disposal capacity from 3,000 to 5,000 tpd, increase the maximum daily traffic from 756 to 913 vehicles, enlarge the permitted landfill area from 353.4 to 580.5 acres to allow for dirt management activities and other landfill related activities, change the landfill hours to allow 24-hour ancillary and non-disposal operations, 7 days per week and allow the receipt of waste for disposal from 4:00 am to 9:00 pm, 7 days per week. It also addressed the final closure of the portion of Phase 1 of the landfill disposal footprint, closure of the existing Central Accumulation Facility (CAF), increased diversion activities in the Waste Recycle Park (WRP), expansion of the equipment maintenance area, and other activities. A MND was adopted by the BOS on March 17, 2009 (SCH No. 2008121005).
- Addendum No. 1 to EA39652, approved by the BOS on January 26, 2016 included SWFP revisions such as an acceptance of different waste types for disposal, grading plan and other modifications.
- Addendum No. 2 to EA39652, approved by the BOS on September 19, 2017, includes modifications to the permitted disturbance area of the landfill, which is increasing from 580.5 acres to 703.4 acres, drainage improvements to include water quality basins, relocation of the composting facility, and additional bird abatement measures.
- EA 2017-01, approved ownership of Acquisition Property for capturing and managing drainage flows that impact landfill activities south of the Project area, as well as to improve on-site access

and facilitate the development of ancillary landfill activities. Acquiring fee title to the Acquisition Property also provided continuity of ownership with adjacent parcels northwest of the existing landfill site, as these were recently acquired by the County from Southern California Edison (SCE).

1.6 PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that the LCL as a regional facility will continue to provide long-term disposal capacity.
- Expand hours of operations to accommodate off-peak deliveries of waste from transfer stations, reducing traffic congestion and air emissions.
- Increase daily disposal tonnage limits to accommodate future growth and waste disposal from the local landfill service area, from the Coachella Valley area, and the Badlands Landfill in an emergency event.
- Implement Landfill practices and programs to ensure the health and safety of the public at the landfill.
- Optimize opportunities to reduce GHG emissions from the landfill in compliance with Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, such as implementing landfill gas collection and energy recovery technology or providing additional recovery of recyclable materials.
- Emphasize and promote an environmentally safe landfill by implementing best management practices and environmental control technologies for proper handling and disposal of solid waste.
- Implement landfill practices and programs to encourage and promote recycling and resource recovery and proper handling of hazardous waste, in conformance with the goals and policies identified in the Source Reduction Recycling Elements (SRRE) and the Household Hazardous Waste Elements (HHWE) of the Riverside Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP)
- Provide a convenient, environmentally acceptable, and cost-effective facility to the residents of Riverside County.
- Provide waste conversion services to facilitate compliance with SB 1383 organics recycling mandates.

1.7 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project involves a landfill expansion at the Lamb Canyon Landfill to increase permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, and expand the disposal footprint by 357.6 acres, from 144.6 to 502.2 acres (Proposed Project). This will provide approximately 50 years of additional landfill capacity to the region.

In addition to an expansion of the waste disposal footprint and operation, other landfill activities will continue to occur and may expand within the proposed disturbance limits, including, but not limited to the following: soil excavation, soil stockpiling, retention and sedimentation basins, materials storage, equipment parking and maintenance, landfill access road construction and maintenance, drainage control construction and maintenance, implementation of energy recovery systems, waste recycling and organics processing, household hazardous waste collection, residential waste collection, landfill gas and groundwater/leachate monitoring and management, flare systems, gate fee booth and truck scales, office buildings and parking, electric vehicle charging stations and/or the on-site relocation of these ancillary uses/activities, as necessary. Changes in Department personnel and equipment at the site may occur as either governing requirements change or increases in waste volumes/tonnages occur.

Soil Excavation:

Each phase of landfill development would require soil excavation from the canyon floor and slopes to create the design airspace for refuse placement and foundation for liner construction. In other words, soil excavation would also be phased. Part of the excavated soil may be used as daily cover at the active face of the landfill. The Project design is expected to generate excavated soil with a portion of it to be used for daily cover throughout the life of the landfill, and another portion to be used for final closure after the landfill ceases operation, and the remaining soil would be stockpiled. Excavation depths must maintain a minimum of 10-foot separation of waste or the bottom liner from the highest anticipated groundwater levels. An evaluation will be performed prior to the final design for each excavation phase/stage.

Soil Stockpiling:

Portions of the proposed expansion also include soil stockpile areas. Stockpile areas would be used to store excavated material that may be used as engineered fill or daily landfill cover over the current and future landfill areas.

Retention and Sedimentation Basins:

The Project would incorporate stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as sedimentation or other water quality basins to catch runoff before it leaves the site. Basins are designed to manage 100% of the volume of runoff associated with the 85th percentile 24-hour storm event (General Permit volume requirement). Substantial runoff and pollution is not anticipated as the Project will be designed to incorporate non-structural and structural BMPs such as, but not limited to, fiber rolls, check dams, concrete v-ditches, sedimentation basins, or other water quality basins as methods to reduce the velocity of water runoff as well as impacts to water quality. In order to reduce or eliminate the creation of runoff water at the site, these BMPs will be designed, installed, and constructed to comply with NPDES, WDR, and SWPPP requirements in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's requirements for construction activities.

Drainage Control:

The LCL is located at the head of an unnamed canyon that drains into the San Jacinto Valley. Several other canyons drain westerly away from the western flank of the property. The highest elevation within the proposed Project disposal area is approximately 2,500 feet above MSL at the northern end of the landfill. The lowest refuse elevation within the proposed Project disposal area is approximately 1,770 feet above MSL at the southern end. Under the proposed Project, the existing surface water drainage and erosion control plans would continue to apply with any necessary modifications. Protection against runoff from precipitation would be provided by maintaining drainage grade on terraces and construction of berms and drains that divert runoff from the landfill into a water quality basin. In addition, there would be several BMPs, including but not limited to: silt fences, sandbags, rumble rocks, gravel/rock entrances, sediment traps, and fiber rolls, would also be available for use as necessary to provide erosion control as stated in the site's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Onsite drainage would be controlled by lateral sheet flow and by intercepting berms and benches. Sheet flow erosion would be minimized by reducing velocity and discharge using a shallow gradient on top deck areas and by limiting the size of runoff areas as much as possible. Final and temporary slopes would be designed and constructed at 3:1 (horizontal to vertical) or flatter. In addition, benches 15 to 20 feet wide would be located every 40 to 50 feet vertically along the final slopes. Benches would intercept sheet flow runoff from side slopes to prevent excessive erosion. Runoff on landfill benches would be directed to oversized drains and channels that would lead to a water quality basin. During wet weather conditions, landfill operations would relocate the disposal pad to the Wet Weather pad. The surface runoff from the Wet Weather pad would be diverted into a percolation basin. Any surface runoff accumulated in the percolation basin would be allowed to percolate

through the landfill's intermediate cover and into the landfill unit. No ponding would be allowed for more than 48 hours within the percolation basin. Wastewater remaining in the basin after 48 hours would either be used to moisture condition the static food compost piles to achieve the necessary optimal moisture content and temperature for composting or be used as dust control within the lined portions of the landfill.

Flare Systems and Energy Recovery:

As waste in landfills naturally decomposes, landfill gas (LFG) is produced and if not properly collected and treated can become an environmental hazard. RCDWR operates and maintains existing gas collection and control systems to properly treat LFG in strict accordance with regulatory requirements. Flare systems are currently utilized as the primary treatment method to burn off excess LFG, minimizing environmental impact by preventing the release of methane into the atmosphere. Recent advancements in energy recovery technologies have increased the feasibility for beneficial use of LFG as a sustainable fuel source to generate renewable natural gas or electric power. Energy recovery systems will be utilized as feasible since they have the capability to maintain regulatory compliance by safely mitigating the environmental hazard while also processing LFG into a viable asset for energy production.

Waste Recycling and Organics Processing:

The LCL currently accepts greenwaste (processed green material) and processed construction and demolition (C&D) waste for beneficial reuse in accordance with the requirements of CCR, Title 27, Section 20686. The quantities of greenwaste and construction and demolition waste accepted for reuse are recorded and the information is available to the LEA on request. Based on these records for the past 5 years, it is estimated that the current permitted peak daily tonnage of 500 tons of beneficial use material will remain unchanged.

The landfill customers are directed to an area to deposit their green waste either on the ground or in a bin. After sorting, the green/woody waste may be ground and/or transferred offsite to supply other higher end beneficial uses (i.e., composting, biomass to energy). If ground into mulch, it may be utilized as alternative daily cover (ADC) or erosion control on the landfill site and/or may be made available to the public or composting processor(s). The RCDWR is required to comply with all the provisions of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1133 - Composting and Related Operations and with CCR Title 14 for the handling of compostable materials.

Greenwaste is used for ADC and for erosion prevention on fill slope surfaces. C&D waste consisting of suitable material and particle size is occasionally accepted for use as sub base on access roads and wet weather operation pads. C&D debris is waste material produced during the construction, renovation, or demolition of structures (i.e., buildings, roads, bridges). Components of C&D debris typically include asphalt, bricks, concrete and other masonry materials, soils rock, wall coverings, drywall, plumbing fixtures, insulation, roofing, shingles, plate glass, metal, wood waste, carpet, and electrical wires. Typical materials suitable for reuse include plumbing fixtures, doors, cabinets, windows, carpeting, bricks, light fixtures, ceiling and floor tiles, wood, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, and decorative items that may otherwise be discarded.

Household Hazardous Waste Management and Collection:

Hazardous waste is not accepted for burial at Department landfills, including the LCL. The existing Waste Recycling Program at the LCL currently handles, collects, stores, and ships out universal hazardous waste (such as universal waste electronic devices, batteries, mercury switches, electrical ballasts, bulbs, etc.) within regulatory storage limits. The Central Accumulation Facility (CAF) is permitted by the Department

of Toxic Substance Control Act as a Permit-By-Rule Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (PHHWCF). The Department has kept the CAF closed to the public and only utilizes the facility for consolidating HHW found in the Hazardous Waste Inspection (Load Check) Program and illegal dump program. The Department replaced the CAF with a newly constructed Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. As of January 1, 2021, the Lamb Canyon PHHWCF has accepted HHW from Riverside County residents as well as continuing to store hazardous waste from Riverside County Load Check Program and Temporary HHW Collection Events. The Department's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection activities at the LCL include a Recycle-Only Antifreeze, Battery, Paint (ABOP) facility a Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (PHHWCF), Temporary HHWC Events (THHWCE) and Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG) program. The HHW Program collects HHW from County residents during HHW business hours. The HHW program accepts VSQG from approved customers by appointment only.

Landfill Gas Monitoring and Management:

When the organic components of buried MSW decompose, landfill gas (LFG) is produced inside the landfill. LFG is primarily composed of methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Since methane is combustible in air at concentrations between 5% and 15% and is a powerful GHG, a principal concern in landfill operations is to prevent lateral migration and accumulation of LFG in and/or under nearby buildings, as well as to minimize fugitive methane emissions from the surface of the landfill. Further, uncontrolled LFG could migrate into surrounding soils, eventually condensing into liquid form and causing contamination of surface water and groundwater. The Department would regularly collect samples from below ground probes located at or near the landfill footprint to detect landfill gas migration. The Department would monitor for gas migration, surface gas emissions, and gas collection & control system (GCCS) system operation to verify gas control compliance. Gas monitoring and control compliance is regularly reported to the CRWQCB-SAR, SCAQMD, and LEA in the required quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports.

The LFG system consists of an extensive network of horizontal and vertical gas collection wells, multiple-level subterranean gas monitoring probes, a blower that applies negative pressure to collect LFG from the wells, and flare stations that combust the LFG. As additional refuse is placed and the landfill footprint expands, the LFG system would be expanded to maintain the integrity of the system. Although not a physical part of the LFG system, the composite bottom and slope liner system also serves as a gas barrier restricting the downward migration of LFG and condensate into the groundwater table and lateral migration of LFG beyond the refuse footprint.

As allowed for by SCAQMD permits, the gas collection system is routinely augmented based on the monitoring data, as the landfill expands, as refuse is placed in the existing permitted landfill footprint, to accommodate operational needs, and to maintain regulatory compliance. Augmentation includes both installation of new components and relocation of existing components, as necessary. Augmentation of the system may include, but is not limited to: adding/relocating header and lateral pipes; adding gas collection wells; adding/relocating tanks; extending vertical gas wells; and flare station operation and maintenance.

Groundwater/Leachate Monitoring and Management:

Groundwater and surface water monitoring requirements for solid waste landfill operations are found in CCR, Title 27, Subchapter 3, Article 1. Groundwater samples are collected and analyzed semi-annually from all monitoring wells. Groundwater samples are analyzed by a laboratory certified by the California Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Groundwater

elevations are measured and recorded quarterly for all monitoring wells. During a sampling event groundwater elevations are measured and recorded prior to well purging. Groundwater Monitoring reports would comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program specified in the Waste Discharge Requirements.

Additional groundwater monitoring wells would be added to the groundwater monitoring system commensurate with the proposed landfill development, in compliance with CCR, Title 27. Also, vertical wells for storm water injection and infiltration and/or percolation basins may be installed and would be monitored by staff. Storm water monitoring is required under the NPDES, General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities. A minimum of two (2) storm water samples would be collected every six months at each discharge location. In addition, routine inspection of surface drainage facilities, and landfill surface and access roads would be performed. Maintenance and improvements are completed, as necessary, in general accordance with the SWPPP. Prior to implementation of the Project, the SWPPP would be updated to address Project-specific storm water protection issues and include the necessary mitigation and monitoring requirements.

Leachate refers to a liquid that is the result of percolation of water (e.g. rain) through solid waste or from decomposition of or release of liquids from the waste itself. Landfill leachate is formed partially from infiltration of rainwater into the buried waste (particularly in regions with plenty of rainfall) and partially from the moisture content within the waste. Sanitary landfills are designed to prevent groundwater contamination by capturing and then removing the leachate generated within the landfill. This is the primary function of the leachate collection and removal system (LCRS). Further, as per CCR Title 14, Section 17781, the landfill operator must monitor, collect, treat, and dispose of leachate for a minimum of 30 years after landfill closure, and until the responsible regulatory agencies have determined that leachate is no longer being produced, or that discharge of leachate would no longer adversely affect water quality.

The Project would use current LCRS design standard for all future landfill development phases; however, compliance with additional or new standards will occur if required. The LCRS Drainage Layer covers the bottom area of the landfill cell, where a trench within the LCRS layer collects the leachate through a perforated pipe that drains to the LCRS sump or tank. A synthetic drainage layer is used on the slope liner system, which collects and drains leachate toward the bottom of the landfill cell and eventually into the LCRS sump. The stored leachate is periodically pumped out, tested, and treated, as necessary. If it is determined not to be harmful to people and the environment, leachate is commonly used for dust control at the landfill.

Ancillary Facilities:

Gate Fee Booth and Truck Scales

The types of waste material in customer vehicles are identified at the truck scales/fee-booth facility by the on-duty Gate Services Assistant who instructs customers to follow traffic control signs and the directions given by Department employees who guide customers to the appropriate unloading location. Access roads that lead to disposal locations may be either paved or covered with aggregate base material, asphalt grindings, construction demolition material, or maintained temporary dirt roads. In the event of heavy or prolonged rain events, a designated area within the permitted disposal area would be prepared to provide access during wet weather conditions.

Landfill Access Road Construction and Maintenance

The only access to the LCL is via State Route 79 (Lamb Canyon Road). SR 79 is a four (4) lane paved highway that runs in a north-south direction. SR 79 links Interstate 10 in Beaumont to the north and State Highway 74 in San Jacinto to the south. There is a signalized three-way intersection at SR 79 and the landfill entrance road. The intersection is configured with a left turn pocket for the northbound traffic entering the landfill.

Materials Storage, Equipment Parking and Maintenance

The permitted business hours for conducting ancillary activities and landfill maintenance and management are 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Landfill and equipment maintenance can be performed outside normal working hours or on days the landfill is closed. Ancillary activities and landfill maintenance and management may include but are not limited to: dirt excavation and stockpiling, special projects, site maintenance, equipment maintenance, and office work. Routine maintenance and repairs are performed on heavy equipment (scrapers, dozers, trash compactors, loaders, water trucks, and motor-graders) at the site at either the Fleet Maintenance Facility located east of the Project Site or at a location adjacent to the active pad or excavation areas.

Support is provided by mechanics with RCDWR's Fleet Services to maintain heavy equipment. The Department's Fleet Maintenance and Repair staff currently includes a program coordinator, equipment service supervisor, full-time heavy equipment mechanics, and equipment maintenance workers. Heavy equipment mechanics and equipment maintenance workers are assigned to work at the LCL everyday as workload demands. The Department also contracts with vendors to perform individual repair and maintenance tasks as needed.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

An electric vehicle (EV) charging station, also known as an electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), is a device that supplies electrical power to recharge the batteries of plug-in electric vehicles. A single EVSE is currently located at the Engineering and Operations Compound and at least ten (10) additional EVSE will be installed in the parking lot for the Site Operations Center which will be located at the Engineering and Operations Compound located east of the Project Site.

1.7.1 Project Schedule

Landfill construction will occur in stages within Phase 3 throughout the life of the landfill. Construction of each lined stage will follow a pattern from North to South with the construction of the first liner stage taking place within the northern most section of Phase 3 and final liner stage area located within the southern-most section of Phase 3. Construction will be phased to provide sufficient time for preparation and installation of liner, construction and maintenance of access roads, and mass earthwork grading. Construction of the individual lined stages will include, but are not limited to the following: earthwork grading (excavation and engineered fill); installation of liner material on completed slopes, benches, and floors; installation of water quality basins and other BMPs such as litter fencing, silt fencing, fiber rolls, slope erosion protection, etc. for stormwater runoff and wastewater runoff; installation of leachate lines and storage tanks; installation of landfill gas lines; installation of gas condensate lines and storage tanks; construction of asphalt/aggregate base access roads; and various other construction activities. Upon the completion of each liner construction stage, these lined waste areas will be utilized for waste disposal operations. Use of one lined stage area for waste disposal operations will occur simultaneously as construction begins in the following lined stage area. The Phase 3 ultimate trash fill design grades will merge with the existing Phase 1 and Phase 2 landfill unit. When all lined stages are complete and the

landfill reaches its Ultimate Fill design elevations, the landfill will be closed and receive a Final Monolithic Cover in accordance with CCR Title 27.

Table 2 – Proposed Daily Personnel

Job Category	Existing Personnel	Proposed Personnel	Increase From Existing Conditions
Landfill Operations/Management	9	10	1
Equipment Operators	18	22	4
Construction and Maintenance	6	9	3
Environmental Monitoring/Remediation	3	4	1
Compost Operation	4	5	1
Traffic Direction	9	11	2
Waste Recycling	8	10	2
Waste Inspection/HHW Management	3	4	1
TOTAL	60	75	15

Table 3 – Proposed Daily Peak Landfill Equipment³

Equipment Type	Baseline/Existing Equipment	Additional Equipment Needed for the Project
Compactor	3	1
Scraper	2	2
Dump Truck	1	2
Roll Off Truck	4	2
Dozer	5	3
Loader	6	1
Excavator	1	1
Motor Grader	1	1
Water Truck	2	2
Backhoe	1	1
Skid Steer	1	1
Water Pump	2	1
Diesel Light Tower	14	0
Solar LED Light Tower	4	6
Forklift	1	0
Grinder	1	0
Water Trailer	2	1
Trommel Screen	1	0
TOTAL	48	25

³ Proposed number of personnel and equipment are subject to change based on current and future regulation compliance.

Construction Equipment

The Proposed Project will utilize the following construction equipment during construction, maintenance, and installation of the proposed upgrades:

- Loaders
- Pickup Trucks
- Backhoes
- Water Trucks
- Asphalt Pavers
- Cranes
- Excavators
- Articulated Trucks
- Bulldozers
- Scrapers
- Compactors
- Motor Graders
- Skid Steers
- Roll-off Trucks
- Other miscellaneous construction equipment

Demolition and Excavation

Work such as clearing and grubbing of native vegetation, excavation and embankment of soils, trenching, grading, backfilling, compaction, slope protection, drainage construction, road construction, or any combination thereof, will be performed as needed with the use of equipment listed above. Mass Earth Grading (excavation, engineered fill, or stockpiling) is expected to occur continuously throughout the duration of Phase 3. A combination of scrapers, dozers, articulated trucks, excavators, and motor graders will be utilized to rip, excavate, and transport material from staging areas to designated stockpiles located in future stages. These stockpiles will be utilized for daily cover material to cover waste at the end of each landfill working day. Water trucks will be utilized for dust control, maintenance of dirt roads, and for compaction of soil for engineered fill and stockpile areas. Water quality basins and BMPs will be implemented to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with demolition and mass earthwork grading activities.

Fencing

Three types of fencing are commonly used at Lamb Canyon: Silt fencing, Litter fencing, and Temporary fencing. Silt fencing is expected to be utilized at various locations through the site including and not limited to: toes of slopes and along drainage channels to minimize erosion and sediment runoff. Litter fencing, both temporary and permanent structures, will be located at various locations throughout the site and downwind from the active disposal area to capture windblown litter. Temporary fencing (in the form of chain link, or polyvinyl) or barricades may be installed during construction, if deemed necessary, to deter unauthorized access to the site, staging areas, or work areas.

Staging Areas

Various staging areas are anticipated to exist throughout the duration of Phase 3 and within each liner stage construction area. Equipment or materials may be staged, stacked, or stockpiled as necessary for

mobilization, landfill operations utilization, or construction activity. These locations will be designated by Lamb Canyon Engineering staff during the various construction stages and used by Department staff or by contractors when present. All equipment and material located in staging areas will be required to implement BMPs in accordance with the site/project specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Hazardous Materials Business Emergency Plan.

1.8 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Required Approvals

The proposed Project may be required to obtain and/or update the following federal, state, and local permits and/or approvals from the agency identified:

- An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (County of Riverside)
- Notice of Intention/Resolution of Necessity, and other required documentation, agreements, and/or contracts related to implementation of the proposed Project (County of Riverside)
- Updates to Solid Waste Facility Permit (Concurrence by CalRecycle; Issuance by Riverside County Environmental Health Department, Local Enforcement Agency)
- Waste Discharge Requirements (Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board)
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (State Water Resources Control Board)
- Hazardous Waste Spill Contingency Plan (County of Riverside Environmental Health Department, Hazardous Materials Branch)
- Permits to Construct and Operate (South Coast Air Quality Management District)
- Hazardous Materials Generator Permit/EPA Identification Number (Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Environmental Protection Agency)
- Permit by Rule or Operating Permit (Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Environmental Protection Agency)
- 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Game)
- Consistency with Western Riverside County Multiples Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority)
- Compliance with applicable AQMD rules/permits (South Coast Air Quality Management District)

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

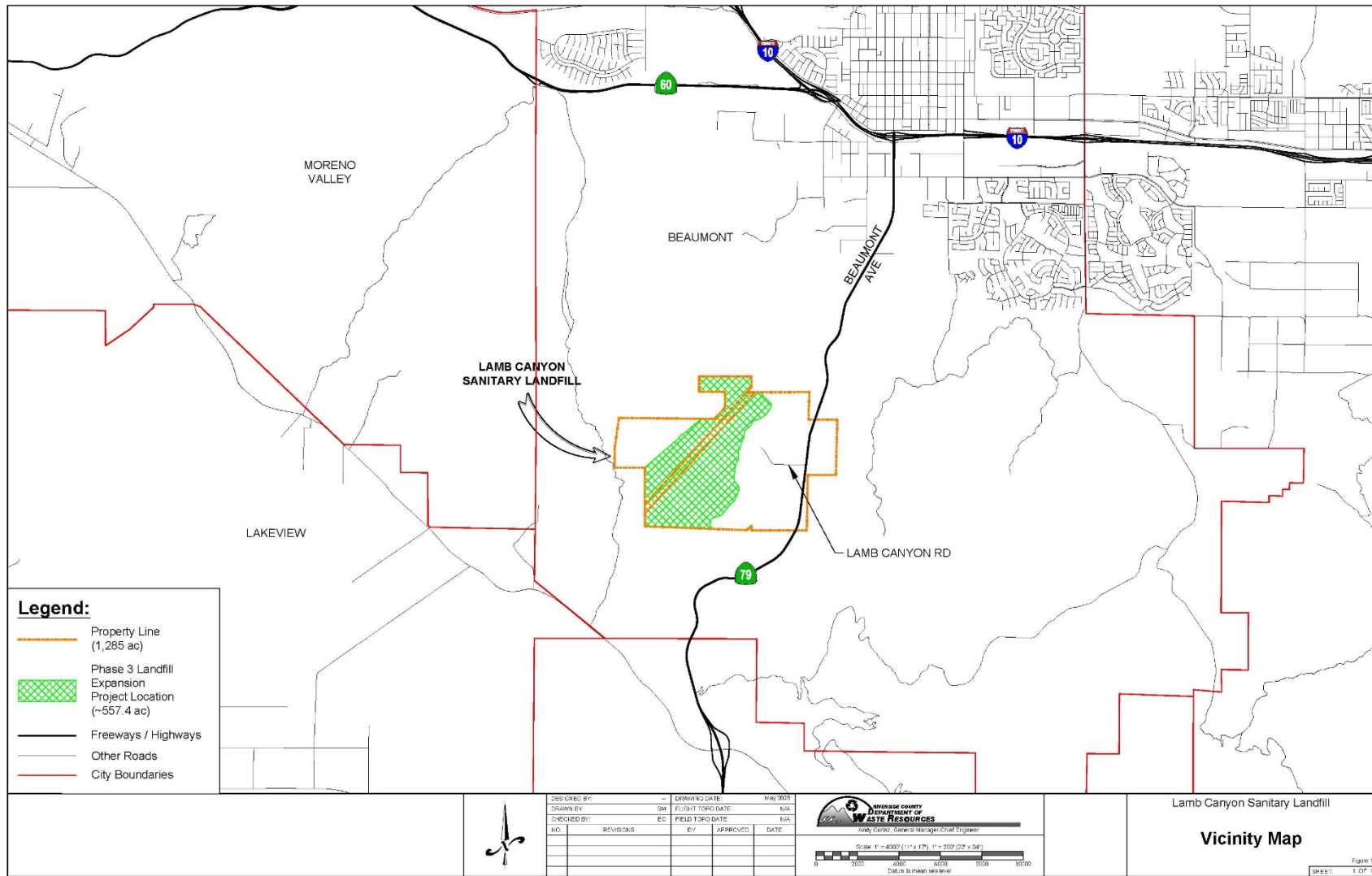


Figure 2 – Proposed Study Area

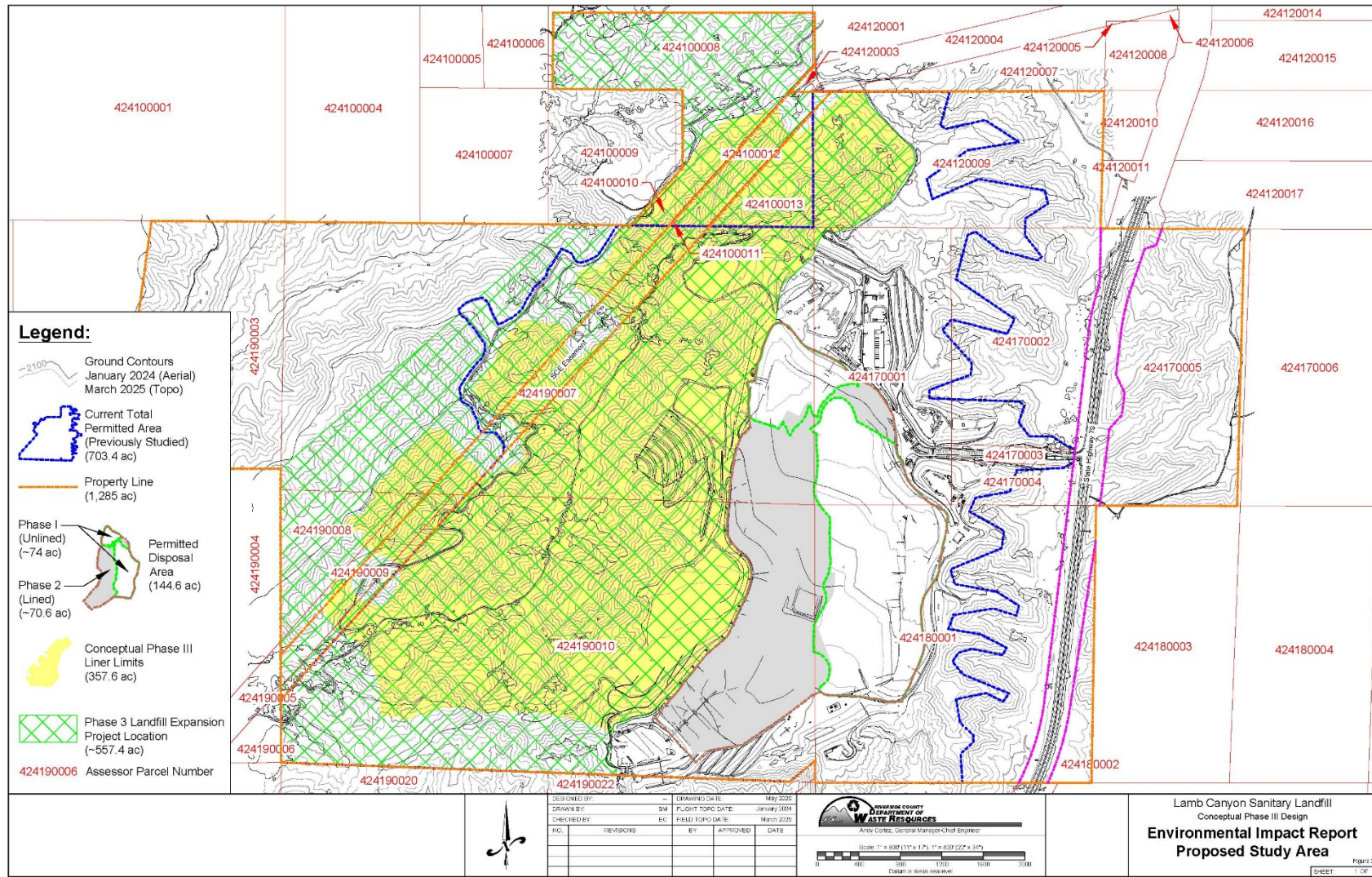
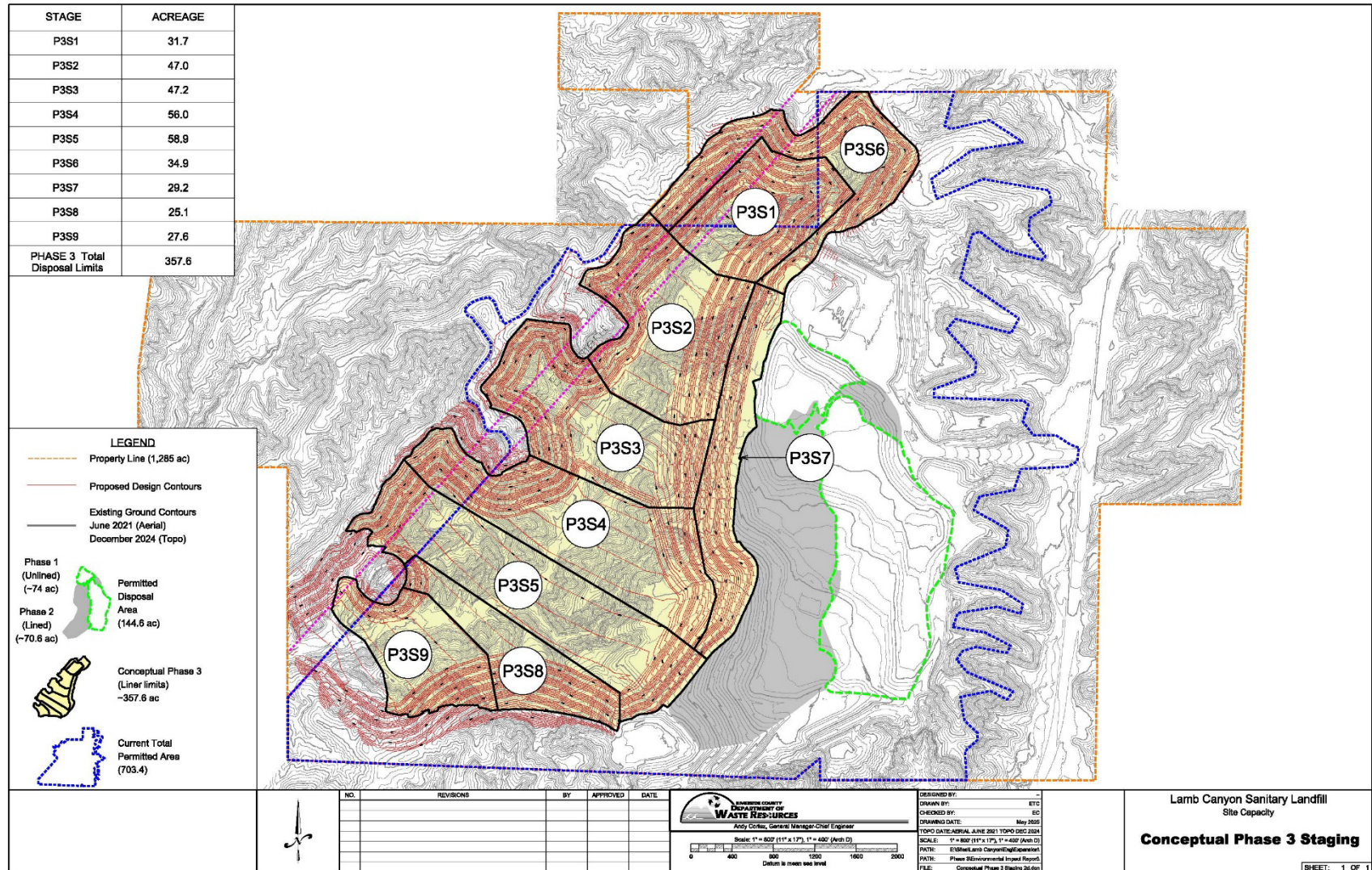


Figure 3 – Conceptual Phase 3 Staging



SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the checklists on the following pages. For each of the potentially affected factors, mitigation measures are recommended that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☒ Energy
☒ Geology / Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☒ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☒ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☒ Transportation	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	Mandatory Findings of Significance

2.2 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

1. I find that the project **could not** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND)** will be prepared. ☐
2. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)** will be prepared. ☐
3. I find the proposed project **may have a significant effect** on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. ☒
4. I find that the proposed project **may have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated impact”** on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐
5. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or ND pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or ND, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Signature

Date

Kinika Hesterly

Principal Planner

Name

Title

SECTION 3.0 – EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if substantial evidence exists that an effect may be significant. If one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries are marked when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or ND. (Section 15063(c)(3)(D).) In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

*Note: Instructions may be omitted from final document.

SECTION 4.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

4.1 AESTHETICS

The aesthetic value of an area is a measure of its visual character and quality, combined with the viewer response to the area. Scenic quality can best be described as the overall impression that an individual viewer retains after driving through, walking through, or flying over an area. Aesthetic resources include scenic resources, which include water forms, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, and scenic highways. Impacts to aesthetic resources include obstruction and destruction of views to or from scenic resources and/or the degradation of the visual character of the area.

The Proposed Project is located at the Lamb Canyon Landfill at 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, south of the City of Beaumont in unincorporated land within Riverside County and is surrounded by open mountains. The area consists of steep ridgelines and canyon formations. The elevation at the Project site ranges from 1,750 to 2,500 feet above MSL.

The current permitted maximum landfill elevation is 2,460 feet above sea level and the proposed maximum landfill elevation is 2,500 feet above MSL.

1.	AESTHETICS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.1.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed site is located to the west of the Lamb Canyon Landfill (LCL), which is directly adjacent to State Route 79 (SR 79) and surrounded by open space. Characteristics of the Project site include steep ridges in the natural topography of its surrounding landscape. SR 79 is not designated as a scenic highway (Caltrans 2024). Highway 74 is the closest designated scenic highway to the Proposed Site, located approximately 8 miles south of the Project site. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. In addition to an expansion of the waste disposal footprint and operation, other landfill activities will continue to occur and will expand within the

proposed disturbance limits, including, but not limited to the following: soil stockpiling, excavation and transportation of daily cover material, retention and sedimentation basins, materials storage, equipment parking and maintenance, landfill access roads construction and maintenance, drainage control construction and maintenance, implementation of energy recovery systems, waste recycling and organics processing, household hazardous waste collection, residential waste collection, landfill gas and groundwater/leachate monitoring and management, flare systems, office buildings/trailers and parking. Support structures and elements, such as Flare station and gas monitoring wells, would be visible at the surface while other elements such as the gas lines and accumulation tanks may be below the surface and hidden from view. Stockpiles located in the Southern section of the site and ranging in heights will have elevations below the proposed ultimate fill elevation. Although the Proposed Project would alter views, the Proposed site would remain a landfill, and no scenic views would be obstructed by the Proposed Project. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur to scenic vista.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. As mentioned above in section 4.1.1 Impact a), the closest scenic highway to the Project site is Highway 74, which is located approximately 8 miles east of the Project site. The landfill cannot be seen from Highway 74; therefore, the Proposed Project would not impact scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

c) Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact. Although the Proposed Project would alter the existing views in the area by expanding the existing landfill, the Project site is in a remote area within the County of Riverside and is surrounded by open space with no designated public viewsheds. Additionally, the Project site is not located near a scenic highway (CalTrans 2024). Therefore, public views of the site and its surroundings would not be substantially degraded.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Additional lighting would be installed; however, the lighting would be minimal and for safety purposes. Additionally, the Project site consists of deep valleys which may minimize the effect of creating night lighting or glare. Therefore, the additional lighting would not result in substantial lighting or glare, and a less than significant impact would occur in regard to lighting and glare.

4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

Agricultural resources include prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and commercial grazing land as defined in the Guidelines for the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, pursuant to Section 65570 of the Government Code, as well as land in a Williamson Act contract.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor and without intolerable soil erosion (7 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4201(c)(1)(A)).

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(B)).

Additional farmland of statewide or local importance is land identified by state or local agencies for agricultural use, but not of national significance (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(C)).

The California Legislature passed the Williamson Act in 1965 to preserve agricultural and open-space lands by discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion to urban uses. The Act creates an arrangement whereby private landowners contract with counties and cities to voluntarily restrict their land to agricultural and compatible open-space uses.

The Williamson Act is a means to restrict the uses of agricultural and open-space lands to farming and ranching uses during the length of the contract period. The Williamson Act Program was also envisioned as a way for local governments to integrate the protection of open space and agricultural resources into their overall strategies for planning urban growth patterns.

2.	AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES. (In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.) In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.) Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.2.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. The Project site is not located in an area that is classified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project is located adjacent to an area of land that is identified as Farmland of Local importance to the east; however, the Proposed Project would not convert this land (DOC 2024a). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impacts associated with the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

- b) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not subject to the Williamson Act (DOC 2024b). As stated above in impact a, the Proposed Project is located adjacent to land designated as Farmland of Local Importance, however, the Proposed Project would not convert this land. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impacts associated with the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

- c) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*

No Impact. The Project site is located in an unincorporated area of the County of Riverside, near the City of Beaumont, and is surrounded by open space. The Proposed Project is designated as Public Facilities (PF) land use on the San Jacinto Valley Area Plan (County 2015b). The Project site does not include forest land, timberland, or timberland zones Timberland Production. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact to forest land.

- d) *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. The Proposed Project would not convert forest land to non-forest use.

e) *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. No impacts to farmland, agricultural use, or forest land would occur.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

4.3.1 Introduction

This section describes the existing air quality setting and potential effects from Proposed Project implementation on the site and its surrounding area. An Air Quality, GHG, and Energy Analysis report will be completed and analyzed in the EIR.

The Project site is located in the western portion of unincorporated Riverside County, which is part of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) that includes all of Orange County as well as the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The SCAB is located on a coastal plain connecting broad valleys and low hills to the east. Regionally, the SCAB is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the southwest and high mountains to the east forming the inland perimeter. The Project site is located toward the northeast portion of the SCAB near the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains, which define the eastern boundary of the SCAB.

4.3.2 Environmental Setting

3.	AIR QUALITY. (Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.) Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Violate any air quality standard or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing or projected air quality violation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(d)	Result in substantial emissions (such as odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.3.3 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

Potentially Significant Impact. CEQA requires a discussion of any inconsistencies between a Proposed Project and applicable general plans (GP) and regional plans (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125). The regional plan that applies to the Proposed Project consists of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Air Quality Management Plan (SCAQMD AQMP). The Proposed Project may have the potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SCAQMD AQMP. This is a potentially significant impact that will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project violate any air quality standard or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing or projected air quality violation?

Potentially Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project could have the potential to result in air quality impacts during Proposed Project construction and operation. Construction phase air quality impacts would include emissions from construction exhaust and travel, demolition and earth moving activities, architectural coatings, and asphalt paving. Operational air quality impacts would include emissions from project generated vehicle traffic and from on-site sources. These emissions may have the potential to violate air quality standards or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing air quality violation. This is a potentially significant impact that will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Potentially Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are generally defined as facilities that house or attract groups of children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollution. Schools, hospitals, residential areas, and convalescent facilities are examples of sensitive receptors. The Proposed Project could have the potential to result in short-term construction and permanent operational air pollutant emissions of particulate matter, carbon monoxide, reactive organic gases, oxides of nitrogen as well as toxic air contaminants. Although the Project site is surrounded by open space and no sensitive receptors exist near the Project site, this is a potentially significant impact that will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

d) Would the project result in substantial emissions (such as odors or dust) affecting a substantial number of people?

Potentially Significant Impact. Individual responses to odor or dust emissions are highly variable and can result in a variety of effects. Generally, the impacts from odor or dust emissions result from a variety of factors such as frequency, intensity, duration, offensiveness, location, and sensory perception. The frequency is a measure of how often an individual is exposed to the emissions. The intensity refers to an individual's or a group's perception of the odor or dust emissions strength or concentration. The duration of the emissions refers to the elapsed time over which the emissions are experienced by individuals or groups. The offensiveness of the emissions is the subjective rating of the unpleasantness of the odor or dust. The location accounts for the distance between the source of the emission and the individuals or groups affected by the emissions.

The expansion of the LCL has the potential to result in substantial emissions such as odors or dust, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will further analyze air quality, GHG, and energy.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources include habitats and vegetative communities, migratory corridors, plants, wildlife, fisheries, special status species (regulated by a law, regulation, or policy, such as threatened and endangered species), and waters of the United States.

A General Biological Assessment/ Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Consistency Analysis, and Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) for the acres not previously environmentally assessed will be completed for the Proposed Project and will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.4.1 Impact Analysis

(a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to create a significant impact on sensitive plant species, wildlife, or habitats due to the expansion into previously undeveloped areas. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

(b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to create a significant impact to riparian habitat, or other sensitive natural communities. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

(c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to create a significant impact to wetlands. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

(d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to create a significant impact to migratory wildlife corridors. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

(e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

(f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservancy Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to conflict with adopted plans. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include further study including A General Biological Assessment/ Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Consistency Analysis, a jurisdictional delineation of wetland and streambed habitats present, and Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) for the acres not previously environmentally assessed.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include archaeological and paleontological artifacts such as human remains, geologic features, historical buildings and structures, and Native American remains and artifacts. CEQA defines cultural resources as:

- Resources listed in, or determined to be eligible by, the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code [PRC] 5024.0, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.)
- Resources included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, will be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public Agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant; and
- Any object, building structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource will be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852).

Impacts to cultural resources include physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards) are codified at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 67.7. In most circumstances, the Standards are relevant in assessing whether a substantial adverse change under CEQA would occur. Section 15064.5b(3) of the CEQA Guidelines states in part that "...a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer, shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than a significant impact on the historic resource," and therefore may be considered categorically exempt.

A Cultural Resources Assessment will be completed for the Proposed Project and will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

5.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.5.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may significantly impact a historical resource due to ground disturbing activities during construction. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may significantly impact an archaeological resource due to ground disturbing activities during construction. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- c) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may significantly impact a human remains due to ground disturbing activities during construction. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include further study including a cultural resources and paleontological resources assessment.

4.6 ENERGY

This section describes the potential energy resources impacts from implementation of the Proposed Project. An Air Quality, GHG, and Energy Analysis will be completed for the Proposed Project and will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Energy conservation management in the state was initiated by the 1974 Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act that created the California Energy Resource Conservation and Development Commission (currently named California Energy Commission [CEC]), which was originally tasked with certifying new electric generating plants based on the need for the plant and the suitability of the site of the plant. In 1976 the Warren-Alquist Act was expanded to include new restrictions on nuclear generating plants that effectively resulted in a moratorium of any new nuclear generating plants in the state. The following lists specific regulations adopted by the State in order to reduce the consumption of energy.

- CCR Title 20 – Regulations for appliance efficiency standards
- CCR Title 24 Part 6 – Energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings
- CCR Title 24 Part 11 – CalGreen Building Standards
- Senate Bill (SB) 100 – Regulations for retail sales of electricity
- Executive Order (EO) N-79-20 – Requires all new passenger vehicles and trucks to be zero-emission by the year 2035

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1109 – Requires the use of high-efficiency lighting in new structures

6.	ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.6.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would temporarily impact energy resources during construction. Construction of the Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Energy resources that would be potentially impacted include electricity, natural gas, and petroleum-based fuel supplies and distribution systems. A general definition of each of these energy resources are provided below.

Electricity, a consumptive utility, is a man-made resource. The production of electricity requires the consumption or conversion of energy resources, including water, wind, oil, gas, coal, solar, geothermal, and nuclear resources, into energy. The delivery of electricity involves a number of system components, including substations and transformers that lower transmission line power (voltage) to a level appropriate for on-site distribution and use. The electricity generated is distributed through a network of transmission and distribution lines commonly called a power grid. Conveyance of electricity through transmission lines is typically responsive to market demands.

Natural gas is a combustible mixture of simple hydrocarbon compounds (primarily methane) that is used as a fuel source. Natural gas consumed in California is obtained from naturally occurring reservoirs, mainly located outside the State, and delivered through high-pressure transmission pipelines. The natural gas transportation system is a nationwide network and, therefore, resource availability is typically not an issue. Natural gas satisfies almost one-third of the State's total energy requirements and is used in electricity generation, space heating, cooking, water heating, industrial processes, and as a transportation fuel.

Petroleum-based fuels currently account for a majority of California's transportation energy sources and primarily consist of diesel and gasoline types of fuels. However, the state has been working on developing strategies to reduce petroleum use. Over the last decade, California has implemented several policies, rules, and regulations to improve vehicle efficiency, increase the development and use of alternative fuels, reduce air pollutants and GHG emissions from the transportation sector, and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR. This EIR analysis will include a discussion of the potential energy impacts of the Proposed Project during construction and operational activities, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may potentially conflict with or obstruct a local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Riverside County has adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) includes targets for energy efficiency, and the Riverside County General Plan contains policies addressing energy efficiency and conservation. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will require further study including an Air Quality, GHG, and Energy analysis.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.7.1 Impact Analysis

a)i) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is located within a seismically active region of Southern California; however, the site is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone (DOC 2024c). The Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone prevents construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. The nearest designated Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone closest fault to the Project site is the San Jacinto fault, located approximately three miles south (DOC 2024c). Furthermore, the Proposed Project consists of increasing the capacity of the existing landfill and does not propose the construction of new buildings. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not exacerbate existing conditions at the landfill or result in risk of loss, injury, or death involving a rupture of a known fault. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with earthquake fault rupture.

ii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. As stated above in impact a)i), the Proposed Project is located within a seismically active region of Southern California, however, it is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone (DOC 2024c). The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities and does not include the construction of a building or structures that could cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact with strong seismic ground-shaking.

iii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is not located in an area defined by the California Department of Conservation as an area prone to seismically induced liquefaction (DOC 2024c). Furthermore, the Proposed Project involves expanding the existing landfill and does not include the construction of buildings or structures. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with seismic induced liquefaction.

iv) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is not located in an area defined by the California Department of Conservation as an area prone to seismically induced landslides (DOC 2024c). Furthermore, the Proposed Project involves expanding the existing landfill and does not include the construction of buildings or structures. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with seismic induced liquefaction

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. Development of the landfill has flattened the natural topography of the site as the deep canyons between them have been filled with refuse and soil. As a result, the risk of massive landslides and mudflows caused by erosion of tall, steep natural slopes has been substantially reduced. However, the Project site is located in an area with steep natural slopes which could result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The Proposed Project will require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). A SWPPP identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to further reduce soil erosion during construction. Therefore, completion of a SWPPP would ensure a less than significant impact to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Less Than Significant Impact. As stated above, the Proposed Project is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone, or liquefaction zone (DOC 2024c). Lateral spreading can occur when there is liquefaction but with the unlikelihood of liquefaction, lateral spreading is not anticipated. Subsidence occurs when land sinks to a lower level. Although land subsidence is possible in the area, it is not likely as the Project site is not used for the large-scale removal of subsurface water, the main cause of the earth's compaction and subsidence. Additionally, collapse is not likely to occur as engineering at the site will ensure construction occurs on stable soils. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soil is soil that swells when wet and shrinks when dry, which can lead to structural damage in buildings and infrastructure due to its volume changes with moisture content. According to the web soil survey the specific soils on the site consist of primarily Badlands Alluvium (BaG). In accordance with the USDA, the BaG soil has low shrink-swell potential, therefore, potential impacts involving expansive soil are considered insignificant (USDA 2024).

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Sewer service is not available for the Project site and portable chemical toilets are currently used for landfill personnel. Disposal of the chemical toilet waste is the responsibility of the rental company of those sanitary facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of the completion of a Paleo Assessment. Therefore, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include the preparation of a paleo assessment which will address the Proposed Projects potential to impact unique paleontological resources.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This section describes the potential global climate change effects from implementation of the Proposed Project. An Air Quality, GHG, and Energy Analysis will be completed for the Proposed Project and will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

The County of Riverside screening thresholds will be used to analyze the impacts to GHG emissions in the EIR.

8.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.8.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may potentially generate GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may potentially generate GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment and therefore has the potential to conflict with an applicable GHG emissions plan. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include further study related to greenhouse gas emission generation and compliance with existing plans and regulations related to greenhouse gas emissions.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Proposed Project and Proposed Project site were analyzed to determine the potential for hazards or hazardous materials to occur on-site. Background research included an evaluation of the Geotracker and EnviroStor websites, operated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the DTSC, respectively.

9.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☒	☐	☐

4.9.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. In addition to the Proposed Project, other landfill activities will continue to occur and may expand within the proposed disturbance limits, which includes household hazardous waste management or recycle-only household hazardous waste collection. Household hazardous waste includes household products that are commonly used daily but require special care during disposal, such as electronics and cleaning supplies among others (RCDWR 2024). The landfill accepts these household hazardous waste items when disposed of properly. While the Proposed Project routinely accepts some hazardous materials, these would be accepted and stored in a manner that would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant regarding the disposal of hazardous materials.

- b) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

Less Than Significant Impact. As stated above, in addition to an expansion of waste disposal footprint and operation, other landfill activities will continue to occur and may expand within the proposed disturbance limits, which includes household hazardous waste management or recycle-only household hazardous waste collection. The Riverside County Department of Waste Resources specifies waste that the landfills can collect items such as paint products, automotive products such as oils and gasoline, universal wastes such as batteries, electronic wastes, lawn and garden products, household products, and healthcare products such as unused medication (RCDWR 2024). Although the Lamb Canyon Landfill accepts household hazardous waste, the waste is disposed of responsibly and adhere to the Code of Federal Regulations by the landfill and would not result in a significant hazard to the public. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur in this regard.

- c) *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

No Impact. The closest school to the Project site is the Mojave River Academy and is located approximately three miles north (Google 2024). Therefore, the Proposed Project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school and no impact would occur.

- d) *Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?.*

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65862.5 (SWRCB 2024; DTSC 2034); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with known hazardous materials site.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. The Project site is located approximately eight miles west of the Banning Municipal Airport (Google 2024). The Project site is more than two miles from a public airport, airport land use plan, or private airstrip; therefore, no impact would occur associated with an airport.

- f) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is in a located remote area in-between the city of Beaumont and the city of San Jacinto in unincorporated Riverside County and is surrounded by open space. Access to the landfill is located off Lamb Canyon Road. The Proposed Project is not expected to interfere with the County's emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; however, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR with the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis incorporated.

- g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is identified as a Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone (VHFHSZ)(CALFIRE 2024). Due to the limited use of the Project site for ancillary activities, exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands, is not likely to occur. However, fire services are available in addition to the use of water tanks from the landfill water tanks and water trucks. Therefore, a less than significant impact is expected to occur involving the exposure of people or structures to injury or death involving wildland fires.

Issues Requiring Further Study: The EIR will include a VMT analysis and traffic report to determine the impacts to adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plans.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Hydrology is the study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water throughout the Earth, and thus addresses both the hydrologic cycle and water resources. Water quality is the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of water, characterized through the methods of hydrometry. The primary bases for such characterization are parameters which relate to drinking water, safety of human contact, and the health of ecosystems.

A seiche is a standing wave in an enclosed or partially enclosed body of water. A tsunami is a series of waves created when a body of water, such as an ocean, is rapidly displaced. A mudflow or mudslide is the most rapid (up to 80 kilometers per hour) and fluid type of downhill mass wasting.

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flood on- or off-site;	☒	☐	☐	☐
	iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☒	☐	☐	☐

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(f)	Potentially impact stormwater runoff from construction activities?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(g)	Potentially impact stormwater runoff from post-construction activities?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(h)	Result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas, loading docks or other outdoor work areas?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(i)	Result in the potential for discharge of stormwater to affect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(j)	Create the potential for significant changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(k)	Create significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.10.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. The Project site is within the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQB) and would comply with Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) including storm water pollution controls and monitoring. Additionally, construction and grading activities at the Project site shall comply with a SWPPP.

The landfill has the potential to adversely affect groundwater quality through the formation of leachate and landfill gas. The formation of leachate is controlled by semi-arid climate, diversion of offsite drainage around the landfill, management of onsite drainage, and by the placement of compacted dirt cover. It is also controlled in the lined portions of the landfill through the installation of leachate collection and removal system. Landfill gas is currently controlled in the landfill through a gas and recovery system. It consists of 29 vertical wells. One horizontal well, 6,300 linear feet of 8-inch diameter header pipe, 5,980 linear feet of 3-inch diameter lateral pipe, a flare, and two condensate tanks. Additional drainage and detention facilities may become necessary to accommodate increased runoff that would violate water quality standards. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- b) *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. The LCL does not use local groundwater for debris control and is not located in a groundwater recharge area. If any groundwater is found within Phase 3, a well will be installed and used for landfill activities such as dust control. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- c) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*

- i) *result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Erosion of the landfill surface can be caused by surface runoff and run-on from the higher topography to the east and northeast of the landfill. Construction practices such as erosion and sediment control, material management, and spill prevention procedures would be implemented during construction, however, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- ii) *substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consist of expanding the existing landfill. Construction practices such as erosion and sediment control, material management, and spill prevention procedures would be implemented during construction to ensure less than significant impacts to surface runoff. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- iii) *create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources or polluted runoff?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to contribute to runoff water. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- iv) *impede or redirect flood flows?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Project site is located outside of the flood hazard area within the FEMA flood zone (FEMA 2024), however, construction activities could potentially affect flood flows. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- d) *Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located within Zone X flood hazard area within the FEMA 100-year flood zone (FEMA 2024). Zone X is defined as areas of minimal flood hazard, which are areas

outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and higher than the elevation of the 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood. Additionally, the Proposed Project is located inland and away from any open water source or flood control dam that could result in a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The Proposed Project would not cause or expose people and structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impact would occur.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would require compliance with water quality control plans or sustainable groundwater management plans. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

f) Potentially impact stormwater runoff from construction activities?

Potentially Significant Impact. Construction activities have the potential to impact stormwater runoff. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

g) Potentially impact stormwater runoff from post-construction activities?

Potentially Significant Impact. Post-construction activities have the potential to impact stormwater runoff. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

h) Result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas, loading docks or other outdoor work areas?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to result in a potential discharge of stormwater pollutants. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

i) Result in the potential for discharge of stormwater to affect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to affect beneficial uses of the receiving waters because of the discharge of stormwater. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

j) Create the potential for significant changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to result in significant changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

k) Create significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to create a significant increase in erosion. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study: A jurisdictional delineation of wetland and streambed habitats present will be prepared for the Proposed Project.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Cities and counties “plan” in order to identify important community issues (such as new growth, housing needs, and environmental protection), project future demand for services (such as sewer, water, roads, etc.), anticipate potential problems (such as overloaded sewer facilities or crowded roads), and establish goals and policies for directing and managing growth. Local governments use a variety of tools in the planning process including the general plan, specific plans, zoning, and the subdivision ordinance.

The Proposed Project site is located in an area designated by the County of Riverside as Public Facilities land use which allows for the development of various public, quasi-public, and private uses with similar characteristics including landfills among others (County, 2021). The Project site is zoned W-2 which allows for controlled development and identifies disposal service operations being conditionally permitted in this zone.

11.	LAND USE/PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.11.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project site is located in an unincorporated area of the County of Riverside, near the city of Beaumont, and is surrounded by open spaces and no established communities. The Proposed Project is designated as Public Facilities (PF) land use on the San Jacinto Valley Area Plan (County 2015b). The landfill, which provides essential solid waste disposal capacity to the county and its cities, is consistent with this land use designation and the General Plan (County 2021). The Proposed Project would not change the land uses currently existing at the site or create an incompatible use. The Proposed Project is surrounded by open space and no established community exists within the vicinity of the Project site. The continued use of the site as a landfill would not result in a new barrier that would divide an established surrounding community; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with the physical division of a community.

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. As described above, the Project site is located within an area designated by the County’s general plan and San Jacinto Valley Area Plan as PF, which allows for the development of various public, quasi-public, and private uses with similar characteristics including landfills among others (County 2021). The Project site is zoned W-2 which allows for controlled development and identifies disposal service operations being conditionally permitted in this zone. The Proposed Project would not result in a change to the existing land use or zoning designations.

The Proposed Project is subject to the Riverside County Waste Integrated Management Plan (CIWMP). The existing landfill and its operations, as well as the Proposed Project, are consistent with the goals and policies of the CIWMP in providing for long-term disposal capacity. The RCDWR has also implemented practices and programs consistent with the goals of the CIWMP's Siting Element to ensure that the operation of the landfill system is economically efficient and environmentally safe. These practices and programs, which include the use of ADC, the installation of leachate and landfill gas control systems, the Waste Inspection Program, and good site design, also serve to maximize landfill capacity. Lastly, the existing activities within the area denoted as the Waste Recycle Park (WRP) and the Proposed Project to build-out and enhance recycling and educational activities within the WRP not only to preserve landfill capacity by ensuring that hazardous waste, including HHWE, is not disposed in the landfill but also serve to promote the benefits of recycling, reuse, and safe disposal practices, consistent with the goals of other CIWMP elements (i.e., the County's, Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Household Hazardous Waste Element).

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Mineral resources are commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits such as sand, gravel, and other construction aggregate. California is the largest consumer of sand and gravel in the nation; but it is also a major provider, producing approximately one billion dollars' worth of mineral resources annually.

The California Geological Survey (CGS) provides objective geologic expertise and information about California's diverse non-fuel mineral resources. Maps, reports, and other data products developed by the CGS staff assist governmental agencies, mining companies, consultants, and the public in recognizing, developing, and protecting important mineral resources. The California Department of Conservation protects mineral resources to ensure adequate supplies for future production. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was developed to encourage production and conservation of mineral resources, prevent or minimize adverse effects to the environment, and protect public health and safety.

12.	MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.12.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within an area known to contain mineral resources and is defined by the general plan as an “Unstudied” area (County 2015a). Areas in the County designated “Unstudied” are unlikely to contain valuable mineral resources. Therefore, a low probability for valuable mineral resources is expected to occur on the site and no impact would occur in regards to mineral resources.

b) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

No Impact. As stated above in impact a), the Proposed Project is not located within an area known to contain mineral resources (County 2015a). Therefore, no impact is expected to occur to locally important mineral resources.

4.13 NOISE

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

The Project site is in a remote area located in unincorporated Riverside County, in-between the City of Beaumont and the City of Hemet. Sensitive receptors at the Project site include employees of the landfill.

13.	NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.13.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project has the potential to increase noise levels from additional traffic, additional facilities, and additional activities. Increased hours of operation may increase nighttime noise effects. However, the landfill is located in an isolated area along a state highway, and no sensitive land uses are located in close proximity to the landfill (County 2021). Additionally, the LCL has previously implemented a measure to reduce noise impacts and will continue to do so as follows: recycling activities within the Waste Recycle Park that require the use of grinding equipment shall be limited to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Topographical features also serve to reduce or buffer noise. Therefore, due to the geographical location of the Project site, a less than significant impact would occur.

- b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. Despite the absence of noise sensitive receptors in the landfill's vicinity, the noise generated by equipment used for project activities may expose landfill personnel to severe noise levels. While no increased severe noise levels are expected at the Project site, the RCDWR will continue to provide landfill personnel with hearing protection devices (i.e., ear plugs, ear defenders, to protect them from loss of hearing, in accordance Cal-OSHA and Riverside County Occupational Health requirements. Additionally, as the LCL has been implemented previously, all equipment will be equipped with noise attenuation devices in accordance with EPA, the Riverside County Health Services Agency, and Cal-OSHA requirements. Furthermore, as implemented previously, all heavy equipment used on site would have enclosed control compartments, which substantially reduce the engine noise reaching the operator inside the compartment, or state of the are noise attenuation devices per EPA standards. With the implementation of these measures, a less than significant impact would occur.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Population refers to the occupants of housing projects, population indirectly associated with workers or proposed nonresidential projects, or changes in the amount and distribution of population and employment permitted by adoption or revision to a land use plan. Important areas include changes in the number, characteristics, geographical distribution, and timing of new residents directly or indirectly resulting from a project and the degree to which project-related changes are consistent with city, regional or other adopted population growth policies. Other issues are the degree to which project-related population is already present in the area under analysis (i.e., already residing or working in the area) or whether they represent immigrants.

Housing impacts may result directly from a project, which includes housing units, or indirectly from revisions to the Housing Element in a General Plan or changes in housing demand associated with new non-residential development projects.

A project would have a significant adverse impact if it would induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly by proposing new homes and businesses or indirectly through the extension of roads or other infrastructure; displaced housing units causing the construction of replacement housing somewhere else; or displaced people causing the construction of replacement housing somewhere else.

14.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.14.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not growth-inducing; therefore, it will not contribute to cumulative population growth directly or indirectly to the area.

- b) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Land uses surrounding the Project site include open space with no established community in the vicinity of the Project site. The nearest structure is about 1-2 miles away. Furthermore, there are no established local land uses within one mile of the property line of the landfill.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Public services include fire, police, schools, parks, and libraries. A project would impact a public service if it would result in an increased demand for that service or if the project would result in a hindrance to that service.

15.	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Police Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.15.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Although the Proposed Project is located in an area defined as a Very High Fire

Hazard Severity Zone, fire protection services are available and provided to the landfill property by the Riverside County Fire Department (CalFire 2024). The closest fire station to the Project site is Station 66 in the City of Beaumont and is located approximately five miles away. In addition, the landfill has a fire prevention and emergency response plan in place. This plan requires that the operator maintain fire suppression equipment on the Project site and incorporate any other fire control features in the facility, as deemed necessary by the respective fire agencies (CalFire 2018). The Proposed Project is not expected to impact existing fire protection services, therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

b) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Police service for the Project site is provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's department. The Banning Sheriff Station is the closest station to the Project site and is located approximately 10 miles away in the City of Banning (Google 2024). The RCDWR also provides onsite security when the landfill is closed (Saturday evening to Monday morning and during holiday closures) as well as several on site security cameras. The landfill property entrance is secured by a lockable gate to stop unauthorized vehicular entry into the landfill when it is closed. All facilities on the landfill property are secured by lockable doors. Field equipment and instruments are also secured by locking devices. Night lighting, the remoteness of the Project site, and secure storage of materials and equipment on site acts as deterrents to criminal activity. Due to the rough topography of the landfill property surrounding area, access by unauthorized vehicles by other means than the Landfill Access Road is difficult. Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact with regards to the need for new or altered government services in police protection.

c) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for schools?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth that would have a substantial impact on schools. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth that would have a substantial impact on parks. Therefore, no impact would occur.

e) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. The Proposed Project would not result in population growth, nor would it result in the need for new government facilities. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

4.16 RECREATION

Recreational facilities include active and passive facilities. Active recreational facilities include parks, tennis and basketball courts, pools, golf courses, and various other facilities. Passive recreational facilities include plazas and other public places.

A project would result in a significant impact on recreational facilities if it would increase the use of existing parks and facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or if the project included recreational facilities or required construction that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

16.	RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.16.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Expanding the existing landfill and will not result in population growth. Therefore, it will not increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The Project site is located in a remote area in the County of Riverside and is not located near any known park or recreational space. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not impact existing recreational opportunities. No impact would occur.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

17.	TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	For a land use project, would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e. g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(e)	Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.17.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths?*

Potentially Significant Impact. Although the Proposed Project is located in a remote area in unincorporated Riverside County, the Proposed Project could have the potential to conflict with a circulation system by increasing the landfill capacity and amount of employees over the additional 50 years of landfill lifespan. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) *For a land use project, would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. There would be no change in use of the Project site nor would the Proposed Project conflict with the land uses. No impact would occur.

c) *For a transportation project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(2)?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is not a transportation project and does not propose any changes to the existing circulation system. Although no impact is expected to occur, this will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

d) *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not change any roadways and would not involve any incompatible uses; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project is not expected to result in an impact associated with road hazards. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

e) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is easily accessed from SR 79. There are no other active land uses on SR 79 within the Lamb Canyon area that would require additional access (County 2021). Regular landfill traffic will not result in a blockage of any emergency access to adjacent land uses along SR 79.

Issues Requiring Further Study. Issues requiring further study in the EIR include a vehicle miles travelled assessment.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section describes the potential tribal cultural resources effects from implementation of the Proposed Project.

18.	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
	i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.18.1 Impact Analysis

i) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in a listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

Potentially Significant Impact. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

- ii) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1?*

Potentially Significant Impact. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR, and tribal consultation will occur in accordance with Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52).

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Utilities and service systems include potable water and wastewater treatment. The quantity of water consumed and wastewater generated by a project is determined by several factors, including the size, type, and characteristics of the project. The need for construction of new or replacement water and wastewater treatment facilities (e.g., reservoirs, storage tanks, water mains, filtration plants, pumps, wells, and other connections or distribution facilities) would depend on the existing capacity and anticipated demand for the Proposed Project site.

19.	UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid wastes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.19.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or expansion of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities and will not result in a need for new water or wastewater treatment facilities or an expansion of the existing facilities.

b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Although construction activities would increase the amount of water used daily due to debris control, construction activities are temporary in nature and would not have a significant impact on water supplies. Sufficient water supplies are available to serve the Proposed Project from existing resources. Water for existing site activities is trucked in from a water tower located near the corner 1st Street and HWY 79 in Beaumont. An existing fire suppression tank is located on site to be used for the existing buildings and future water storage tanks may be needed to support any future structures. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. The LCL provides solid waste services and therefore does not handle wastewater that would require wastewater treatment services. The Project site is not served by a sewer or wastewater treatment facility. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure?

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities to accommodate solid waste disposal needs in the region. No impact would occur.

e) Would the project negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

No Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not negatively impact the service of the existing landfill which benefits the region by continuing to provide solid waste services and other resource saving opportunities to the region. Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, will continue to be implemented at the landfill.

f) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

4.20 WILDFIRE

20.	WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.20.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the existing landfill and increasing the area of disturbance by 180.50 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres. According to CalFire, the Proposed Project is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The RCDWR has developed a Fire Protection Master Plan (Plan) that has been reviewed and approved by the Riverside County Fire Department. The Plan includes emergency response measures such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, which educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live including fire safety (CalFire 2018). Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur in regard to impairing an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

b) Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located in a remote area in the County of Riverside with hills and sloping terrain. The RCDWR has a cooperative arrangement with the Riverside County Fire Authorities, in which the fire department has agreed to inspect the site annually for compliance with the State and local fire code ordinances. Therefore, the Proposed Project would comply with the Riverside County Fire Authorities and impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

- c) *Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of expanding the landfills permitted disturbance area by 180.5 acres, from 703.4 to 883.9 acres, which includes expanding administrative and operational activities. No roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities will be constructed anticipated to exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment as a result of the Proposed Project. Therefore, a less than significant impact will occur.

- d) *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is located in a remote area in unincorporated County of Riverside. The area is sloped, however, there are no residential communities or structures nearby that would be impacted by the Proposed Project (Google 2024). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES

REFERENCES

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