



October 29, 2025

Ms. Elena Barragan, Planner
San Bernardino County Land Use Services, Planning Division
385 N. Arrowhead
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Subject: SCH No. 2025100156 – Mitigated Negative Declaration for Yermo Freepoint Ecosystems – San Bernardino County

Dear Ms. Barragan:

Thank you for allowing the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) staff to provide comments on the proposed project and for your agency's consideration of these comments as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

Project Description

The San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department, Planning Division, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) in order to comply with CEQA and to provide information to, and solicit consultation with, Responsible Agencies in the approval of the proposed project.

The proposed Yermo Freepoint Ecosystems (proposed project) is in the unincorporated town of Yermo, located at 37265 Yermo Road, Yermo, San Bernardino County, California. The site is currently zoned as Community Industrial under the general plan designation of Limited Industrial. The site is surrounded by vacant land on the west, north, and east. To the south is a Union Pacific railroad switching yard. The nearest residence or sensitive receptor is approximately 1,400 feet to the north and the nearest business (Union Pacific's rail switching yard) is approximately 1,000 feet to the south.

The proposed project would process post-industrial waste that is almost 100 percent usable plastic feedstock, and sort post-consumer materials received from Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) that are anticipated to have at least 85 percent usable feedstock. Plastic materials received from MRFs may be bales of products like film plastics, rigid plastics, high-density polyethylene, or polypropylene. Other post-consumer materials that may be received from MRFs include residue bales, which may be composed of 50 percent to 70 percent usable plastic feedstock and other recyclable materials. The processed plastics would then be shipped to an Arizona facility. Other

recyclable materials such as old corrugated containers, ferrous metals, and non-ferrous metals would be collected by traditional mechanical third-party recyclers. Any residual or unusable material would be trucked off-site for disposal at a landfill, such as the Barstow Landfill located to the west of the Facility. Other landfills that may be used for disposal of residuals include the Landers Sanitary Landfill, San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill, Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill and Victorville Sanitary Landfill. The proposed project operations would be for 24 hours per day, seven days a week (Sunday – Saturday); deliveries of material to be sorted would be accepted from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday – Saturday.

Comments

CalRecycle staff's comments on the proposed project are listed below. Where a specific location in the document is noted for the comment, please ensure the comment is addressed throughout all sections of the Draft IS/MND, in addition to the specific location noted. Comments for the Draft IS/MND are summarized below:

MND, Section 3. Project Location and Construction, Page 6

It is stated that, “as part of the project...approximately 77.57 acres...would be created following purchase of the land by the Applicant and prior to finalization of the CUP.” It is later stated that “The Project would consist of a large warehouse estimated to be approximately 424,000 square feet. An 80,000 square foot building extension located on the eastern side of the warehouse and a 39,900 square foot building extension located on the southwest side of the warehouse to be constructed in Phase 2...A total of 41.6 acres of the site would require grading.” Please clarify if the plastics sorting and processing facility will take place on all 77.57 acres or specify if it will only take place on a certain acreage of the total proposed project area.

MND, Section 3. Operations, Page 11:

States that the “Facility would be designed to process and/or sort up to 855 U.S. short tons per day consisting of post-industrial and post-consumer waste.” Confirming that the proposed maximum daily tonnage at the plastics sorting and processing facility is 855 tons (standard tons) per day of material. Also confirming that the facility will be receiving only various kinds of plastics, bale residues and metal materials.

Appendix G, Project Trip Report, Pages 3-4 & MND, Section 3. Operations, Page 11:

The Project Trip Generation Report in Appendix G states, “the worst-case daily truck Project Trips would be 296 (86 Raw Material Trucks entering and leaving, and 62 sorted material trucks...entering and leaving) ...Daily – 888 Project Trips...”. Table 3 states that there will be a vehicle count of 404 and Passenger Car Equivalents of 996. Additionally, Section 3 of the MND states that an “average of 61 trucks per day would be delivering materials for sorting...Any single day with light loaded trucks could result in a peak volume worst case scenario of 86 trucks.”

Please provide clarification on what is the estimated maximum daily traffic volume of the proposed plastics sorting and processing facility, and to be consistent with that number within the entire IS/MND document.

Three-Part Test for the Plastics Sorting and Processing Facility:

The proposed project explains that the expected recycling and recovery rate will vary from 50-100 percent, with the possibility of 0-50 percent residual waste sent to a landfill for disposal. Since the residual rate is above 10 percent, the proposed project would not meet the “recycling center” definition per Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) Section 17402.5(d), otherwise known as the “Three-Part Test.” The processing facility may then be subject to the requirements of a “Large Volume Transfer/Processing Facility” per 14 CCR Section 17402(a)(8), which will require a full Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP), per 14 CCR Section 17403.7. The cited regulations can be found at the following link: [Transfer/Processing Operations and Facilities Regulatory Requirements](#).

Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services, is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for San Bernardino County and responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, including permitting and inspections. Please contact Noah Westbury of the LEA at 800.442.2283 or Noah.Westbury@dph.sbcounty.gov to discuss the regulatory requirements for the proposed project.

Conclusion

CalRecycle staff thanks the Lead Agency for the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental document and hopes that this comment letter will be useful to the Lead Agency preparing the Final MND and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process.

CalRecycle staff requests copies of any subsequent environmental documents, copies of public notices and any Notices of Determination for this proposed project.

If the environmental document is adopted during a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notice of this hearing. If the document is adopted without a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notification of the date of the adoption and proposed project approval by the decision-making body.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 916.341.6363 or by e-mail at Megan.Emslander@calrecycle.ca.gov.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Emslander".

Megan Emslander, Environmental Scientist
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division
CalRecycle

cc: Ben Escotto, Supervisor, Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit
Noah Westbury, San Bernardino County LEA