Addendum to the Initial Study/Negative Declaration
Recology Vallejo
Revised Solid Waste Facility Permit Project

State Clearinghouse No. 2018122007

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Section 1: Introduction

This Addendum has been prepared to analyze whether the proposed 2025 revision to the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) for Recology Vallejo (Project) is within the scope of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration adopted in 2019 (2019 ND) and whether additional environmental review is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.).

1.1 Environmental Analysis and Conclusions

CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, subds. (a) and (b) provide that the lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or adopted Negative Declaration (ND) if some changes or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR or ND have occurred (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164, subds. (a) and (b)).

An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the Final EIR or ND (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, subd. (c)). The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the Final EIR or adopted ND prior to making a decision on the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, subd. (d)). An agency must also include a brief explanation, supported by substantial evidence, of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR or ND pursuant to Section 15162 (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, subd. (e)).

Consequently, once an EIR or ND has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR or ND is required under CEQA unless, based on substantial evidence:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;[1]
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete . . . shows any of the following:
    a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or ND;
    b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

[1] CEQA Guidelines Section 15382 defines "significant effect on the environment" as " . . . a substantial, or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance . . ." (see also Public Resources Code, Section 21068).

c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162, subd. (a); see also Pub. Resources Code, Section 21166).

This addendum constitutes substantial evidence supporting the conclusion that preparation of a supplemental or subsequent ND is not required for consideration of the proposed Project.

Section 2: Project Background, Description and Analysis

1.1 Project Background

The Recology Vallejo facility (Facility) is an existing Large Volume Transfer/Processing Facility that is permitted to receive commingled recyclables and organic materials, including green waste and food waste. The Facility operates under a SWFP (SWIS No. 48-AA-0089) that allows the Facility to receive a maximum of 600 tons per day (tpd) of mixed recyclables and organic materials and a maximum of 360 vehicles per day (vpd) on an incoming, rolling 7-day average. The SWFP limits the hours of receipt of recyclables and organic waste material to between 5:00 AM and 7:00 PM Monday through Sunday. The SWFP allows ancillary operations/facility operating hours 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The SWFP applies to the entire 9.36-acre property.

The SWFP was revised on September 17, 2019 to increase the allowable incoming materials at the Facility from the previous maximum of 300 tpd to the current 600 tpd, to increase the previous maximum inbound 199 vpd average to the current 360 vpd rolling 7-day average, and to increase the hours of receipt of material from the previous 5:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday to the current 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Sunday. The Solano County Resource Management Department, in their role as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and lead agency for the Project, prepared the 2019 ND in December 2018. The 2019 ND was circulated from December 5, 2018 through January 3, 2019 and was adopted on April 3, 2019.

In addition to the SWFP, the Facility currently operates under a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with the City of Vallejo for processing recyclable materials. The City of Vallejo granted the CUP for the existing Facility in August of 1987. An Environmental Assessment was prepared in May of 1987 and a Negative Declaration was prepared in August 1987 for the Facility prior to the issuance of the CUP. In 2012, the City of Vallejo issued a CUP to the Facility allowing the collection of green waste. In 2013, the City of Vallejo approved an amendment to the green waste collection CUP to allow food waste collection at the Facility. In 2018, the City of Vallejo issued a modification to both the 1987 CUP and 2012 CUP to permit material receipt at the facility Monday-Sunday and to increase the allowable traffic to 360 vehicles per day on a 7-day rolling average. In January 2025, the City of Vallejo issued a modification to the 1987 CUP to extend the hours of operation to 4:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seven days a week. The City of Vallejo found the extension of the hours of operation to be consistent with the 1987 CUP findings and the 1987 Negative Declaration.

1.2 Proposed Project Description

Recology Vallejo is proposing to revise the existing SWFP to increase the hours of receipt of material from 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Sunday to 4:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Sunday. The proposed Project does not include any other changes to the facility operation or physical modification of any existing facilities, demolition of existing facilities, construction of new facilities, or other construction activity.

1.3 Analysis

This addendum analyzes the proposed Project as required under the CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15162 and 15164. Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, an addendum to an adopted ND shall be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent ND or EIR have occurred. Under Section 15162, the lead agency shall prepare an EIR if there are any new significant environmental effects associated with the refined project. With respect to the proposed Project, the revisions are only minor technical changes that do not result in any new significant environmental effect(s); therefore, the revised Project does not require a new ND or EIR.

Solano County, as the lead agency under CEQA, will consider the potential environmental impacts of the revised project when it considers whether or not to approve these changes as part of the original project. This Addendum is an informational document, intended to be used in the planning and decision-making process as provided for under Section 15164 of CEQA.

The 2019 ND evaluated the effects of the last expansion of the material receipt hours from 5:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday to 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Sunday and determined the impacts less than significant. The Project's proposed expansion of the material receipt hours from 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Sunday to 4:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Sunday is a proposed change similar to those previously contemplated by the 2019 ND.

This Addendum neither recommends approval or denial of the proposed Project nor will it be the sole basis for the County's action on the Project. The fundamental conclusion of this Addendum is that the proposed Project will not result in new significant impacts nor substantially increase the severity of previously disclosed impacts beyond those already identified in the 2019 ND. Thus, a subsequent or supplemental ND need not be prepared.

1.4 Findings

There are no substantial changes proposed by the Project or under circumstances in which the project will be undertaken that require major revisions of the existing 2019 ND, or preparation of a new subsequent or supplemental EIR or ND, that are due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. No circumstances outlined in CEQA Guidelines 15162 would occur as a result of the project that would result in a subsequent ND:

1. No substantial changes are proposed which require major revisions to the ND that would create a new significant impact of a substantial increase in the severity of a significant effect previously discussed.
2. New information would not cause one or more significant effects or cause a substantially greater impact or result in new mitigation measures or alternatives not previously discussed.

As illustrated herein, the project is within the scope of the 2019 ND and would involve only minor changes.