

Other CEQA Required Sections

17.1 General Setting

In accordance with *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines* Section 15126.2, this section identifies (1) the significant effects of the project, (2) the significant effects of the project that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented, (3) the significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the project, and (4) the growth inducing impacts of the project. Identification of the significant effects of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) Master Plan Revision (Proposed Project) is included in Chapters 4.0 through 16.0 of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

17.2 Unavoidable Impacts of the Project

In accordance with Section 15126.2(b) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, unavoidable impacts are those which cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation measures proposed as part of the Proposed Project, including those required to comply with state and federal regulations and those recommended by this DEIR, would reduce all of the impacts, except one, to a less-than-significant level. The Proposed Project would result in a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact to air quality (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) from operational activities based on modeled ambient impacts from criteria pollutant emissions. However, impacts would not occur until construction of the proposed Newhall Ranch developments. No significant impact related to air quality would occur if the Newhall Ranch developments are constructed during the operational life of the landfill. Impacts to air quality have been mitigated to the extent feasible through the implementation of Project Design Measures.

17.3 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

The identification of irreversible impacts is required in Section 15126.2(c) of the *CEQA Guidelines*. This section states:

“Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.”

The Proposed Project would use heavy equipment powered by fossil fuels for landfill operations. This would be an extension of current heavy equipment use at the existing landfill. Operation of the Proposed Project would better utilize the landfill's remaining and potential disposal capacity. In this regard, while the Proposed Project would result in an irretrievable and irreversible loss through the direct consumption of fossil fuels, it would not result in a new source for consumption of fossil fuels. It is also important to recognize that fossil fuel consumption associated with solid waste disposal would occur regardless of whether the Proposed Project is implemented. Similarly, development of a new solid waste landfill to replace the waste stream currently going to CCL would result in greater consumption of fossil fuels, both from initial development of a new facility as well as from the likelihood of waste being hauled a greater distance before disposal.

The Proposed Project would take place within the existing CCL property. Its past and future use as a landfill has the effect of irreversibly limiting the type of uses that would be appropriate on the Proposed Project site. For example, following closure, the Proposed Project site would not likely support residential, commercial, or industrial uses. However, the Project site would support open space and potentially a park.

17.4 Growth Inducing Impacts of the Project

17.4.1 Background

Section 15126(d) of the *CEQA Guidelines* requires that an environmental impact report (EIR) evaluate the growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. A growth inducing impact is defined by the *CEQA Guidelines* as:

“...the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment . . .”

Based on the guidelines above, induced growth is any growth which exceeds planned growth of an area and results from new development which would not have taken place without the implementation of the proposed project. CEQA defines growth inducement to include projects that would remove obstacles to population growth and can also be defined as an action that would encourage an increase in density of development in surrounding areas or encourage adjacent development. Growth inducing potential of a project would be considered significant if it results in growth or a population concentration that exceeds those assumptions included in pertinent master plans, land use plans, or projections made by regional planning authorities. Secondary effects of growth could result in significant, adverse environmental impacts, which could increase demand on community and/or public services, increased traffic and/or noise, degradation of air and/or water quality, and conservation of agricultural land and open space to developed areas.

Other parameters to consider when determining whether a proposed project could be growth inducing are:

- **Infrastructure development.** If a project is located in an isolated area and brings with it urban infrastructure, the availability of the extended infrastructure may cause "premature" development. Such development can result in establishment of higher-intensity land uses within a larger area of lower-intensity land uses.
- **Large development.** Growth can occur, as an indirect response when a project is developed that is large relative to the surrounding community. For example, residential development could occur in response to a large commercial or industrial project, due to employment opportunities created by the project.
- **Development precedent.** If a project is permitted in an area where development had not occurred previously, it may establish a precedent for additional development. For example, construction of high-density residential units in an area of limited residential development may set a precedent for local urban sprawl.

17.4.2 Evaluation

The Proposed Project would not introduce features such as other public infrastructure that draw other developments into an area. The area surrounding CCL consists of undeveloped open space with relatively new suburban residential areas located to the northeast and residential development to the west. The Proposed Project would not encourage growth in the area; growth would occur consistent with the County of Los Angeles General Plan (1993). Additionally, no significant infrastructure that could serve other development would be developed as part of the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project would provide for ongoing waste disposal operations and would not significantly increase local employment or create other effects that could indirectly encourage growth. The Proposed Project would need an additional 25 full-time staff. This small addition of personnel represents a negligible influx of jobs and would not induce population growth.

Landfill operations are part of the public service system that develops in response to community growth. The addition of disposal capacity to CCL is a response to the demand for responsible solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Rather than being growth-inducing, it is done in response to growth. In this regard, the continuation of waste disposal at CCL neither restricts nor promotes new growth, it merely accommodates it. Based upon these considerations, the Proposed Project will not result in significant growth-inducing impacts.

17.5 Impacts Not Further Considered in this EIR

Section 15128 of the *CEQA Guidelines* requires that an EIR contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in the EIR. This discussion is based on the Initial Study (IS) and Notice of Preparation (NOP), dated November 21, 2011, which were prepared to determine the potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project as part of the EIR scoping. The IS and NOP are included herein as Appendix A. Based on the IS, it was determined that the Proposed Project would have no impact on agricultural resources, energy, mineral resources, and recreation and that no further analysis was needed. Although the Proposed Project was also determined, as part of the IS, to have no impact on land use, population and housing, and public services, these issues were further analyzed in the DEIR.

