



# County of San Diego

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## **NOTICE OF PREPARATION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED EAST OTAY MESA RECYCLING COLLECTION CENTER AND LANDFILL EAST OTAY MESA, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is certified as the Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to regulate solid waste facilities in San Diego County (excluding the City of San Diego). The DEH is responsible for the review and approval of applications for Solid Waste Facility Permits within the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. In this capacity, the DEH shall serve as the lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and proposes to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a new recycling collection center and class III solid waste landfill located in East Otay Mesa in southern San Diego County. The EIR will be prepared in accordance with all applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, including the California Code of Regulations Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 6.3).

This notice is issued pursuant to Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines. It is intended to inform those persons and organizations that may be concerned with the environmental effects of the project. Those public agencies with specific statutory responsibilities are requested to indicate their specific role in the project approval process. The Initial Study for this project can be reviewed at the Department of Environmental Health: 5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 170, San Diego, CA 92123; the Department of Public Works, Environmental Services Unit: 5469 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 305, San Diego, CA 92123; the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library at 3003 Coronado Avenue, San Diego, CA 92154-1521, and on-line at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/environment/envrnsvcs.html> and <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/waste/landfills.html>.

Because of the time limits mandated by State law, responses should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than **October 12, 2011, 5:00PM**. Please send your response to:

County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health  
Attn: KariLyn Merlos  
5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 170  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Fax: (858) 495-5004  
e-mail: [KariLyn.Merlos@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:KariLyn.Merlos@sdcounty.ca.gov)

## ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

The environmental document will be a project-level EIR as defined in Section 15161 of the CEQA Guidelines and is intended to allow the LEA to examine the environmental effects of the proposed East Otay Mesa Recycling Collection Center and Landfill and to take steps to avoid environmental impacts.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project would occupy approximately 340 acres within the 450-acre project site located within the Otay Community Planning Area in the unincorporated south San Diego County. The proposed project would be located approximately two miles east of the Siempre Viva Road exit from Interstate 905, one-quarter mile from Loop Road/Paseo De La Fuente and east of planned State Route 11. The proposed project site would be located approximately one and one-half miles from the City of San Diego, two and one-half miles from the City of Chula Vista, and one-quarter mile from the United States/Mexico border (Figure 1). The project area can be found on Thomas Brothers Guide page 1352 Grid D-F1, F2.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

On June 8, 2010 the voters of San Diego County approved county-wide initiative Proposition A. Proposition A amended the County General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and other ordinances and policies of the County of San Diego to allow for the construction and operation of a recycling collection center and class III solid waste landfill on the project site. Proposition A also amended the Siting Element of the County-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan to list the project site as a recycling and disposal site and to conform the siting element text to provide for the proposed project.

The proposed recycling collection center and class III solid waste landfill would occupy approximately 340 acres of the 450-acre site. The remaining 110 acres would remain undeveloped. The East Otay Mesa Specific Plan established a 1,000-foot-wide buffer adjacent to the site to the west to minimize land use conflicts between the recycling collection center and landfill and nearby development. The proposed project would include a recycling collection center, lined landfill, scale area, borrow and stockpile area, leachate collection system, chipping and grinding area, storm water retention facilities, a new access route from Loop Road/Paseo De La Fuente, and a facilities and operation area. The facilities and operation area would include a visitors' center, office building, maintenance office, shop and yard, and landfill gas collection and recovery system.

The recycling and solid waste operations components of the proposed project would include the receipt, handling, processing, and/or disposal of solid waste or recyclable materials; cover operations; site grading and/or excavation, including blasting, rock crushing, and export of native material; and heavy equipment operation. Other site activities would include the operation of gas and leachate collection and treatment systems, remedial activities required by regulatory agencies, maintenance within the maintenance yard, and other activities that would support and are customarily associated with recycling and solid waste operations.

The landfill would utilize a state-of-the-art composite liner system and a leachate collection and recovery system, in accordance with State and Federal regulatory requirements, including California Code of Regulations Title 27 and subtitle D of Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (27 CCR 20340; SWRCB Resolution 93-62 IIIA; 40 CFR 258.40). The liner system would include from bottom to top: a low permeability barrier layer soil or geosynthetic alternative, a flexible impermeable geomembrane, a leachate collection layer, and a protective soil cover. All components of the liner system would be designed to provide protection of groundwater in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

The landfill would be developed utilizing a phased approach based on capacity needs, with individual phases or cells ranging in size from 5 to 20 acres, and following an engineered master development plan. Each phase would generally include excavation of native material which would either be used onsite, quarried for use as aggregate, or exported off-site. Estimated landfill capacity is approximately 180 million tons. Both the capacity and the life of the landfill are subject to disposal rates and current landfill capacity in San Diego County. There is potential refuse capacity for 150 years or more.

### **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

An analysis of the environmental impacts is currently being conducted. The following environmental factors will be analyzed in the environmental document: Aesthetics, Agriculture Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities/Service Systems. These issues, along with an analysis of project alternatives, cumulative effects, and potential for growth inducement, will be analyzed and discussed in the EIR for the proposed project.

### **LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE THIS NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

Surrounding Property Owners  
California Air Resources Board  
California Department of Conservation  
California Department of Fish and Game, Region 5  
California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
California Department of Transportation, District #11  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Office of Historic Preservation  
California Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region #9  
California Native Plant Society  
California State Lands Commission  
City of San Diego, City Manager  
City of San Diego, Brown Field  
County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use  
County of San Diego, Historic Site Board  
County of San Diego, Sheriff's Department  
County of San Diego, Supervisor Greg Cox  
East Otay Mesa Property Owners Association  
East Otay Mesa Sewer Maintenance District  
Federal Aviation Administration, Western-Pacific Region  
Native American Heritage Commission  
Otay Mesa Planning Group  
Otay Mesa Property Owner's Association  
Otay Water District  
San Diego Association of Governments  
San Diego Air Pollution Control District  
San Diego Audubon Society  
San Diego County Archaeological Society  
San Diego Gas & Electric  
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority  
San Diego Rural Fire Protection District  
Sierra Club  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service