



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A
SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING TO BE HELD 10/4/2023 AT 6:00 P.M.**



DATE: September 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Subsequent EIR and Notice of a Scoping Meeting
PROJECT: Increase in Maximum Daily Operations at Prima Deshecha Landfill
APPLICANT: OC Waste & Recycling, 601 North Ross Street, 5th Floor, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 15082 and 15162(d) of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title. 14, §15000 et seq.) that the County of Orange, OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) has determined that a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the appropriate environmental document for the proposed Increase in Maximum Daily Operations at Prima Deshecha Landfill (Project). OCWR will be the Lead Agency for the proposed Project and will be responsible for the Subsequent EIR's preparation pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed Project description and location and a list of probable environmental effects are provided below.

As required by Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared and distributed to solicit comments from potential Responsible and Trustee Agencies on Project-related concerns relevant to each agency's statutory responsibilities. Comments on the content and scope of the Subsequent EIR also are solicited from any other interested parties (including other agencies and affected members of the public). The Subsequent EIR will be the environmental document of reference for Responsible and Trustee Agencies when considering subsequent discretionary approvals.

PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION

Prima Deshecha Landfill (Landfill) is owned by the County and operated by OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR). OCWR is a County department that is overseen by the Board of Supervisors. Prima Deshecha Landfill encompasses 1,530 acres (ac) and is located in southeastern Orange County partially within San Juan Capistrano (570 ac), San Clemente (133 ac), and unincorporated Orange County (827 ac). The landfill is located at 32250 Avenida La Pata, and access is provided by Interstate 5 (I-5), Ortega Highway (State Route 74 [SR-74]), and Avenida La Pata. The Prima Deshecha Landfill site is divided into five zones, called Zones 1 through 5. Zone 1 is the current landfilling area, with an estimated closure date of approximately 2050. Zone 4 is the future landfill development area, with an estimated closure date of approximately 2102.

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project would increase the permitted daily maximum tonnage of waste received at the Landfill from 4,000 tons per day (TPD) to 8,000 TPD. Waste would continue to be disposed of in existing areas of the Landfill that are designated for disposal. The proposed Project would allow for up to 36 operational emergency days on which the 8,000 TPD limit could be exceeded. Such operational emergency days could occur if another OCWR facility is temporarily closed, as a result of a freeway closure or other unforeseen event, necessitating diversion of waste to the Prima Deshecha Landfill. The proposed increase would not change the nature or location of approved activities within the Landfill, including the limits of refuse, nor would it alter the footprint, property limits, or configuration of the Landfill.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Based on the Initial Study (IS) completed for the proposed Project, OCWR has determined that the proposed Project could result in impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gases, energy, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation, and noise. These topics will be analyzed in the Subsequent EIR. Mitigation measures will be developed and included in the SEIR, if necessary, to address the proposed Project's potentially significant adverse effects.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Copies of this NOP have been transmitted to the California State Clearinghouse of the Office of Planning and Research and to each applicable Responsible and Trustee Agency. Copies of this NOP, the IS, and future environmental documents prepared in conjunction with the proposed Project will be available for public review on the OCWR's website at <https://oclandfills.com/PrimaSEIRtonnage>.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION COMMENT PERIOD

OCWR invites you to submit written comments describing your specific environmental concerns, if any. The NOP comment period begins on September 27, 2023 and ends on October 27, 2023. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 27, 2023, the close of the public review period. Please send your written comments to Aimee Halligan, OC Waste & Recycling, 601 North Ross Street, 5th Floor, Santa Ana, CA 92701 or via email to aimee.halligan@ocwr.ocgov.com. Please include your name, address, and contact information in your correspondence.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

To provide an additional opportunity for input, OCWR will be conducting a Scoping Meeting during the NOP comment period to present information about the proposed Project and to solicit comments relative to the content of the information to be analyzed in the Subsequent EIR. The Scoping Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, at the Administrative Building at the Prima Deshecha Landfill, 32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, California, 92675. This date is subject to change. Meeting updates, which will include details on how the public can participate, will be posted on OCWR's website at <https://oclandfills.com/PrimaSEIRtonnage>.

