

Visalia Disposal Site Wastewater Biogas and Compost Facility  
State Clearinghouse No. 2021020054  
Final Environmental Impact Report Public Hearing  
and Local Enforcement Agency Public Information Meeting

(Tulare County RMA, Solid Waste and Environmental Health)



Board of Supervisors  
December 17, 2024

Presented by the  
Tulare County Resource Management Agency



## CEQA Background

1. As required by SB1383, the County is designing and permitting a Compost Facility at the Visalia Disposal Site (Landfill) located at 8614 Ave. 328 Visalia, CA 93291.
2. A Focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the Visalia Landfill – Compost and Biomass Conversion Facility Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2021020054)
3. Adopted /certified by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on September 27, 2022, via Resolution No. 2022-084
4. TC Solid Waste is currently seeking a new standalone biomass conversion/ composting permit.

# Biogas and Compost Facility – Landfilling Operations Project

- Landfill is permitted to receive up to 2,000 tons per day (TPD) of solid waste and 900 vehicles per day.
- Increase the landfill's overall daily solid waste tonnage and daily vehicle limit to avoid violating its permitted daily tonnage / vehicle limits
- Requires a standalone permit (within the existing footprint of Visalia Landfill) for the biomass conversion/ composting facility
- Haul trucks that would transport biomaterial will be exclusively used for biomass conversion/composting purposes.
- Water and Sewer are more than originally approved but within Calwater's, and the City of Visalia's water and wastewater plans covered by the Program EIR, and City's General Plan EIR.
- Have will serve letter from Calwater and anticipate amending the Extraterritorial Agreement in March.

## Public Information Meeting pursuant to Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, §§ 21660 and 21660.2.

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- TC Environmental Health Division (TCEHD) serves as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for solid waste facilities within the County. Pursuant to Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, §§ 21660 and 21660.2, TCEHD as the LEA is holding this informational meeting to discuss the permit application with the public, allowing for questions and feedback.

# Specific Project Proposals

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- Increase the Landfill's total daily permitted tonnage of solid waste to 3,000 TPD.
- Increase its total daily landfill tonnage by diverting 1,000 TPD of daily organic waste material to be used for biomass conversion/composting and maintaining its 2,000 TPD of solid waste toward landfilling.
- It is anticipated that the composting component of the biomass conversion/composting facility would reach its planned maximum of 200,000 TPY over the course of 13 years and would be constructed in four phases of 50,000 TPY; and
- Increase the Landfill's daily permitted vehicles trips by 300 vehicles/day (haul trucks) to 1,200 total vehicles/day.
- The County's current permit allows a daily limit of 900 total vehicles/day (it currently averages approximately 600 vehicles/day). Allowing the additional 300 vehicles (haul trucks)/day would provide a comfortable margin from its current limit of 900 vehicles/day.
- The increase of 300 haul trucks/day would be incremental over a 13-year period to coincide with full build-out and operation of the biomass conversion/composting facility.

## CEQA Process Completed

- Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the NOP for the proposed Project was circulated for a 30-day comment period beginning on June 13, 2023, and ending July 13, 2023.
- A Scoping Meeting was held on June 29, 2023, during the NOP comment period at Tulare County RMA Conference Room
- No Comments were received at the Scoping Meeting.
- The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Focused SEIR was published in the Sun-Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation, on December 27, 2023, indicating that a 45-day review period would begin on December 29, 2023, ending February 12, 2024.
- Comments were received from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District).

# Final EIR – Mitigation Reporting Program

- Standard biological, cultural, and tribal survey requirements and/or discovery mitigation measures are included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). This project will require the purchase of emission reduction credits (ERCs) from the Air District as mitigation because emission thresholds are projected to be exceeded as determined by the (Air District) over time.
- Staff responded to comments received from CalRecycle, CDFW, Caltrans, and Air District within the requisite time. These responses are included as part of the Final Focused SEIR.

# Dual Purpose Meeting

1. Section 15202 – [CEQA] Public Hearings. “(e) Notice of all public hearings shall be given in a timely manner. This notice may be given in the same form and time as notice for other regularly conducted public hearings of the public agency.” Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15202
2. New Permit Actions, substitute meetings under 27 CCR 21660.4,
  - LEA present at the meeting,
  - Publicly recognized as the LEA at the meeting,
  - Available to answer questions.

The Board recognizes Doctor Jessica Gocke, TCHED, the Local Enforcement Agency for the State, Calrecycle, as being present and available to answer questions as necessary at the time the public hearing is opened.



# That the Board of Supervisors:

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1. Open the Public Hearing
2. Certify the Focused Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2021020054), Findings of Fact, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as the correct level of environmental review for the proposed Visalia Disposal (Landfill) Site and Biogas and Compost Facility – Landfilling Operations Project, located at 8614 Avenue 328, Visalia, CA 93291.
3. Certify and adopt the Focused Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, Findings of Fact, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as being in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 pursuant to Sections 21158 and 21166 and Sections 15162 and 15178, respectively, for the proposed Visalia Disposal (Landfill) Site and Biogas and Compost Facility – Landfilling Operations Project.
4. Direct the Environmental Assessment Officer of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk and the California Office of Land Use and Climate Investments, State Clearinghouse Division.