

SECTION 2.0
INTRODUCTION

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE EIR

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §§ 21000, *et seq.*) and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, §§ 15000, *et seq.*). The DEIR assesses the potential impacts associated with the proposed Scholl Canyon Landfill Expansion (proposed project). The City of Glendale is the Lead Agency for the proposed project pursuant to CEQA. In accordance with the Scholl Canyon Landfill (SCLF) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County, serving as the administrative entity for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) is responsible for preparation of the DEIR and will serve as the primary project contact.

As stated in Section 15121 of the CEQA Guidelines, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is an informational document to inform decision-makers, public agencies and the general public about the potential significant environmental effects of a proposed project. It also identifies possible ways to minimize the significant adverse effects of the project and addresses reasonable alternatives to the project. CEQA requires that an EIR contain, at a minimum, the following elements:

- Executive Summary
- Project Description
- Environmental Settings, Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Alternatives to the Proposed Project
- Growth Inducing Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Effects Not Found to be Significant
- List of Preparers and Persons Consulted

2.2 CONTENTS/ORGANIZATION OF THE EIR

Each environmental parameter discussed in Section 6.0 (Resource Specific Analysis) of the DEIR is organized and analyzed as discussed below.

2.2.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

This section describes the existing environmental conditions (setting) in the vicinity of the proposed project, as they existed at the time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was published. The environmental setting constitutes the baseline physical conditions against which the City of Glendale determines whether an impact is considered significant and adverse.

2.2.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thresholds of significance are the basis for determining project related potential impacts and are presented in this section of the DEIR. These thresholds are derived from applicable local (City of Glendale), state and/or federal policies and programs, as well as other accepted standards determined to be appropriate by the City of Glendale pursuant to Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines.

2.2.3 METHODOLOGY RELATED TO EACH ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETER

The procedures used to analyze impacts of the proposed project on each environmental parameter are presented in this section of the DEIR.

2.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

The environmental analysis for each environmental parameter for which the proposed project may result in potentially significant adverse impacts is contained in this section of the DEIR. These parameters were identified in the findings of the Initial Study (IS) which was included as part of the NOP. Environmental parameters not discussed in this section are described in Section 5.0 (Effects Found Not to Be Significant).

2.2.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

If the environmental impact analysis concludes that the proposed project will create significant adverse impacts on the environment, mitigation measures are identified in this section to minimize or eliminate the significant adverse impacts.

2.2.6 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

This section identifies the level of adverse impacts after incorporation of mitigation measures. If significant unavoidable adverse impacts are identified (i.e. significant adverse impacts which cannot be mitigated or that remain significant even after mitigation is incorporated), it will be necessary for the City of Glendale to determine if the benefits from implementing the proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse effects created by the proposed project and to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

2.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

2.3.1 INITIAL STUDY AND NOTICE OF PREPARATION

As required by CEQA, an IS and NOP (IS/NOP) for the proposed project were released on December 5, 2007 for a 40-day public review period which concluded on January 14, 2008. The IS/NOP was distributed to the State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research, public agencies, interested parties, libraries and service providers. The IS indicated that the proposed project did have the potential for significant adverse impacts on the environment and that an EIR was required. A copy of the IS/NOP is included in Appendix A and the distribution list for the IS/NOP is provided in Appendix B. Fourteen written responses to the NOP were received. Copies of these comment letters are provided in Appendix C. Appendix C also has a table that summarizes the comment letters and indicates where in the IS and/or in the DEIR each specific issue raised in these comment letters is located.

2.3.2 PUBLIC SCOPING AND CITIZEN CONCERNS

An agency scoping meeting was held on December 17, 2007 to solicit input for consideration in the DEIR. A public notice was published in the Glendale News-Press and the Pasadena Star News on December 12, 2007 to inform agencies of the scoping meeting time and location. In addition, announcement of the agency scoping meeting was identified in the NOP. Four public agency members attended the meeting in the Municipal Services Building, 633 East Broadway, Room 105 and 106, Glendale, CA. The published notice and the attendance list are provided in Appendix D. Following the

presentation of the proposed project by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) staff, attendees expressed their concerns about the elements and potential impacts of the proposed project. Table 2-1 summarizes the verbal comments received at the agency scoping meeting.

TABLE 2-1. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE AGENCY SCOPING MEETING

RESPONDENT	SUMMARY OF COMMENTS	WHERE COMMENT IS ADDRESSED IN THE EIR
Los Angeles County Local Enforcement Agency	Is the current tonnage average used to determine the life of the landfill?	Section 4.0 (Project Description)
	Knowing that Puente Hills Landfill will be shutting down, do you anticipate an increase in disposal at Scholl Canyon Landfill as the result of the shutting down of Puente Hills?	Section 4.0 (Project Description) - SCLF has a closed watershed, and will not be affected by Puente Hills Landfill closure.
	What is the tipping fee?	Not an environmental issue under CEQA.
	Do you envision problems with improper identification of the waste generation coming into the landfill from independent haulers once Puente Hills closes? Due to lower tipping fees, haulers may misrepresent where the waste is generated for the purpose of saving some money.	Comment noted. Not an environmental issue under CEQA.
Los Angeles County Public Works Department	Will there be a request to increase the daily tonnage?	Section 4.0 (Project Description)

A public information meeting was held in the evening on December 17, 2007 to solicit input for consideration in the DEIR. A public notice was published in the Glendale News-Press and Pasadena Star News on December 12, 2007 to inform the general public of the public information meeting time and place. In addition, announcement of the public scoping meeting was identified in the NOP. The published notice is provided in Appendix D. No one from the general public attended the meeting at the Municipal Services Building, Room 105 and 106, located at 633 East Broadway, Glendale, CA.

The DEIR was prepared based on the information provided in the IS and the issues expressed in the responses to the NOP and at the agency scoping meeting.

2.4 PREPARATION OF THE DEIR

The DEIR was prepared pursuant to Section 15161 of the CEQA Guidelines which states that a project EIR:

“...examines the environmental impacts of a specific development project. This type of EIR should focus primarily on the changes in the environment that would result from the development project. The EIR shall examine all the phases of the project including planning, construction, and operation.”

The DEIR analyzes the reasonably foreseeable environmental consequences anticipated to occur from the construction and operation of this proposed project.

2.4.1 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The DEIR relies upon previously adopted regional and statewide plans and programs, agency standards, and background studies in its analysis, such as the City of Glendale General Plan, Municipal Code and Noise Ordinances, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) CEQA Air Quality Handbook. Whenever existing environmental documentation or previously prepared documents and studies are used in the preparation of the DEIR, the information is summarized for the convenience of the reader and incorporated by reference. In addition, each section which relies upon previously adopted plans, programs, environmental documentation and background studies notes how it specifically relates to the proposed project and that the information has been reconfirmed. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15150(b), the documents referenced in the DEIR will be made available to the public for inspection at the City upon request. In addition, referenced documents and other sources used in preparation of the DEIR are identified in Section 14.0 (References).

Technical studies and reports prepared for the proposed project are included in the Appendices of the DEIR and are considered part of the DEIR.

2.4.2 INTENDED USES OF THE DEIR

The EIR process is designed to facilitate an objective evaluation of a project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the environment; provide an analysis of project alternatives; identify measures that would mitigate significant adverse impacts of a project; and provide implementation methods for such mitigation measures. Simply because the DEIR addresses a particular issue does not mean that the issue would cause a significant adverse impact to the environment. Impacts from the project may not have a significant effect on the environment, but analysis regarding such matters is included to support the conclusions set forth in the DEIR.

Prior to potential certification, the DEIR will be circulated for a 45-day public review period. All interested persons and/or agencies wishing to comment on the information contained in the DEIR must do so within the 45-day public review period. The Glendale City Council is responsible for certifying the Final EIR.

2.4.3 AGENCIES HAVING JURISDICTION/POTENTIAL DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS

The SCLF is owned by both the City of Glendale and the County of Los Angeles (County), and is operated by the Sanitation Districts pursuant to a JPA between all three parties. Operation of the landfill is authorized under a zoning variance (Case No. 6668-U) issued by the City of Glendale, the JPA, and a Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) approved by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), (formerly the Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)) and issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The City of Glendale, as the Lead Agency for the DEIR, has discretionary authority over the proposed project approval. In addition to the City of Glendale, other public agencies that may also have oversight over the proposed project or may be responsible for issuing subsequent permits necessary to implement the proposed project are identified in Table 2-2.

TABLE 2-2. LIST OF POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

AGENCY	APPROVAL/PERMIT
Federal Agencies	
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Discretionary Permits
State Agencies	
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Discretionary Permits

TABLE 2-2. LIST OF POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

AGENCY	APPROVAL/PERMIT
California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery	Revision to SWFP
California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Los Angeles Region	Storm Water Management Plans (in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit)
	Revision to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)
	Discretionary Permits
Caltrans	Approval of Two Intersection Improvements
Regional Agencies	
South Coast Air Quality Management District	Permits to Construct Expanded Gas Control Systems
	Permits to Operate Expanded Gas Control Systems
	Title V Operating Permit
County Agencies	
County of Los Angeles	Amend the JPA
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health	Revision to SWFP
Sanitation Districts	Amend the JPA
Local Agencies	
City of Glendale	Project Approval
	Certification of the Final EIR
	Conditional Use Permit
	Amend the JPA
	Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit

2.4.4 AVAILABILITY OF THE DEIR

Agencies, organizations and individuals wishing to comment on the information presented in the DEIR may do so during the 45-day public review period. All written comments on the DEIR will be addressed in the Responses to Comments Report. The Responses to Comments Report will be part of the Final EIR and will be presented to the City of Glendale for their consideration of the DEIR and the proposed project. Copies of the DEIR and relevant technical studies are available for review during regular business hours at the following locations:

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County 1955 Workman Mill Road Whittier, CA 90601	City of Glendale Planning Department 633 East Broadway, Room 103 Glendale, CA 91206
Glendale Central Library 222 East Harvard Street Glendale, CA 91205	Sanitation Districts website: www.lacsd.org City of Glendale's website: www.ci.glendale.ca.us