
IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

L. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

3. SOLID WASTE AND DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Within the City, solid waste management, including collection and disposal services and landfill operation, is administered by various public agencies and private companies. Single-family residential and limited multi-family residential refuse is collected by the City Bureau of Sanitation. Waste generated by most multi-family residential sources and all commercial and industrial sources is collected by private contractors. Construction waste is also collected by private contractors. Waste disposal sites or landfills are operated by both the City and the County of Los Angeles (County), as well as by private companies. In addition, transfer stations are utilized to temporarily store debris until larger hauling trucks are available to transport the materials directly to the landfills. Landfill availability is limited by several factors, including (1) restrictions to accepting waste generated only within a landfill's particular jurisdiction and/or watershed boundary, (2) tonnage permit limitations and (3) operational constraints.

The City provides curbside solid waste collection to single-family homes in the project vicinity. This curbside collection program picks up solid waste for delivery to landfills and green waste, yard trimmings, and recyclables for delivery to mulching/composting facilities and material recovery facilities.¹ The curbside collection program operated by the City primarily uses the Sunshine Canyon Landfill for disposal of refuse.² If Sunshine Canyon is temporarily unable to accept additional loads, Bradley Landfill may also be used for waste disposal, until 2007 at which time it is scheduled to close unless a proposed expansion is approved.

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill is jointly operated by the City and the County (each operates separate portions of the landfill). However, the City's permits to dispose solid waste in its portion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill expired in 1991. In 1996, the City contracted with a private waste hauler to dispose its solid waste in the County portion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill.³ Currently, the City continues to contract with a private waste hauler to use the County's portion of the Sunshine Canyon

¹ *It is noted that Mayor Hahn is exploring an initiative to haul all residential solid waste out of the City by 2006. The City Public Works Department is currently studying this initiative, and no details of this potential plan have been released to the public yet. (Source: Correspondence with Los Angeles Office of the Board of Public Works, Karen Coca, August 25, 2003)*

² *Correspondence from Los Angeles Office of the Board of Public Works, Karen Coca, January 30, 2002 (confirmed by April 7, 2003 letter from Mistie M. Joyce).*

³ *Correspondence with City of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agency, David Thompson, Environmental Specialist III, May 21, 2003.*

Landfill to dispose of 3,500 tons of solid waste daily (see Table IV.L-4).⁴ In December 1999, the City approved Ordinance 172,933, which amended the LAMC to allow the City to expand the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and combine the City and County portions of the landfill.⁵ The plan approved in Ordinance 172,933 will allow the City to (1) work with the County to combine the City and County portions of the landfill,⁶ (2) expand the landfill footprint to 194 acres in the City and 257 acres in the County,⁵ (3) increase capacity to 55 million tons in the City portion and increase the combined capacity of the City/County landfill to 90 million tons,⁵ (4) permit a daily maximum intake of 5,500 tons per day prior to the combining of the City and County portions of the landfill,⁵ (5) permit a combined City/County daily maximum intake of 12,100 tons following combining the City and County portions of the landfill,⁵ and (6) extend the estimated closure date to approximately 2029.⁷ The City has recently approved, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has concurred with, the solid waste facility permit for Phase I of that plan⁸, which initially permits a maximum capacity of 16 million tons.⁹

Given the City's permitted daily intake of 5,500 tons per day (prior to the combining of the City and County portions of the landfill) and the City's current daily disposal of 3,500 tons of solid waste, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill can accommodate an additional 2,000 tons per day of the City's solid waste. This estimate is based on the City's approved permits and plans for the expansion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The Bradley Landfill is currently permitted to intake 10,000 tons per day of solid waste and receives approximately 2,250 tons per day (see Table IV.L-4). This indicates that the Bradley Landfill is currently permitted to receive an additional 7,750 tons per day of solid waste. In addition, the City is exploring plans to construct or purchase other solid waste facilities, including a materials recovery facility and a transfer station, the details of which are currently unavailable.¹⁰

In addition to the Sunshine Canyon and Bradley Landfills, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill accepts waste generated by construction activities in the project vicinity. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill is currently permitted to intake 6,000 tons per day of solid waste and receives approximately 4,780 tons per day.

⁴ Correspondence with Los Angeles Office of the Board of Public Works, Karen Coca, May 21, 2003.

⁵ City of Los Angeles Ordinance 172,933 (amending LAMC Section 12.04) and its [Q] Qualified Conditions of Approval, approved December 10, 1999.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ City of Los Angeles, Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report Sunshine Canyon Landfill, SEIR 91-0377-ZC/GPA, State Clearinghouse No. 92041053, July 1997.

⁸ Solid Waste Facility Permit No. 19-AR-0002-2.

⁹ California Integrated Waste Management Board Resolution 2003-289, May 13, 2003.

¹⁰ California Integrated Waste Management Board, Board Meeting May 13-14, 2003, "Agenda Item 7 (Revised)."

This indicates that the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is currently permitted to receive an additional 1,220 tons per day of solid waste. However, the permit for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill limits its weekly intake to 30,000 tons of solid waste and it receives 28,672 tons per week. Therefore, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is currently permitted to receive only an additional 1,328 tons per week of solid waste (1,328 tons ÷ 6 days = 221 tons per day).

Table IV.L-4
Los Angeles County Landfill Capacity and Intake
Canyon Hills Project

Landfill Facility	Estimated Closure Date ^a	Permitted Daily Intake (tons per day)	Average Daily Intake (tons per day)
Sunshine Canyon Landfill (City portion)	2029	5,500	3,500 ^b
Bradley Landfill	2007	10,000 ^a	2,250 ^c
Chiquita Canyon Landfill	2019	6,000 ^d	4,780 ^c

^a California Integrated Waste Management Board, "Solid Waste Information System," April 9, 2003.
^b Correspondence with Los Angeles Office of the Board of Public Works, Karen Coca, May 21, 2003.
^c California Integrated Waste Management Board, "2002 Landfill Summary Tonnage Report," www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Landfills/tonnage/2002/Landfill.htm, May 20, 2003.
^d California Integrated Waste Management Board, "Landfill's Revised Permit Sanctioned After Waste Board Review," www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Pressroom/1998/sept/nr104.htm, September 23, 1998.

Household Hazardous Waste

The City operates a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program in cooperation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The program is a way for private residents to safely dispose of household chemicals such as household cleaning products, paint substances, automotive products, pool chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs.¹¹ City and County residents can bring their HHW to "Hazmobile" collection sites. These sites are mobile and are held at various locations throughout the City and County, each remaining in the same location for two to three days.¹² These sites are staffed with employees trained in hazardous waste handling who safely unload residents' waste into trucks and trailers onsite.¹³

¹¹ Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation, "Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program," www.lacity.org/SAN, November 15, 2002.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

Additionally, the CIWMB has certified used oil collection locations throughout the State. These locations accept uncontaminated oil throughout the year. A list of the locations can be obtained from the Bureau of Sanitation or directly from the CIWMB.¹⁴

Solid Waste Regulatory Background

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) was enacted to reduce, recycle, and reuse solid waste generated in the State to the maximum extent feasible. Specifically, the Act requires city and county jurisdictions to identify an implementation schedule to divert 50 percent of the total waste stream from landfill disposal by the year 2000. The Act also requires each city and county to promote source reduction, recycling, and safe disposal or transformation. Cities and counties are required to maintain the 50 percent diversion specified by AB 939 past the year 2000. The City surpassed the State-mandated 50 percent diversion rate for the year 2000 and achieved a 58.8 percent diversion rate.¹⁵ In addition, in 1999, the Mayor directed City departments to develop strategies to achieve the citywide recycling goal of 70 percent by 2020.¹⁶

AB 939 further requires each city to conduct a Solid Waste Generation Study and to prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to describe how it would reach the goals. The SRRE contains programs and policies for fulfillment of the goals of the Act, including the above-noted diversion goals and must be updated annually to account for changing market and infrastructure conditions. As projects and programs are implemented, the characteristics of the waste stream, the capacities of the current solid waste disposal facilities, and the operational status of those facilities are upgraded, as appropriate. California cities and counties are required to submit annual reports to the CIWMB to update it on their progress toward the AB 939 goals. To date, implementation of AB 939 has proven to be a successful method of reducing landfill waste in the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines, a significant impact to solid waste services would occur if the landfill serving the proposed project did not have sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs and/or if it would not comply with federal, State and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *City of Los Angeles, AB 939 2000 Report, August 2001, page ES-1.*

¹⁶ *City of Los Angeles Solid Resources Program Fact Sheet, November 2000, page III.*

Project Impacts

Solid waste would be generated at the project site by both short-term construction activities and long-term residential activities.

Short-Term Construction Impacts

Construction activities generate a variety of scraps and wastes, with the majority of recyclables being wood waste, drywall, metal, paper and cardboard. Based on a construction generation rate of 4.38 pounds of waste for every square foot of new residential construction,¹⁷ the construction of 280 new homes is projected to generate approximately 2,453 tons of waste over the construction period (see Table IV.L-5).¹⁸ Recycling of construction-related waste materials in compliance with AB 939 would substantially reduce this waste stream that would otherwise go to a landfill. Construction waste would be picked up by a private disposal company in accordance with the City's standard practice. Such private companies may use any appropriate landfill for the disposal of solid wastes; however, the distance of the landfill from the point of collection is a major factor in selecting a disposal site. Construction waste from the proposed project could be accepted at either the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Chiquita Canyon Landfill or the Bradley Landfill (if the current proposal to expand the Bradley Landfill is approved).¹⁹ As indicated in Table IV.L-4, each of these landfills has the capacity to accommodate the construction waste, which would be disposed of over a period of several years. Although the Bradley Landfill is scheduled to close before the completion of the proposed project, the approved expansion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill would ensure sufficient landfill capacity to accommodate the construction waste. Furthermore, as previously discussed, the City is currently exploring plans to construct or purchase additional solid waste facilities, including a materials recovery facility and a transfer station.²⁰

Site grading can also be a source of construction waste directed to a landfill. However, the proposed project's grading operations are designed to balance onsite; therefore, no excavated soil would be exported to a landfill.

¹⁷ USEPA Report No EPA530-98-010, *Characterization of Building Related Construction and Demolition Debris in the United States*, July 1998, page A-1.

¹⁸ Assumes an average of 4,000 square feet per residence.

¹⁹ California Integrated Waste Management Board, *Active Landfills*, January 2001.

²⁰ Correspondence from Los Angeles Office of the Board of Public Works, Karen Coca, January 30, 2002 (confirmed by April 7, 2003 letter from Mistie M. Joyce).

**Table IV.L-5
Construction Solid Waste Generation
Canyon Hills Project**

Land Use	Size	Generation Rate (lbs/sf)	Total (lbs)
Single-Family Residential	280 DU (4,000 sf each)	4.38	4,905,600 (2,453 tons)
<i>Source: USEPA Report No EPA530-98-010, Characterization of Building Related Construction and Demolition Debris in the United States, July 1998.</i>			

Since the addition of the proposed project's construction waste to Sunshine Canyon Landfill or the Chiquita Canyon Landfill would not cause either landfill to exceed its permitted capacity, this impact is considered to be less than significant.

Long-Term Operational Impacts

Operation of the proposed project would result in ongoing generation of solid waste. Because the proposed project would consist of single-family homes, the City would provide solid waste pickup from the homes.²¹ Additionally, the City's curbside collection program picks up green waste and yard trimmings for delivery to City-owned and private mulching/composting facilities, and picks up recyclables for delivery to material recovery facilities.²²

Over the long-term, the proposed project's 280 homes would be expected to generate approximately 3,424 pounds (1.712 tons) of solid waste per day, or 625 tons per year (see Table IV.L-6). As discussed above, the AB 939 requirement to reduce the solid waste stream in landfills by 50 percent means that approximately 1,712 pounds²³ (0.856 tons) of the proposed project's total daily solid waste generation (or 312 tons per year) must be recycled rather than disposed to a landfill. Thus, for analysis purposes, it is assumed that the proposed project would generate 1,712 pounds (0.856 tons) of solid waste per day that would be disposed in local landfills, while the remaining 50 percent would be picked up by the City as part of its curbside recycling program.

As indicated in Table IV.L-4, the City portion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is permitted to receive 5,500 tons per day and currently receives 3,500 tons per day. Therefore, the City portion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill can receive an additional 2,000 tons per day before it reaches its permitted daily capacity. If the entire 1,712 pounds (0.856 tons) per day of solid waste generated by the proposed project was disposed of in the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill would

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

²³ $3,424 \text{ pounds} \times 0.5 = 1,712 \text{ pounds}$

have more than enough permitted capacity to accommodate this additional contribution of less than one ton per day.

**Table IV.L-6
Project Solid Waste Generation
Canyon Hills Project**

Land Use	Size	Generation Rate (lbs/DU)	Total (lbs/day)
Single-Family Residential	280 DU	12.23	3,424 (1.712 tons)
<i>Source: City of Los Angeles Draft CEQA Thresholds Guide, 1998.</i>			

Although total landfill capacity in the City is limited and any addition to the overall waste stream would reduce the City's overall landfill capacity, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill has sufficient remaining capacity for its current solid waste intake and the proposed project's intake for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, as discussed above, the City is currently exploring plans to construct or purchase additional solid waste facilities, which would increase total landfill capacity in the City. Although other landfills in Los Angeles County are near capacity, potential capacity may become available through expansion of the Bradley Landfill and/or Puente Hills Landfill, conversion of waste-to-energy and through the use of waste-by-rail to landfills outside of Los Angeles County (e.g., the proposed Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County). As the long-term residential solid waste that would be generated by the proposed project could be accommodated at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill without causing the landfill to exceed its permitted daily capacity in the foreseeable future, the proposed project's long-term impact on solid waste facilities is considered to be less than significant.

The proposed project may also generate a variety of common household hazardous wastes that could adversely affect existing hazardous waste management facilities in both the City and Los Angeles County. These wastes may be disposed of by the residents at any of the hazardous materials pickup sites offered by the County.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The proposed project's impacts on the City's solid waste disposal facilities are less than significant and mitigation measures are therefore not required. Nonetheless, the following measures are recommended to reduce further the proposed project's already less-than-significant, short-term construction-related solid waste impacts:

- L.3-1** The construction contractor shall only contract for waste disposal services with a company that recycles construction-related wastes.
- L.3-2** To facilitate the onsite separation and recycling of construction-related wastes, the

construction contractor should provide temporary waste separation bins in front of each home during construction.

The following measures are recommended to reduce further the proposed project's already less-than-significant long-term solid waste impacts:

- L.3-3** The project developer shall make information published by the City regarding the curbside recycling program, as well as onsite composting methods for yard waste, available to purchasers of dwelling units at the time of sale.
- L.3-4** The project developer shall provide composting bins to purchasers of each new dwelling unit.
- L.3-5** The project developer shall provide trash compactors in each new residence to allow more effective and sanitary method of trash disposal.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

As indicated in Table IV.L-7, the proposed project, in combination with the related projects, would generate a cumulative total of 8,345 pounds (4.2 tons) of solid waste per day. As discussed above, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is permitted to receive up to 5,500 tons of solid waste each day from the City. The Sunshine Canyon Landfill currently receives approximately 3,500 tons of solid waste daily from the City and has a remaining daily capacity of 2,000 tons. Assuming that all of the cumulative solid waste is sent to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill with no waste stream diversion, the additional 4.2 tons per day would not cause the Sunshine Canyon Landfill to exceed its permitted daily capacity from the City. As previously discussed, additional capacity to accommodate the cumulative disposal needs of the proposed project and related projects may become available as the City develops solutions to meet the future disposal needs at a regional level (e.g., expanding existing landfills, transporting waste to other landfills, converting waste to energy, recycling and waste reduction). Furthermore, similar to the proposed project, the related projects would be subject to the requirements of AB 939 (i.e., divert 50 percent of the solid waste generated from landfills through waste reduction, recycling and composting). Consequently, the cumulative solid waste impact is considered to be less than significant.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

The proposed project's impacts on the City's solid waste disposal facilities would be less than significant without mitigation. However, implementation of the recommended mitigation measures would further reduce the proposed project's impacts.

**Table IV.L-7
Solid Waste Generated by the Related Projects
Canyon Hills Project**

Land Use^a	Size	Employee Generation Rate^c	Total Employees	Generation Rate (lbs/employee/day)^e	Total (lbs/day)
Fast Food Restaurant	3,050 sf	0.004	12	10.53	128
Convenience Store/Gas Station	7,427 sf	0.0014	10	10.53	109
Retail	103,240 sf	0.0014	145	10.53	1,522
Church ^b	68,000 sf	0.00033	22	10.53	236
Auto Repair	31,080 sf	0.0014	44	10.53	458
Single Family Homes	135 DU	--	0	12.23	1,651
YMCA Expansion ^c	7,508 sf	0.0034	26	10.53	269
Golf Course ^d	160 acres (13,000 sf clubhouse/ maintenance)	0.004	52	10.53	548
Related Projects Solid Waste Total					4,921
Proposed Project Total					3,424
Cumulative Total					8,345
^a	<i>The 13 related projects are summarized into these land uses.</i>				
^b	<i>Used Senior Citizen Facility for the Employee Generation Rate.</i>				
^c	<i>Used Office Use for the Employee Generation Rate.</i>				
^d	<i>The golf course will generate almost entirely green waste which will be sent to a mulching/composting facility and not a solid waste facility. Therefore, no notable solid waste is generated. However, the clubhouse and maintenance buildings associated with the golf course would potentially generate solid waste.</i>				
^e	<i>LAUSD School Facilities Fee Plan, March 2, 2000.</i>				