

APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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SCOTT D. MCGOLPIN
Director

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED
RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT AT THE TAJIGUAS LANDFILL**

PUBLICATION DATE: April 19, 2012

FROM: Mr. Mark Schleich, Deputy Director
County of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department
Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division
130 East Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (12EIR-00000-00002) to the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project EIR (01-EIR-05, SCH# 98041003) certified August 13, 2002, the November 8, 2006 Addendum to 01-EIR-05 approved on December 5, 2006, and the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project Subsequent EIR (08EIR-00000-00007, SCH#2008021052) certified May 5, 2009

PROJECT NAME: Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) is the Lead Agency responsible for preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Subsequent EIR) for the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project in Santa Barbara County. In accordance with Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared for the Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project. This NOP is a request for comment on the scope of environmental issues that you or your organization believes should be addressed in the Subsequent EIR regarding the proposed project. Attached is a "scoping paper" which describes the issues currently anticipated to be addressed in the Subsequent EIR.

Background: The Tajiguas Landfill is an existing County-owned and operated municipal solid waste disposal facility located in a coastal canyon known as the Cañada de la Pila, located approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara, and 1,600 feet north of U.S. Highway 101, Santa Barbara County. The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, (RRWMD) is the owner and permitted operator of the landfill. In 2002/2003, the County obtained all the necessary approvals and permits to expand the landfill both vertically and laterally. On December 5, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved an Addendum to 01-EIR-05 which addressed minor changes to the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project and In May 2009, RRWMD prepared and the Board of Supervisors certified a Subsequent EIR and obtained all permits for a modification (reconfiguration) of the permitted landfill footprint and for
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biological restoration activities on Baron Ranch (Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration). The proposed waste footprint design change (reconfiguration) did not modify any of the landfill's operational parameters, but did involve physical changes to the approved location of the waste footprint and associated disturbances for construction and equipment operations.

Since the Tajiguas Landfill was last approved for an expansion in 2002, the County has been looking into alternatives to landfilling. The proposed construction and operation of a Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill would allow further recovery of recyclable material from the communities' waste stream, provide an alternative to burying organic waste, generate green energy and reduce the amount of waste requiring burial.

Project Location: The project will be located at the Tajiguas Landfill approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara at 14470 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, California 93117. The landfill property encompasses approximately 497 acres on APNs 081-150-019, -026 and -042. The Resource Recovery Project Facilities would be located on approximately 6 acres on APN 081-150-019. The digestate curing site(s) would occupy ~4 to ~6 acres on APN 081-150-019 and/or APN 051-150-026 and the water storage facilities would be on 081-150-019 and 081-150-042.

Project Description (summary): The County of Santa Barbara proposes to develop a Resource Recovery Project that would process municipal solid waste from the communities currently served by the Tajiguas Landfill. The Resource Recovery Project will be designed and constructed to process various waste streams delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill from unincorporated areas of the South Coast of Santa Barbara, the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang as well as the unincorporated Santa Ynez and New Cuyama Valleys. The waste stream anticipated to be delivered for processing is mixed municipal solid waste. As an optional project element, commingled source separated recyclables and source separated organic waste from existing and future recycling programs could also be brought to the Resource Recovery Project for consolidated processing. The Resource Recovery Project would be located at the Tajiguas Landfill and would include a Materials Recovery Facility (to recover recyclable materials), a Dry Fermentation Anaerobic Digestion Facility (to process organic waste into biogas and digestate), and an Energy Facility that would use the biogas from the Anaerobic Digestion Facility to produce electricity. The digestate would be further cured in outdoor windrows at the landfill to create compost and/or soil amendments. Residual waste (residue) from the processing would be disposed of in the landfill. No change in the landfill's permitted capacity is proposed.

Potential Environmental Effects: A Subsequent EIR will be prepared to evaluate the changes in environmental impacts that this proposed project might cause. Issue areas proposed to be evaluated in the Subsequent EIR include: Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Risk of Upset/Fire Hazards/Health and Safety, Geologic Impacts, Noise, Land Use, Transportation/Traffic, Water Resources, and Nuisances. Alternatives to the proposed project will also be evaluated in the Subsequent EIR. A more detailed description of the proposed Resource Recovery Project and potential environmental effects are provided in the attached Resource Recovery Project, Notice of Preparation Scoping Paper.

Written Comments: In accordance with the time limits established by CEQA, **your response to this NOP must be received at the address underlined below at the earliest possible date, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 18th, 2012.** Your response should include your name, your agency's or organization's name, your address, and if applicable, the name of the specific contact person in your agency or organization. Comments should be mailed, e-mailed or hand delivered to: County of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 100, Santa Barbara, California 93101. Attention: Ms. Joddi Leipner. E-mail Address JLeipner@COSBPW.NET

Public Scoping Meeting: A public Scoping Meeting will also be held to accept comments regarding issues of concern that should be evaluated in the Subsequent EIR. The purpose of the Scoping Meeting is to provide the public and other affected government agencies with a formal opportunity to comment on the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the Subsequent EIR. The Scoping Meeting will focus on gathering public input on the environmental document and on feasible ways in which project impacts may be mitigated to reduce or eliminate the significance of the impact.

Date: Monday, May 14th, 2012
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Please contact Ms. Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner at (805) 882-3614 or Mr. Carlyle Johnston, Project Coordinator at (805) 882-3617, if you have any comments or questions regarding the Resource Recovery Project.

Respectfully,



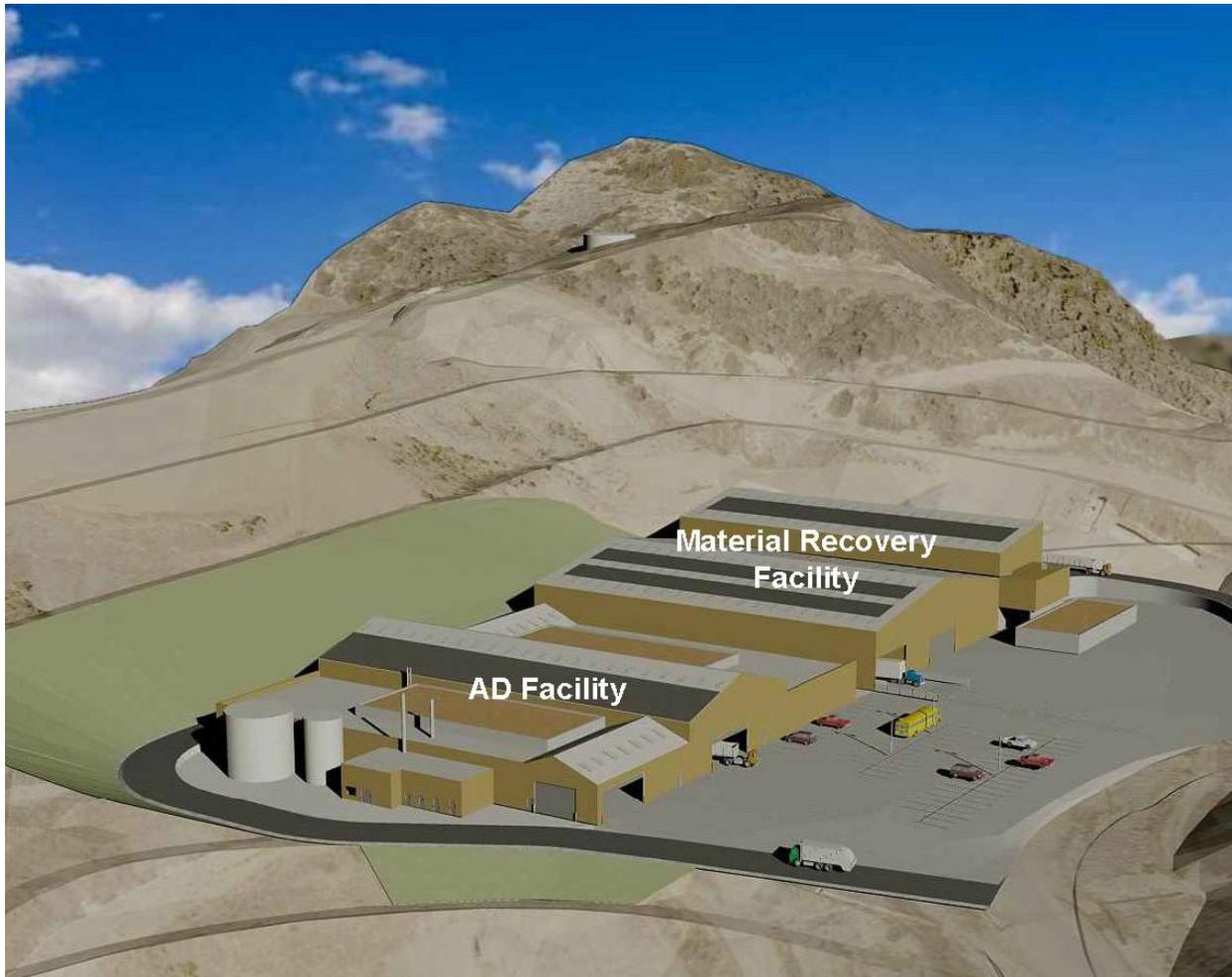
Mark A. Schleich
Deputy Director – Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division

cc: Clerk of the Board (please post for 30 days)
Encl. Scoping Paper



Santa Barbara County
Public Works Department
Resource Recovery and Waste Management

The Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill Subsequent EIR Scoping Document April 2012



For More Information Contact:
Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner (805) 882-3614 or
Carlyle Johnston, Project Coordinator (805) 882-3617

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List of Acronyms/Glossary

AB – Assembly Bill
AD – Anaerobic Digestion
APCD – Air Pollution Control District
APN – Assessor Parcel Numbers
CalRecycle - The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board)
CARB – California Air Resource Board
CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act
CHP – Combined Heat and Power
CNEL - Community Noise Equivalent Levels
CO - carbon monoxide
CO₂ - carbon dioxide
MTCO₂e – metric tons carbon dioxide equivalents (a measurement of greenhouse gas emissions)
CRLF – California Red-legged Frog (a federally threatened species)
CSSR - Commingled Source Separated Recyclables (recyclable materials that are typically placed in the blue recycling bin such as aluminum cans, plastics, paper)
Curing – The process of drying out digestate in open windrows.
Digestate – The compost-like material that is the product of the anaerobic digestion process of the organic portion of the municipal solid waste, but has not been aerobically cured.
DPM – Diesel Particulate Matter
EIR – Environmental Impact Report
GHGs – greenhouse gases
H₂S – hydrogen Sulfide
JPA – Joint Powers Agency
LDN – Day-Night Average Noise Level
MRF – Materials Recovery Facility
MSL – Mean Sea Level
MSW – Municipal Solid Waste
Mustang – Mustang Renewable Power Ventures, LLC (the Resource Recovery Project Vendor)
NOP – Notice of Preparation
NO_x – Oxides of Nitrogen (including nitrogen oxide, or NO, and nitrogen dioxide, or NO₂)
OIMP – Odor Impact Minimization Plan
PM₁₀ – Particulate matter that measures 10 micrometers or less in diameter.
PM₂₅ – Particulate matter that measures 25 micrometers or less in diameter
Public Participants – County of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang
Residue – the portion of the municipal solid waste that cannot be recovered for recycling or for processing in the Anaerobic Digester and would be buried in the landfill.
RO – Reverse Osmosis
RRWMD – Santa Barbara County Public Works Department Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division
SCRTS – South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station
SF – Square Feet
SSOW – Source Separated Organic Waste (Food and Green Waste)
SYVRTS – Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS)
TDS – Total Dissolved Solids
VMT – Vehicle Miles Travelled

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) is responsible for the management of waste resources in the County. RRWMD's mission is to protect the public health by providing county residents with cost effective, innovative, and environmentally sound solutions in waste management.

RRWMD provides an integrated waste management system consisting of: recycling programs for commingled recyclables and green waste collection, programs for residential and small business hazardous waste, sharps and pharmaceutical collection, education, the operation of four recycling and transfer stations, the operation of one household hazardous waste collection center, operation of the Tajiguas Landfill, and management of ten closed landfills. In addition, the RRWMD is responsible for administering the franchise agreements for the collection of solid waste materials from residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County by private solid waste collection firms, as well as the enforcement of local solid waste management ordinances.

An expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill was last approved in 2002, after the Board of Supervisors certified an Environmental Impact Report (01-EIR-05) for the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project. Minor changes to the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project were approved in 2006, and a reconfiguration of the waste footprint associated with the Expansion Project was approved in 2009, with each project being first analyzed for environmental purposes (see section 1.2 below). Collectively, the approved and permitted Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project as modified in 2006 and again in 2009 is herein after referred to as the "Tajiguas Landfill Project". Since approval of the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project, the RRWMD staff has been looking into alternatives to landfilling. The research has included two feasibility studies, a request for proposals, a proposal review process, and a comprehensive public outreach effort that has included over 100 presentations to stakeholders over the past five years. The culmination of this research and public dialogue is the proposed modification of the approved Tajiguas Landfill Project to include the construction and operation of a Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill (the Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project or Resource Recovery Project) to further recover recyclable material from the waste stream and to provide an alternative to burying organic waste.

Recycling programs are extremely successful in the communities served by the Tajiguas Landfill. These communities include the unincorporated areas of the South Coast, Cuyama and Santa Ynez Valleys, as well as the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton. Together these communities recycle more than 70% of the waste they generate. However even with these programs, over 173,000 tons of waste was still buried at the County-owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill in 2011. A large component of this residual waste is high-value recyclables, like metals, and organic waste. To capture and divert this additional high-value, recyclable material, the County is proposing a Resource Recovery Project that would allow the recovery of any recyclables still left in our trash cans, and allow our food and organic waste to be converted into green energy and potentially compost and/or soil amendments.

Therefore, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21166 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, the County of Santa Barbara, RRWMD will be the Lead Agency for the preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Subsequent EIR) for the Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project (a modification of the Tajiguas Landfill Project). A Subsequent EIR is being prepared because: 1) the construction and operation of the Resource Recovery Project may represent a substantial change to the approved and permitted Tajiguas Landfill Project; and

2) the Resource Recovery Project may result in changes in the types and magnitude of impacts identified in the previously certified Environmental Documents. The project reviewed in these prior Environmental Documents, and ultimately approved, involved municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal up to a maximum capacity of 23.3 million cubic yards at the Tajiguas Landfill solely through burial. The Subsequent EIR will compare the environmental impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project with the environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of the Resource Recovery Project (modified project) at the Tajiguas Landfill. A description of the project is provided below.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) Scoping Paper has been prepared to provide an overview of the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project and of the potential environmental effects of the project. This information is provided to assist responsible and trustee agencies, State, County and local agencies, interested groups and members of the public in identifying additional environmental information that should be addressed in the Subsequent EIR, including significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures.

Project implementation may require RRWMD to obtain permit modifications and/or other forms of approval from Federal, State, and local agencies. In addition, these agencies will need to consider the Subsequent EIR prepared for the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project in their approvals. Agencies/Jurisdictions expected to have a role in approving/permitting the project may include, but are not limited to:

- Santa Barbara County
- Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (“CalRecycle” – formerly California Integrated Waste Management Board)
- Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services (Local Enforcement Agency)
- California Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Tajiguas Landfill is a Class III non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility located in Santa Barbara County, California approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara and established in 1967 (Figure 1). The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, RRWMD is the owner and permitted operator of the landfill. The total landfill project site area is 497 acres, with a permitted operational area of 357 acres and a total permitted waste footprint of 118 acres (Figure 2). The permitted waste area is comprised of both lined and unlined (pre-Subtitle D) areas. MSW currently delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill is generated by the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang, the unincorporated areas of southern Santa Barbara County, and the Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys. MSW is transported to the landfill from the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, the New Cuyama Transfer Station, and the Ventucopa Transfer Station all operated by RRWMD. Private waste collection companies and limited numbers of private individuals also haul solid waste to the Tajiguas Landfill directly. Green waste is brought directly to the Tajiguas Landfill by the franchise waste haulers (currently Marborg Industries and Waste Management), and is also transferred in County transfer trucks from the South Coast and Santa Ynez Recycling and Transfer Stations. Currently, the Tajiguas Landfill is permitted to accept a maximum of 1,500 tons per day of MSW and

yard waste. Based on current waste disposal rates, the Tajiguas Landfill may reach its permitted capacity in approximately year 2026.

The Tajiguas Landfill site has been in operation since 1967 for the disposal of MSW. The initial siting, design and operation of the landfill was not subject to review under CEQA as the landfill predates adoption of CEQA in 1970. The Tajiguas Landfill also predates adoption of the Coastal Act, which designated coastal zones in California in 1976.

Several Environmental Documents have been prepared over the years to address approvals/permits associated with expansion and operation of the Tajiguas landfill and to address other minor design or operational changes at the landfill. These documents and the projects they analyzed are described below¹. As discussed above the Tajiguas Landfill Project consists of the landfill expansion approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2002 (Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project), the modification approved in 2006 (elimination of the Southeast Corner Modification and the reconfiguration of the North Slope borrow/stockpile area) and the modification approved in 2009 (Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project). As described below, these modifications changed a portion of the landfill's approved disturbance and waste footprints, but did not modify the landfill's overall permitted capacity.

Prior Environmental Documents

In 1987, an EIR was prepared and certified for a proposed lateral expansion of the landfill into the northern portions of Cañada de la Pila (87-EIR-08). An addendum to 87-EIR-08 was prepared in 1988 and adopted by the County on July 21, 1988 for a vertical expansion of the existing waste footprint to an elevation of 500 feet above mean sea level (msl). The lateral expansion reviewed under the 1987 EIR was never implemented but the vertical expansion was completed.

To provide an interim increase in capacity, on August 3, 1999, the Board of Supervisors directed the RRWMD to proceed with the Tajiguas Landfill Bench Plan. The Bench Plan increased the permitted disposal design capacity of the landfill from 12.0 million cubic yards to 15.1 million cubic yards by re-grading and filling the outside faces of the landfill. The Bench Plan project was determined to be within the scope of the analysis of 87-EIR-08 and the July 21, 1988 addendum.

Environmental Documents for Current Landfill Operations

Following the Tajiguas Landfill Bench Plan project, the county moved forward with a proposal for a vertical and lateral expansion of the landfill to increase the volume of waste that could be disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill and to extend the landfill life by approximately 15 years (referred to as the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project). On August 13, 2002, the Board of Supervisors certified an EIR (01-EIR-05) for, and approved, the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project (Front Canyon Expansion²). The project consists of the horizontal and vertical expansion of the landfill outside of the coastal zone, providing 8.2 million cubic yards of additional waste disposal capacity for a total capacity of 23.3 million cubic yards. Following certification of 01-EIR-05, in 2002 and 2003, the County obtained all the necessary approvals and permits to expand the Tajiguas Landfill under the Expansion Project. Permits were obtained for a 120-foot increase in the height of the landfill, for a maximum height limit of 620 feet above msl, and for a lateral expansion of 40 acres for a total permitted area of 118 acres.

¹ Other small projects at the landfill have been evaluated and approved under categorical exemptions.

² Two landfill configurations (Front Canyon and Back Canyon) were analyzed in the EIR at project level of detail.

Some modifications to the landfill design/operations occurred following the expansion approved in 2002. On December 5, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved minor changes to the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project. The changes included elimination of the Coastal Zone Southeast Corner Modification and a reconfiguration of the North Slope borrow/stockpile area. These project changes were analyzed in a November 8, 2006 Addendum to 01-EIR-05 (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164). On April 18, 2007, County determined, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, that no substantial changes were proposed in the project, no substantial changes occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project was undertaken, and no new information of substantial importance was received with respect to the project or the mitigation measures, and therefore no new Environmental Impact Report was required for the approval of a proposed change in the location of the Green Waste Processing Area.

On May 5, 2009, the Board of Supervisors certified a Subsequent EIR (08EIR-00000-00007) for, and approved, the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project. The project involved the reconfiguration of the waste footprint approved as a part of the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project which provided a number of engineering and environmental benefits and the comprehensive restoration of native habitats on the county-owned Baron Ranch to benefit the federally endangered California red-legged frog. The reconfiguration did not modify any of the operational parameters (e.g., refuse capacity, operating hours, environmental protection systems) reviewed in 01-EIR-05.

The Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project EIR (01-EIR-05), December 5, 2006 Addendum, and Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration EIR (08EIR-00000-00007) are herein after referred to as the "Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents".

1.3 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

The proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project is being implemented in response to, and is supported by, a number of state initiatives and laws which are summarized below.

ASSEMBLY BILL 32

Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, an act which added Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) to the California Health and Safety Code, set a goal of the reduction of all greenhouses gases (GHGs) generated in the State to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The California Air Resource Board (CARB) has adopted a Scoping Plan detailing the various state-wide GHG reduction actions that will be required to achieve this unfunded State mandate. CARB approved the Scoping Plan on December 12, 2008. In August 2011, the Scoping Plan was re-approved by CARB.

AB 32's "Scoping Plan" as well as the State Air Resources Board adopted plan of January 2009, includes increased recycling and landfill methane capture as key components of achieving this significant reduction in GHGs. The State estimates a total statewide reduction of 1.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO_{2e}) through the establishment of better waste management practices similar to those proposed in the Resource Recovery Project.

STATEWIDE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION INITIATIVE AND PROGRAM EIR (SCH# 2010042100)

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is responsible for overseeing the state's recycling and waste management programs and responsible for permitting landfills, recycling facilities and composting operations pursuant to Title 27 of the California Code of

Regulations. Under its Strategic Directive 6.1, CalRecycle seeks to reduce by 50 percent the amount of organic waste disposed in the state's landfills by 2020. In addition to helping conserve limited landfill capacity, this CalRecycle policy recognizes that organic wastes are a resource, not just solid wastes that must be disposed. Organic wastes have an energy value that can be captured and utilized and are also a necessary component of compost, soil amendments, and other useful products. Directive 6.1 also encompasses one of CalRecycle's actions to help California significantly reduce its generation of greenhouse gases. The development of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities is one of CalRecycle's charges under the AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan. The AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan estimates that AD facilities in California could reduce methane emissions from landfills at a level of 2 million MTCO_{2e} per year by the year 2020 (California Air Resources Board [CARB], 2008). AD also can contribute to meeting the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard and Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Specifically the Initiative states:

"It is the policy of CalRecycle to encourage the development of AD facilities in California as an alternative to the landfill disposal of organic solid waste. Specifically, as an initial measure, CalRecycle will encourage the establishment of in-vessel digesters located at existing or new solid waste facilities and in areas zoned for industrial or solid waste handling activities."

CalRecycle prepared and certified a Final Program EIR (SCH#2010042100) for the Statewide Anaerobic Digestion Initiative and approved the Initiative on June 22, 2011. The Program EIR determined that on a programmatic level all the impacts of AD facilities could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the EIR. The Program EIR identified that individual projects could result in localized impacts that would need to be analyzed in a tiered CEQA document. Subsequent to the approval, CalRecycle prepared a guidance document (CalRecycle, August 2011) to assist jurisdictions, such as Santa Barbara County, in using the Program EIR to evaluate AD facilities on a local project-specific level. Pursuant to this guidance and as allowed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15152, §15153 and §15168, where appropriate the Subsequent EIR for the Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project will tier off of the Program EIR and will thus focus solely on issues specific to the proposed project.

ASSEMBLY BILL 341

Signed into law by Governor Brown on October 5th, 2011, AB 341 amends sections of the Public Resources Code relating to solid waste and requires all jurisdictions to recycle 75% of their waste by 2020. The bill specifically calls out composting of organics currently disposed of in landfills as a method of achieving this diversion requirement. The Resource Recovery Project is consistent with the overall intent of this legislation to reduce landfilling of MSW, reduce the production of greenhouse gases, and "encourage the development of additional solid waste processing and composting capacity that is needed to meet state objectives..."³

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE DIVISION 30, PART 2, CHAPTER 4, SECTION 41701

The California Public Resources Code Div. 30, Part 2, Chap. 4, Sec. 41701 and 41703, as administered and enforced by CalRecycle, requires all jurisdictions in the State to plan for 15 years of disposal capacity for waste "that cannot be reduced, recycled or composted." The proposed Resource Recovery Project not only provides the jurisdictions currently served by the Tajiguas landfill with a 20 year plan for the safe handling and disposal of its solid waste, but also expands the amount of materials that is recycled and

³ AB 341 Chesboro Section 2 (b)

composted through the materials recovery facility (MRF) and AD facility to achieve a total projected diversion rate above 85%.

1.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project objectives have been developed by the County of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang (collectively, the “Public Participants”) who have participated in a Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group established in 2002 to evaluate alternatives to landfilling the area’s waste and with input from the community through numerous community meetings and workshops held over the past five years. The objectives of the proposed project are to:

1. Reduce landfill dependence by diverting MSW that is not currently recycled from landfill disposal by further recovering recyclable materials and converting organic material into beneficial products such as energy, fuels, compost and/or soil amendment or other marketable products to meet or exceed the requirements of Assembly Bill 341 which requires all jurisdictions to recycle 75% of their waste by 2020;
2. Process MSW currently disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill with a diversion rate goal of 60% in order to substantially extend the life of the Tajiguas Landfill;
3. Provide a long term solution (minimum operational life of 20 years) to meet the region’s solid waste management needs and exceed CalRecycle’s 15-year disposal capacity requirement;
4. Co-locate at an existing developed solid waste facility to minimize environmental impacts associated with developing a new site and new infrastructure and to ensure the facility is reasonably accessible by all communities currently served by the Tajiguas Landfill;
5. Reduce future greenhouse gas emissions associated with the processing and disposal of MSW through the anaerobic digestion of organics consistent with CalRecycle’s Anaerobic Digestive Initiative and Assembly Bill 32;
6. Provide green energy to the region by specifically producing energy that is certified as “Renewable Portfolio Standard” eligible as defined by the California Energy Commission;
7. Provide a cost effective tipping fee for solid waste management services compared to alternative disposal methods;
8. Provide long term financial stability in order to limit impacts to the affected rate payers;
9. Construct and operate a project that can adapt to the changing waste management needs of the region; and
10. Provide a safe and humane work environment for all employees.

1.5 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The County of Santa Barbara proposes to modify the operation of the Tajiguas Landfill Project to add a Resource Recovery Project that would process MSW from the communities currently served by the Tajiguas Landfill. The Resource Recovery Project, described below, will be designed and constructed to modify the processing of MSW that are currently being delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill for burial from unincorporated areas of the south coast of Santa Barbara, Santa Ynez and New Cuyama Valleys and, the Public Participants. Additionally, as an optional project element, the Resource Recovery Project could include the infrastructure to process materials (commingled source separated recyclables [CSSR] and source separated organic [food & green] waste [SSOW]) from the region’s existing and future recycling programs.

The Tajiguas Landfill is located at 14470 Calle Real in Santa Barbara, California 93117. The landfill is located in a coastal canyon known as Cañada de la Pila approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara. The landfill property is approximately 1,600 feet north of U.S. Highway 101 and is comprised of approximately 497 acres of land owned or leased by the County.

The Resource Recovery Project would add the following facilities (Figure 3 and Figure 4) to the Tajiguas Landfill Project:

- **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)** – An approximate 60,000 square foot (sf) facility (70,000 sf if CSSR [optional element] is included as described above) that would sort MSW into three streams:
 - **Recyclables** (i.e., glass, metal, paper, plastic, wood) – that would be recovered and processed for sale;
 - **Organics** – that would be recovered for processing in the Anaerobic Digestion Facility; and
 - **Residue** – materials left over after all recyclables and organics are recovered.
- **Dry Fermentation Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility and associated Energy Facility** – An approximate 66,000 sf facility, including the approximate 3,000 sf Energy Facility and two associated percolate storage tank (one for organic recovered by the MSW and one for SSOW [optional element] as described above) that would convert all organics recovered from the mixed MSW and SSOW into:
 - **Biogas** (primarily composed of methane) – that would be used to power two (2) 1,537 horsepower onsite combined heat and power (CHP) engines driving electric power generators that would generate approximately 1+ net megawatts of renewable power. The Energy Facility would be located on the south side of the AD facility; and
 - **Digestate** - that can then be cured into compost and/or soil amendments. The curing would require an approximately 4 to 6 acre area (located at one or more sites on the landfill's permitted operations and/or waste disposal footprint). The compost and/or soil amendments would be marketed for agricultural or landscape use or used for reclamation projects.

Construction of the facility would require 107,480 cubic yards of cut and 94,050 cubic yards of fill (Figure 5).

The Resource Recovery Project would be sited at the existing county-owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill. The Resource Recovery Project would have a maximum design capacity of 800 tons/day of MSW (40 tons/hours X 20 hours/day X 311 days/year) or approximately 250,000 tons per year. Of the 250,000 tons per year processed through the MRF, approximately 60,000 tons/year of organic waste would be recovered and processed in the AD facility, approximately 90,000 tons per year of recyclable material would be recovered and sold for reuse, and the remainder, 100,000 tons/year, would be landfilled. As an optional element, the project could also process up to approximately 130 tons/day CSSR (20 tons/hour X 6.5 hours/day x 311 days/year) or 40,000 tons per year and approximately 37 tons/day of additional organics or approximately 13,600 tons/year (see Table 1). With the inclusion of the optional elements the total processing capacity of the MRF would be approximately 290,000 tons/year (250,000 tons/yr MSW + 40,000 tons/yr CSSR) and 73,600 tons per year for the AD facility made up of organics recovered from the MRF and SSOW. As noted above, any material (residue) not recovered by the Resource Recovery Project for recycling or for processing in the AD facility (approximately 320 tons/day

or 100,000 tons/yr) would be disposed of in the landfill. Residue ineligible for disposal in the landfill (i.e., hazardous waste or e-waste), would be transported to an appropriate disposal facility.

Table 1- Project Overview

| Project Element | Associated Facilities | Design Capacity (max) | Days/hours Operation** | No. employees/Shift |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| MRF | ~60,000 sf processing building ~6,400 sf of detached storage buildings for Resource Recovery Project and Landfill storage ~4,000 sf biofilter ~300 sf wastewater treatment facility | MSW 800 tons/day 250,000 tons/year | 24 hrs/day (includes 4 hrs/day maintenance) 6 days/week 311 days/yr | 24 |
| | Additional 10,000 sf of processing area* Total: ~70,000 sf of processing area | CSSR* 130 tons/day 40,000 tons/year Total: 290,000 tons/yr | 7:00 am - 1:30 pm 6.5 hrs/day 6 days/week 311 days/yr | 20 |
| Administration & Visitors Center | ~4,000 sf of office space included in MRF building (including 1,500 sf for Landfill operations employees) ~2,400 sf of Visitors Center space included in MRF building | | 7:00 am – 3:30 pm 5 days/week 9:30 am - 3:00 pm 3 days/week | 7 |
| AD Facility | ~63,000 sf building 2 roof top biofilters (6,000 & 7,200 sf) 225,000 gallon percolate storage | Organic waste from MSW 165 tons/day 60,000 tons/year | 24 hours/day 365 days/year | 3 |
| | 75,000 gallon percolate storage (for additional organics including SSOW)* | Additional organics including SSOW* 37 tons/day 13,600 tons/year Total: 73,600 tons/yr | 24 hours/day 365 days/year | |
| | Digestate curing area ~4-6 acres | Digestate 255 tons/day 66,240 tons/year | 7:00 am – 3:30 pm 5 days/week | 1 |
| Energy Facility & AD Control Room | ~2,900 sf attached to AD facility Housing two (2) 1,537 hp CHP engines | 7.6-10.4 million kWh/year | 24 hours/day 365 days/year | |

*Optional Project Elements

** Hours of facility operation. Waste receipt would occur during the currently permitted operating hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday and Tuesday and 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

Based on current waste disposal rates the Tajiguas Landfill may reach its permitted disposal capacity (23.3 million cubic yards) in approximately year 2026. With the additional diversion provided by the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Project modification (operation of the Resource Recovery Project), the permitted disposal capacity (which would not be modified as a part of the project) would not be expected to be reached until approximately year 2036, extending the landfill life by approximately 10 years.

The Resource Recovery Project facilities would be located approximately 3,200 feet north of U.S. Highway 101 on the existing Tajiguas Landfill Operations Deck, an approximately 6-acre site that currently houses the landfill administrative office, two crew trailers, engineering trailer, hazardous material storage, electronic-waste storage, equipment storage and parking, employee parking, maintenance facility and three fuel storage tanks (Figure 2)⁴. The Coastal Zone Boundary runs through the southern portion of the landfill property. The facilities associated with the Resource Recovery Project would be located outside of the coastal zone, but digestate curing may occur on areas of the landfill footprint located within or outside of the coastal zone (Figure 3).

The vendor selected by the Public Participants to design, construct and operate the Resource Recovery Project is Mustang Renewable Power Ventures, LLC (Mustang). As a part of the proposed project the County of Santa Barbara would enter into an agreement with Mustang to design, build and operate the Resource Recovery Project. Currently, the County expects that each of the Public Participants will enter into agreements to form a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the JPA will contract with Mustang to operate the facility. The County/RRWMD would continue to operate the Tajiguas Landfill. Landfill operations and engineering offices would be integrated into the new Resource Recovery Project structures, but landfill staffing would be reduced in response to the reduced amount of waste requiring burial. In addition to the facilities listed above, a new groundwater well with reverse osmosis (RO) treatment system would be constructed to provide water to the project and a new advanced, self-contained commercial wastewater package treatment plant will be constructed to treat the project's wastewater. The treated wastewater and the residual process water from the reverse osmosis treatment system would be used for irrigation, trucked off-site for reuse or disposal, and/or discharged to Pila Creek in accordance with RWQCB point source discharge regulations/permit. A new fire suppression water storage tank would be installed to provide water for the building sprinkler systems and fire hydrants. Parking would be provided for Resource Recovery Project staff, landfill operations staff and visitors. The MRF and AD buildings would also accommodate solar array panels on the roofs. During construction of the Resource Recovery Project, landfill administrative and engineering offices, maintenance, equipment storage and aboveground fuel storage tanks would be temporarily relocated to another area of the disturbed landfill property.

The Resource Recovery Project's waste processing activity is projected to result in the recovery and beneficial reuse of 60% or more (by weight) of the waste stream diverting such amount from disposal at the Landfill. Thus, the Resource Recovery Project would create a 20-year waste management solution for the community's waste (extending the life of the Tajiguas Landfill by approximately 10 years).

Landfill Operations

As noted above, residue from the MRF would continue to be disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill. Landfill operations would remain similar to existing operations but reduced in scope. Waste collected from the communities served by the landfill would continue to be delivered to the landfill. Waste trucks would

⁴ Pursuant to CEQA requirements, the EIR alternatives analysis will consider sites outside of the Tajiguas Landfill for the Resource Recovery Project facilities including possible locations within the urban area of the county or city.

access the site and landfilling of residual waste would occur during the currently permitted operating hours⁵ of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday and Tuesday and 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. The trucks would be weighed and assessed at the existing scale house at the entrance to the landfill. After being weighed, the waste would either be sent to the Resource Recovery Project site for further processing or, if unsuitable for processing, sent to the landfill for burial. Residue from the MRF processing activities would be weighed again and loaded onto landfill transfer trucks and brought to the landfill working face for burial. Landfill operations would continue to include up to the permitted 145 tons/day or 45,095 tons/year of green waste processing (grinding into mulch). The mulch is sold off-site or used as alternative daily cover.

Construction of the Resource Recovery Project would not modify the following operational components of the landfill's existing Solid Waste Facility Permit: landfill hours of operation, permitted maximum tonnage (1,500 tons/day), refuse design capacity (23.3 million cubic yards), permitted waste disposal footprint (118 acres), maximum elevation (620 feet above msl), environmental protection and monitoring systems, green waste processing, and closure and post closure maintenance activities. However, the Solid Waste Facility Permit would be amended or revised to include the Resource Recovery Project facilities and operations. Landfill-related documents such as the Joint Technical Document and the Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plans may need to be amended to reflect the operation of the Resource Recovery Project facilities, to reflect changes in the landfilling activities due to the reduced waste volume and to address the changes in the timing of closure activities due to the extension of the landfill's life. While the life of the landfill will be extended, portions of the existing landfill would continue to undergo phased closure as capacity is reached.

Landfill offices would be incorporated into the new Resource Recovery Facilities and storage for equipment, fuel and supplies would be provided on the Operations Deck. Large equipment associated with landfill operations would be parked adjacent to the working face. Some other landfill-related facilities such as the maintenance shop may need to be relocated to other areas of the disturbed landfill footprint either within or outside of the coastal zone⁶.

Recycling and Transfer Station Operations

Self-haul MSW and green waste is currently transferred from the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) and the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS) to the Tajiguas Landfill. The MSW is buried at the landfill and the green waste is processed into mulch and sold for agricultural, landscaping and other uses. On the south coast, CSSR from the County's existing collection programs is also brought to the SCRTS for loading into County transfer trucks for off-site processing. Currently, the CSSR are transferred from the SCRTS to a facility in Ventura for processing. Operation of these transfer stations would continue as currently conducted with the addition of the Resource Recovery Project at the Tajiguas Landfill. However, as a part of the optional element of the proposed project, CSSR collected at SCRTS could be transferred to the Resource Recovery Project site for consolidated processing. Only a small amount of CSSR is collected at the SYVRTS and this material is not proposed to be processed at the Resource Recovery Project.

⁵ Cover, compaction, construction, maintenance and special occurrences are permitted to occur outside of these hours.

⁶ The maintenance facility is a part of the historic landfill operations and is currently located within the Coastal Zone.

Project Benefits

Implementation of the project will provide a host of benefits to the region in addition to assisting the South Coast, and Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys in meeting many state mandates associated with solid waste management. Project benefits include:

- The project will provide a long-term (20-year)⁷ waste management plan;
- The project provides a cost-effective solution (rates proposed by Mustang are comparable to projected landfill costs and less than projected costs of exporting waste to other landfills not located on the South Coast);
- The project supports the region’s recycling goals by providing the infrastructure necessary to support existing and future waste management programs (material recovery facility for recyclables, AD Facility for organics);
- The project assists the region in meeting CalRecycle’s 15-year disposal capacity requirement (if built by 2016 the region would have enough disposal capacity until 2036 at current disposal rates);
- Implementation of the project would increase the region’s diversion rate from 73% to 80%+ without any changes to current programs (meets AB 341 goal of 75% in 2020);
- As compared to landfilling, the project would eliminate greenhouse gas levels equivalent to approximately 22,000 vehicles/year (AB 32: greenhouse gas reductions by 2020); and
- The project would generate a net of 1+ megawatts of renewable energy and is eligible for renewable energy credits.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

The project will be located at the Tajiguas Landfill approximately 26 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara. The street address of the Tajiguas Landfill is 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, California 93117. The project facilities will be located in the inland area of the landfill in the area of the existing developed Operations Deck which currently houses the landfill administration facilities. Digestate curing and some landfill related facilities may occur on areas of the landfill footprint located within the coastal zone. The landfill property encompasses approximately 497 acres on Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 081-150-019, -026 and -042 (Figure 3). The Resource Recovery Project MRF and AD Facilities would be located on approximately 6 acres on APN 081-150-019⁸ (Figure 4). The digestate curing site(s) would occupy 4 to 6 acres on APN 081-150-019 and/or APN 051-150-026 and the water storage facilities would be on 081-150-019 and 081-150-042 (Figure 4).

| 2.1 Site Information | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Comprehensive Plan Designation | A-II-100 (inland), Waste Disposal Facility Overlay A-II-320 (coastal) |
| Zoning District, Ordinance | Unlimited Agriculture (inland) AG-II-320 (coastal) |
| Site Size | Landfill property 497.34 total, Resource Recovery Project Area: ~6 acres and ~4 to 6 acres for digestate curing |
| Present Use & Development | Landfill and support facilities |

⁷ Assuming the project begins operation in 2016. The landfill life would be extended by approximately 10 years (from closure in approximately year 2026 to a closure in approximately year 2036).

⁸ Pursuant to CEQA requirements, the EIR alternatives analysis will consider sites outside of the Tajiguas Landfill for the Resource Recovery Project facilities including possible locations within the urban area of the county or city.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Surrounding Uses/Zoning | West: former Hercules Gas Plant (now under PCB remediation) and Arroyo Hondo (recreation)/AG-II-100 North: Los Padres National Forest/AG-II-100 and U East: Baron Ranch (agriculture, native plant restoration)/100-AG-O and AG-II-320 South: Agriculture/Residential/AG-II-320 |
| Access | U.S. Highway 101, via existing County-owned access road |
| Public Services | Water Supply: on-site wells Sewage: on-site septic Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Electricity: Southern California Edison |

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 PHYSICAL SETTING

The proposed Resource Recovery Project would be located at the existing county-owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill. The Tajiguas Landfill is located along the Gaviota Coast. Land uses along the Gaviota Coast are predominately agricultural, low density residential, recreational and open space but also include several active and inactive oil and gas related transportation and processing facilities.

The Tajiguas Landfill has been in operation since 1967. The Resource Recovery Project facilities would be located in an existing disturbed area of the landfill property (Operations Deck and west slope borrow area). The majority of the landfill property has been disturbed by historic and ongoing waste disposal activities and the presence of landfill related borrow areas, soil stockpiles, water tanks, access roads and fire breaks. Disturbed coastal sage scrub, chaparral and non-native grassland habitats occur to the north and south of the project site. Dense, relatively undisturbed areas of chaparral are still present on the landfill property in the very northern portion of the site. The disturbed areas of the landfill, including the proposed site for the Resource Recovery Project have little value for wildlife. Other undisturbed areas of the landfill support a variety of wildlife species and birds including commonly occurring species and some species of special concern (e.g., San Diego desert woodrat, ringtail)⁹. Pila Creek is an ephemeral stream that drains the landfill property. The creek has been significantly modified by construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, U.S. Highway 101 and by landfill operations. Riparian vegetation is present in the creek channel in the very northern portion of the landfill property and at the landfill entrance. Cultural resource sites are known to occur on the landfill property, but are not located within or in close proximity to the Resource Recovery Project site.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The Tajiguas Landfill Project is fully permitted and operational, and has undergone full environmental review regarding physical impacts to the environment. Landfill construction is being phased and operations

⁹ California red-legged frogs (CRLF), a federal threatened species, were found on the landfill property in two man-made in-channel sedimentation basins (individuals were also subsequently found in the out-of-channel basin) and have been found in small isolated pools in the Pila Creek channel. As authorized under an Endangered Species Act Section 7 incidental take permit, the CRLF have/are being relocated to Arroyo Quemado on the County-owned Baron Ranch and the breeding habitat at the Tajiguas Landfill in Pila Creek is being removed as a part of the approved Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project.

are proceeding as described in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents and in compliance with the approved permits.

Impact analyses in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents were based on the following anticipated project year 2020 conditions:

- Average disposal rate: 1074 tons/day
- Truck trips at average disposal rate: 130 trucks/day
- Total average vehicles per day: 180 vehicles/day (130 trucks + 50 other vehicles)
- Peak disposal rate: 1,500 tons/day
- Peak day vehicles: 234 total vehicles/day
- Limit on disposal rate (per Solid Waste Facility Permit): 1,500 tons/day

The Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project constitutes a modification of the approved Tajiguas Landfill Project to increase recycling opportunities, generate green energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and extend the life of the Tajiguas Landfill by reducing the amount of waste that would be buried. Therefore, the Subsequent EIR will analyze differences between the Tajiguas Landfill Project and the modified project (Resource Recovery Project) when evaluating whether any new significant impacts would result or if other previously identified impacts would be worsened (or improved). For purposes of analyzing the differences in the impacts of the Resource Recovery Project from those of the Tajiguas Landfill Project, the approved and permitted MSW volumes and landfill waste and disturbance footprints analyzed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents are considered to represent the environmental baseline. The analyzed waste and disturbance footprints differ from what currently exists on the ground because the landfill liner construction and waste filling operations are completed in phases and the maximum permitted capacity of the landfill (and therefore the full disturbance footprint of the permitted landfill) would not be reached until the 23.3 million cubic yard capacity is reached, or in approximately year 2026 based on current disposal rates. The total permitted landfill capacity and the disturbance footprint associated with this permitted capacity will be reached regardless of whether the Resource Recovery Project is implemented. The Resource Recovery Project would not increase the capacity of the landfill, but would extend the life of the landfill operations by approximately 10 or more years (from approximately year 2026 to year 2036). Impacts associated with the modification of the Tajiguas Landfill Project to include the Resource Recovery Project, including the extension of landfill life, will be analyzed in the Subsequent EIR

4.0 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

4.1 PRIMARY ISSUE AREAS

4.1.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

Setting and Impact Discussion:

The proposed Resource Recovery Project would be located on the Tajiguas Landfill property in the area of the existing Operations Deck in the north central area of the site. The Tajiguas Landfill is located in the Gaviota Coast Planning Area, immediately north of U.S. Highway 101. The Gaviota Coast is known for its high scenic qualities and U.S. Highway 101 through the Gaviota Coast area (and through all of Santa Barbara County) is identified by Caltrans as being eligible for scenic highway designation. The Tajiguas Landfill has been part of the visual environment of the Gaviota Coast since its opening in 1967; however the landfill and associated disturbance have grown over the years to meet the region's waste disposal needs. Although views of the landfill are limited due to its isolated location and intervening topography, visual impacts

associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project were identified as significant and unavoidable in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents from several public viewing locations¹⁰.

The existing buildings located on the Operations Deck and other landfill facilities are briefly visible from northbound U.S. Highway 101 when nearing the landfill entrance. The Resource Recovery Project would add new facilities to the landfill but would not modify the maximum permitted elevation of the landfill (620 feet above msl). The landfill has not yet reached this maximum permitted elevation. The Resource Recovery Project would involve: 1) increasing the pad height of the Operations Deck by up to 20 feet for a maximum finished pad elevation of 394 feet above msl to level the pad and maximize the useable area; 2) removal of the existing structures (four trailers, 12 feet in height totaling 2,800 square feet), storage containers and fuel tanks; and 3) installation of approximately 123,000 to 133,000 square feet of building space comprised of 2-3 new structures¹¹ (i.e., the MRF and AD buildings plus an optional landfill operations and recyclables storage structure) ranging in height from an average of 24 feet to 44 feet (with maximum structural elements ranging from 42 feet to 55 feet in height). The new structures would be utilitarian in design. Solar arrays would be located on the roof of the MRF and AD. These structures may be briefly visible from public viewing locations. Other ancillary facilities that could also be visible from public viewing locations include the percolate storage tanks, fuel storage tanks, the new fire water storage tank, the Energy Facility, relocated landfill facilities, and the digestate curing area(s). The Resource Recovery Project facilities could be operated 24 hours per day and would introduce new night time lighting and could alter the night-time character of the project area. The proposed project would also extend the life of the landfill and delay closure activities on some areas of the site. Visual impacts would be potentially significant and require further study in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation measures to reduce visual impacts could include installation of additional landscaping to help screen the buildings, painting the structures with colors compatible with the surrounding terrain (earth tones and non-reflective colors); and development of a lighting plan including the use of hooded and shielded exterior lights, directing light downward.

Scope of Subsequent EIR:

The aesthetics/visual impact assessment would include the following:

- Identify the existing visual resources of the project area including physical attributes, public viewing locations, trails, and open spaces.
- Identify the character of public views across, into, and out of the Tajiguas Landfill Project site.
- Provide visual simulations of existing conditions, permitted conditions, and permitted conditions as modified by the addition of the proposed Resource Recovery Project facilities and relocated landfill facilities.
- Assess the changes in visibility and visual impacts from public view points from the addition of Resource Recovery Project as compared to visibility and visual impacts of the Tajiguas Landfill Project.

¹⁰ RRWMD is preparing to “close” the southern portion of the landfill which is visible from U.S. Highway 101.

Closure will involve placing a final cap (cover) on the landfill and revegetating it with native plants to blend in with the surrounding environment. Some areas will also be paved and used to support ongoing operations.

¹¹ During construction, the existing landfill administrative and engineering offices would be temporarily located to another area of the landfill and then integrated into the new Resource Recovery Project buildings once construction activities are completed.

- Identify the night time setting and character of the project site and surrounding area and assess the potential impacts to this nighttime character from the Resource Recovery Project. Determine if additional night-time security lighting would be required at the buildings and along access roads and assess the visual impacts of any additional lighting.
- Assess the projects' potential impacts on visual resources, using the County's Environmental Thresholds.
- Analyze cumulative impact levels, including other similar past, present and probable future projects in the area, and the contribution of the proposed project to these cumulative impacts.
- Identify mitigation measures as necessary and residual impacts.

4.1.2 AIR QUALITY/GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Setting and Impact Discussion:

As disclosed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents, operation of the Tajiguas Landfill results in significant and unavoidable air quality impacts including emission of nitrous oxides (NO_x), Particulate Matter (PM)₁₀ and carcinogenic health risk. Construction and operation of the Resource Recovery Project would also result in the emission of criteria pollutants, greenhouse gasses, toxic air emissions and odors. Emissions would be associated with processing MSW currently transported to the Tajiguas Landfill and the potential additional processing of CSSR and SSOW (optional project elements).

Construction of the facilities would produce emissions of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} from fugitive dust primarily during earthmoving activities, as well as construction equipment and haul truck exhaust emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG), NO_x, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Construction related emissions for the project will be short-term and would arise from a variety of activities, including: (1) grading, excavation and other earth moving activities; (2) travel by construction equipment and employee vehicles, especially on unpaved surfaces; (3) exhaust from construction equipment; (4) architectural coatings; and (5) asphalt paving.

Air quality impacts associated with operation of the Resource Recovery Project would include criteria air pollutant emissions from diesel equipment on-site for pre-processing, emissions from project-related traffic on the local and regional roadway network¹² (including waste haul trucks and employees), and the post processing of the biogas (e.g., flaring of excess biogas, combusting for electricity). Operational sources of fugitive dust would primarily be processing equipment and truck movement over paved and unpaved surfaces. In addition, non-methane VOCs may be released from pre-digested substrate materials during the receipt and pre-processing activities. Although there will be emissions associated with these sources, implementation of the project would divert additional recyclable material and organics out of the landfill and by doing so, there would be a reduction in landfilling activity and associated air emissions, such as potentially fewer pieces of off-road equipment for landfill operations and a potential decrease in the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for haul trucks carrying waste to the landfill working face.

The onsite storage and pre-processing of the putrescible (decaying) organic waste could lead to objectionable odors at off-site receptors in the vicinity of the project site. However, as compared to current landfilling of the organic waste, off-loading and processing would occur in enclosed controlled air environments. Outdoor curing of the digestate to create a compost and/or soil amendment could also result in odors. Following the enclosed anaerobic digestion phase, the digestate material will be transferred to one or more locations on the landfill footprint for aerobic curing. The digestate will have a significantly

¹² It should be noted that mobile emissions currently occur in association with existing landfill related traffic. Results from the EIR traffic analysis would be used to identify any change in mobile air emissions.

reduced fraction of decaying /odor generating material but the potential for this material to generate odors will be analyzed in the EIR.

Construction and operation of the project could lead to increases in chronic exposure of sensitive receptors in the vicinity to certain toxic air contaminants from stationary and mobile sources. For construction impacts, emissions of toxics may occur from site preparation and construction activities. For operations, air toxics emissions could include diesel particulate matter (DPM) from trucks that deliver waste and recyclable materials to the facility, or from trace amounts of air toxics (primarily hydrogen Sulfide [H₂S] and ammonia) that may be released as fugitives from the AD Facility or from the potential combustion or flaring of the biogas. Additional air toxics that could be generated by the combustion of biogas (either in an engine or flare) include benzene, formaldehyde, and other products of incomplete combustion.

The construction and operation of the project could also result in changes in temporary, short-term, and operation related (long-term) emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs)¹³. GHGs include water vapor, CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and other compounds. GHG emissions would be associated with equipment needed for pre-processing, traffic on the local and regional roadway network, post processing of the biogas, and curing of the digestate. Although there will be emissions associated with these sources, the operation of the project would divert organics out of the landfill. By doing so, there would be less activity at the landfill, such as potentially fewer pieces of off-road equipment, a potential decrease in the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for haul trucks carrying waste to the landfill working face, and reduced fugitive emissions from the landfill itself, as well as reduced fugitive methane emissions for the anaerobic decomposition of organics in the landfill. The project would also generate biogas to replace fossil fuels for electricity production. These elements of the project may have a beneficial impact of reduced GHG emissions.

Air quality impacts (criteria pollutant emissions, toxic air emissions, odors, and GHG) are unknown and potentially significant and require further study in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

The project would be required to comply with the rules and regulations from the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). In addition, waste unloading and pre-processing activities would occur indoors within enclosed, negative pressure buildings. Collected foul air (including volatile organic compounds [VOCs] off-gassed from undigested waste) and dust from operations would be treated via high capacity air handling systems and biofilters.

Other potential mitigation measures include but are not limited to: 1) the use of equipment meeting, at a minimum, Tier II emission standards; 2) minimizing the idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes (as required by the state airborne toxics control measure [Title 13, §2485 of the California Code of Regulations]) and providing clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site; 3) maintaining all equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications; 4) Implementation of dust control measures during construction; 5) use either new diesel engines that are designed to minimize DPM emissions (usually through the use of catalyzed particulate filters in the exhaust) or retrofit older engines with catalyzed particulate filters (which will reduce DPM emissions by 85%); 6) use electric equipment to be powered from

¹³ The Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents (in particular 08-EIR-0000-0007) included an estimate of GHG emissions from permitted landfill operations. Landfill GHG emissions are considered to be a part of the environmental baseline. will evaluate GHG emissions associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project. The Subsequent EIR for the Resource Recovery Project will evaluate GHG emissions associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project as modified by the addition of the Resource Recovery Project.

the grid, which would eliminate local combustion emissions; 7) development and implementation of an Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) which would include odor management best management practices for both MRF, AD and digestate curing activities; and 8) greenhouse gas reduction measures.

Scope of Subsequent EIR:

- The EIR will include preparation of an Air Quality Technical Report. The technical report will include an analysis of potential air quality impacts (and benefits) for all elements of the project (and for optional project elements such as consolidated processing of CSSR and processing of SSOW). The analysis will include construction and operation related criteria air pollutant emissions, odor emissions, GHG emissions (including analysis requirements set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4 *Determining the Significance of Impacts from Greenhouse Gas Emissions*) and any health risk associated with toxic air contaminants.
- Preparation of the technical report will be coordinated with the APCD, shall include all elements as identified in the *Scope and Content of Air Quality Sections in Environmental Document* (APCD, updated December 2011), and shall identify compliance with all applicable New Source Review and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements.
- The technical report shall identify all project emissions from permitted (stationary) and non-permitted (mobile and area) sources. Emissions will be compared to applicable State, County and APCD thresholds of significance and based on the results of the Air Quality Technical Report, applicable mitigation measures will be identified in the Subsequent EIR, including, but not limited to standard emission control conditions applied by the APCD.
- Assess cumulative air quality impacts as well as the project's contribution to those impacts.
- Evaluate the project's consistency with the 2010 Clean Air Plan.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project.

4.1.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting and Impact Discussion:

As disclosed in Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents, construction and operation of the Tajiguas Landfill was identified as resulting in a number of significant and unavoidable biological impacts (e.g., loss of native habitats, loss of sensitive plants, impacts to sensitive wildlife species, and loss of oak trees). The proposed Resource Recovery Project facilities would be located on the Operations Deck which is partially paved and is currently developed with administrative and engineering offices associated with the landfill operations and is also used for employee parking, storage of equipment, fuel and materials. Although there is currently no activity on the Operations Deck at night, security lighting is present. The Operations Deck area does not contain any biological resources and does not provide important wildlife habitat¹⁴.

Digestate curing and other landfill facilities would also be located on the existing disturbed areas of the landfill and are not expected to impact biological resources. The developed/disturbed areas of the landfill do not provide important habitat, but may be used at night for foraging and are used by nuisance species such as seagulls, crows and rodents. North of the Operations Deck, and in the northern area of the landfill property, residual areas of chaparral and a remaining section of the riparian corridor associated with Pila Creek provide habitat for a variety of common wildlife species and may also provide

¹⁴ Cliff swallows, which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act do attempt to nest in the eaves of the existing buildings, however exclusion/preventative measures are used to discourage nesting.

habitat for sensitive species such as San Diego Desert woodrat, Ringtail, mountain lion and may provide roosting and foraging habitat for sensitive bird species. Two man-made in-channel sedimentation basins previously located in the northern portion of the landfill property provided breeding habitat for the federally threatened CRLF and adjacent vegetated areas provide upland CRLF habitat. The sedimentation basins were removed and other remaining habitat is being removed as part of the approved Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and the CRLF translocated to Arroyo Quemado on the Baron Ranch, where an approximate 50-acre¹⁵ habitat restoration project is currently in progress.

While construction activities will largely occur in existing disturbed areas, or areas that will be disturbed by permitted landfill activities (e.g., west borrow area), grading activities and construction of some of the ancillary facilities (e.g., water storage tank, water supply well) may require additional vegetation removal. Noise and vibrations from construction equipment could also temporarily disturb/displace wildlife and impact nesting migratory birds in adjacent, undisturbed habitat areas. However, wildlife in these areas are already subjected to noise and vibrations associated with landfill liner construction projects and daily landfill operations. In addition, at full capacity the MRF, AD, and Energy Facility could operate 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and may introduce new lighting, noise and increased human activity at the site which could impact use of adjacent undisturbed habitat. The reduced rate of landfilling and the increase in the life of the landfill would also increase the duration of human activity in the back canyon area where landfilling activities are in close proximity to the remaining on-site habitat. However, due to the reduced waste volumes, the daily intensity of these activities would be reduced. Biological impacts may also occur due to the discharge of treated wastewater through landscape irrigation, reuse or through discharge to Pila Creek. Biological impacts due to the increase in night-time use of site, the extended life of landfill operations, potential disposal of treated wastewater and RO process water, and the potential for removal of additional native vegetation, are unknown and potentially significant and require further study in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

Potential mitigation measures would include but not be limited to: implementation of biological protection measures during construction such as establishing the limits of construction in the field to prevent inadvertent vegetation removal, avoidance of vegetation removal during the migratory bird nesting period or preconstruction surveys for nesting migratory bird and establishment of buffers if nesting birds are observed; use of noise attenuating materials/structures around noise producing equipment, development of a lighting plan including the use of hooded and shielded exterior lights, directing light downward; restrictions on employee access to back canyon areas of the landfill; and replacement/restoration of impacted habitat.

Scope of the Subsequent EIR:

- Identify the biological impacts associated with Tajiguas Landfill Project.
- Identify the existing biological resources (plants and wildlife) at and adjacent to the project site and in the downstream reaches of Pila Creek.
- Identify additional impacts to native vegetation and wildlife due to the modification of the Tajiguas Landfill Project from the Resource Recovery Project, including construction and operation of the facilities (i.e., MRF, AD, water storage tank, wastewater treatment plant, water supply well, and RO treatment system).

¹⁵ 38 acres of the restoration are associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and the remaining acreage is associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project.

- Identify existing night-time conditions and night-time use of the site by wildlife in the vicinity of the Resource Recovery Project facilities.
- Determine the potential disturbance to wildlife use of the adjacent habitat areas.
- Identify mitigation measures necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and identify the project's contribution to those impacts.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

4.1.4 RISK OF UPSET, FIRE HAZARDS & HEALTH AND SAFETY

Setting and Impact Discussion:

The entire Gaviota Coast, including the Tajiguas Landfill, is within the County's designated high fire hazard area. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department provides fire protection services to the existing landfill site. Although there are no formal County requirements for water storage for fire protection related to the landfill activities, the landfill reserves 22,000 gallons of water stored in one 10,000 gallon tank and one 12,000 gallon tank for use in the event of a fire. As disclosed in Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents, the existing landfill is subject to potential hazards from wildland fires and from fires associated with the MSW (e.g., "hot loads" or subsurface fires). The proposed project has the potential to increase fire hazards by: 1) increasing the amount of structural development on-site that would require fire protection; 2) increasing the number of people present on site during the day and night; and 3) introducing new ignition sources. In addition, the biogas produced by the AD facility has the potential to ignite or explode. Due to the proximity of the waste footprint to the proposed structures there is also the possibility that landfill gas may migrate into the new buildings causing a potential explosion hazard.

Similar to health and safety issues associated with landfill operations, operation of the MRF and AD facility may expose workers to pathogens, disease carrying vectors, exposure to dust, noise and potential exposure due to improperly disposed hazardous or medical waste and other operational hazards. The potential for increased risk of upset/health and safety impacts associated with operation of the project is unknown and potentially significant and would require further study in the EIR.

The AD facility would use microorganisms in a controlled environment to produce biogas. Anaerobic digestion is the biological decomposition of organic matter with little or no oxygen. Anaerobic decomposition is a common process that occurs naturally in marshes, wetlands, landfills, ruminants, and certain insects. In addition to naturally occurring anaerobic decomposition, there are a variety of controlled systems where AD technology is currently utilized in the United States including most of our local wastewater treatment facilities and dairy manure digesters and co-digesters. The microorganisms that metabolize the organic waste during the anaerobic digestion process are commonly occurring in the environment and do not pose a risk of upset to the environment or human health.

Mitigation Measures:

An existing fire break is present around the perimeter of the landfill and large areas of the landfill have low biomass present due to the ongoing waste disposal activities which help to reduce the potential for wildland fires. The proposed project would include the use of sprinkler systems within the buildings and would include the construction of a new fire suppression water-storage tank. Construction and operation of the facilities would be required to comply with the California Fire Code and local building codes. In addition to the proposed and required fire suppression systems, fire and explosion hazards would be reduced by the preparation and implementation of a Fire Safety Plan. The Fire Safety Plan

would identify fire hazards, describe facility operations, procedures to prevent ignition of fires, include regular inspection of fire suppression systems, and provide for worker training in safety procedures as well as protocols for responding to fire incidents.

A gas collection system is currently in place at the landfill which would reduce the potential for gas migration into newly constructed facilities. In addition, Title 27 of the California Code of Regulation (CCR) requires enclosed structures proposed to be built on landfills to include combustible gas infiltration protection and monitoring features. Protection measures can include a combination of below-slab membrane and venting systems, and gas cut-offs for utility trenches or conduit penetrations. Regulations also require that automatic methane gas sensor systems be installed in building interiors. These monitoring systems can be equipped with communication devices to notify response personnel in the event elevated combustible gas concentrations are present in the building interior.

Similar to existing landfill operations, the proposed project would include load checking procedures to identify and safely remove hazardous or medical waste from the waste stream before and during processing in the MRF and AD facility. The project will also be required to comply with Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards for worker safety. Further, the proposed MRF will primarily use mechanical, magnetic and optical sorting methods to limit worker contact with the MSW.

Scope of the Subsequent EIR:

- Describe the fire setting and hazards associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project.
- Describe the type and proximity of existing county fire services, existing project area fire hazards and history of fires within the project area.
- Identify potential fire and explosion hazards and potential risk of upset as modified by construction and operation of the Resource Recovery Project facilities.
- Evaluate the potential for landfill gas migration into newly constructed buildings.
- Evaluate the adequacy of the proposed Resource Recovery Park fire suppression system including pressure and volume requirements.
- Identify any increase in the need for, or any effect on county fire protection services.
- Identify potential worker safety issues associated with operation of the MRF and AD.
- Identify mitigation measures necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and identify the project's contribution to those impacts.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

4.1.5 GEOLOGIC PROCESSES

Setting and Impact Discussion:

The Tajiguas Landfill has been the subject of numerous geologic studies which address existing geologic conditions (e.g., geologic formations, seismicity, earthquakes) and which address landfill geotechnical issues (e.g., slope stability, erosion and sedimentation, differential settlement). The project facilities would be located on the Operations Deck, an engineered fill constructed immediately adjacent to the landfill's west borrow area. The west borrow area is currently being graded to provide materials for landfill operations and closure activities.

The project site is located in a seismically active region, and therefore could be subject to significant ground shaking during an earthquake. While no active faults are known to cross the project site, ground shaking on the site could damage future buildings and other structures, and threaten the welfare of future employees.

On-site geotechnical issues that could affect the design and operation of the proposed project include differential settlement due to the waste footprint boundary bisecting the Operations Deck and the presence of instability/landslides¹⁶ on the slope associated with the landfill west borrow area located to the west of the Operations Deck. To prevent damage to the structures from differential settlement, the MRF and AD facility are sited off of, and set back from, the boundary of the waste footprint. Project elements located above the waste footprint would include parking areas, access roads, fuel storage, water and wastewater pipelines and recyclable materials and equipment storage areas.

Construction of the facilities would require approximately 202,000 cubic yards of earthwork (~108,000 cut and ~94,000 fill). The earthwork would involve additional cuts within the west borrow area and filling/leveling of the Operations Deck. Earthwork would be balanced on site; soil left over from the grading operations, if any, would be used for landfill daily cover. Additional earthwork would be required for installation of supporting facilities such as the fire water storage tank and for water and wastewater distribution lines. This earthwork could impact slope stability and result in downstream erosion and sedimentation. Geologic impacts resulting from construction of the project are unknown and potentially significant and require further study in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

Structures would need to be designed to earthquake standards of the International Building Code and to address other site specific geotechnical constraints. Excavation and grading would need to be limited to the dry season of the year unless protective measures are in place to reduce impacts from erosion and sedimentation. Preparation of detailed, site-specific geotechnical studies and compliance with the building construction and design recommendations of those plans would assist in limiting impacts associated with site geohazards.

Scope of Subsequent EIR:

- Identify project area geologic conditions/geohazards.
- Identify the effect of potential geologic conditions/geohazards on the construction and/or operation of the proposed project when compared with effect on the Tajiguas Landfill Project.
- Identify the impact of the project construction activities on the stability of the west borrow slope during and after construction and measures to protect the buildings after construction.
- Assess the potential geologic, soil erosion and sedimentation impacts associated with earthwork and site preparation.
- Identify mitigation measures necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and identify the project's contribution to those impacts.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

¹⁶ As a part of landfill operations and closure activities the majority of the landslide located in the west slope borrow area would be removed and remediated. Some residual grading may be required as a part of the project construction to remediate remaining portions of the landslide.

4.1.6 NOISE

Setting and Impact Discussion:

In general, noise sensitive land uses are limited in proximity to the Tajiguas Landfill. However, a pad for a single family residence is located¹⁷ approximately 2,500 feet south of the proposed Resource Recovery Project site and the residential community of Arroyo Quemada is located approximately 3,600 feet southeast of the proposed project site, south of U.S. Highway 101. The landfill property is bounded by the county-owned Baron Ranch to the east, the Los Padres National Forest to the north, and Canada de la Huerta (site of the former Shell Hercules Plant which is currently undergoing remediation) to the west. Other land uses in the project area include the Arroyo Hondo Preserve located approximately 1,100 feet west of the proposed project area. The Preserve also borders the Tajiguas Landfill property to the north and a hiking trail (Upper Outlaw Trail) on the Preserve is located approximately 2,000 feet to the northwest of the proposed project area and runs north along a ridge which forms the boundary between Arroyo Hondo and the Tajiguas Landfill property. The Preserve is not considered a noise sensitive land use pursuant to County definitions.

Construction Noise

Construction of the Resource Recovery Project would occur over an approximate 18-month period and may periodically include evening and weekend construction activities to minimize conflicts with ongoing landfill waste disposal activities, make up schedule deficiencies, and/or to complete critical construction activities safely, such as MRF equipment installation and testing. Noise associated with construction would include use of heavy equipment (such as scrapers, graders, loaders, compactors and other equipment), materials handling (such as concrete mixers and pumps), and blasting. The majority of the construction would take place within the same hours during which heavy equipment operations associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project are permitted to occur¹⁸; however, some increase over ambient noise levels may occur. Due to the distance between the project site and the sensitive noise uses, it is not expected that construction noise levels would be significant; however, the change in noise levels will be quantified in the EIR and impact levels determined.

Operational Noise

As disclosed in Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents, operation of the Tajiguas Landfill Project results in adverse but less than significant noise impacts. Operation of the proposed project has the potential to increase noise levels at the landfill property. At full capacity, the proposed MRF and AD facility could operate continuously 24-hours per day, 7-days per week, 365 days per year¹⁹. However, delivery of waste to the facility would occur during the existing permitted landfill operating hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday and Tuesday and 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Operational activities associated with the project that would generate noise include: processing and preprocessing; vehicle circulation; and the operation of mechanical equipment such as stationary pumps, motors, compressors, fans, generators, power plant and other equipment. Processing activities include noise generating activities such as sorting and grinding. Waste processing activities and equipment operations would be conducted

¹⁷ This residence is approved but not yet built.

¹⁸ Landfill construction activities such as liner construction projects are permitted to occur between the hours of 6:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm.

¹⁹ Noise in a residential, or other noise-sensitive setting, is often more bothersome at night than during daytime and individual noise events are generally more intrusive at night, since they stand out against the background more sharply than during the daytime.

within enclosed buildings and the CHP engines would be within a building designed to reduce noise levels; however noise levels may increase over ambient levels. In addition, due to the reduced volume of waste requiring landfilling, noise from landfill equipment operations is expected to decrease. However, the project would extend the life of the landfill by approximately 10 years and noise impacts associated with landfill operations would therefore be extended. With inclusion of the optional project elements (processing of CSSR and SSO), the project may increase the number of trucks delivering waste which could increase traffic related noise. The Resource Recovery Project may result in an overall increase in employees, especially employees that work or arrive at night, and this may also increase noise levels. Overall the change in day and nighttime noise levels associated with construction and operation of the Resource Recovery Project are unknown and potentially significant and would require further study in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

Potential measures to reduce noise levels include: 1) use of noise barriers, acoustical enclosures or noise attenuating materials/structures around noise producing equipment; 2) limiting construction activity for site preparation and future development to existing landfill operating hours; 3) minimizing construction equipment noise by muffling and shielding intakes and exhausts; 4) shrouding or shielding impact tools; and 5) siting stationary noise generating equipment to minimize impacts to sensitive receptors.

Scope of Subsequent EIR:

- Identify: a) noise levels associated with the operation of the Tajiguas Landfill Project (including daily operations and liner construction projects); b) day-time, night-time, and average Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL) or Day-Night Average Level (LDN) noise levels at the landfill; and c) existing noise sensitive land uses/receptors in proximity to the landfill;
- Identify changes in noise levels associated with modification of the Tajiguas Landfill Project to add the Resource Recovery Project including construction and operational activities. Identify day and night-time operational noise sources and determine projected noise levels at sensitive receptors; determine projected increases in noise levels from traffic associated with optional project elements and determine changes in noise levels from reduced landfilling operations and extension of life noise impacts.
- Provide existing and projected night-time noise data for use in the biological impact assessment.
- Determine levels of impact based on County thresholds of significance and identify appropriate mitigation measures.
- Identify residual environmental effects.
- Assess cumulative noise impacts and identify the project's contribution to these impacts.

4.1.7 LAND USE

Setting and Impact Discussion:

The Tajiguas Landfill has been used as a County MSW disposal facility since 1967 and has a Waste Disposal Overlay in the Land Use Element recognizing its use as a landfill. The inland areas of the Tajiguas Landfill are located within areas zoned for agriculture under County Ordinance 661. The southern portion of the landfill is located within the coastal zone within areas zoned AG-II-320, which permits agricultural uses within a 320-acre minimum lot size. The portion of the landfill within the Coastal Zone pre-dates the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the Coastal Act of 1976, and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance and is considered a legal, non-conforming use. Pursuant to the Santa Barbara County Land Use and Development Code within the unincorporated inland areas of the County, the provisions of the Development Code do not apply to "development by the County or any district of

which the Board is the governing body” (Section 35.10.040.G.1.b.). The facilities associated with the Resource Recovery Project would be located within the inland area of the landfill property; however, curing of the digestate and some landfill operations facilities may occur on the portion of the landfill footprint within the coastal zone.

The proposed project would be similar in character to existing landfill operations except additional preprocessing of the MSW would be completed to recover recyclable materials and to process organic waste into biogas and compost and/or soil amendments thereby diverting the material from the landfill. The project would also support statewide solid waste disposal initiatives including CalRecycle’s Strategic Directive 6.1 and the Anaerobic Digestion Initiative.

The project would increase the amount of public-facility-related development present at the Tajiguas Landfill and could operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week increasing the intensity of the use of the site. The project would also extend the life of public-facility-related uses (including landfilling) at the site by approximately 10 years. The increased site structural development and associated potential change in visual character, night time operations, noise and extension of life of landfilling activities may conflict with the rural character of the project area and with surrounding land uses. Potential land use compatibility impacts are unknown, potentially significant and would be analyzed in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

Measures to reduce noise, visual, nuisance, biological, traffic and air quality impacts would also reduce potential land use compatibility impacts.

Scope of EIR:

- Provide an Inventory of surrounding open space, agricultural and residential land uses located in the vicinity of the landfill.
- Utilizing data from the other impact analyses (e.g., noise, visual, biological, nuisance, traffic and air quality), identify potential land use conflicts from the Resource Recovery Project as compared to those associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project.
- Analyze the project’s consistency with applicable goals, policies, and implementation measures that are contained in the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan.
- Analyze the project’s consistency/compliance with statewide solid waste diversion goals and required solid waste management plans.
- Identify mitigation measures necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and identify the project’s contribution to those impacts.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

4.1.8 TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

Setting and Impact Discussion:

Currently MSW is delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill for disposal from the communities along the south coast, and Santa Ynez and New Cuyama Valleys. U.S. Highway 101 is the main access route to the site. Access to the landfill from U.S. Highway 101 is via a paved landfill access road that intersects the highway at an at-grade intersection. The intersection includes a deceleration lane for northbound traffic and a southbound deceleration/left turn lane for traffic turning from the highway into the landfill. There are also acceleration lanes for northbound and southbound traffic exiting the landfill and merging with through traffic on U.S.

Highway 101. The intersection is stop-sign controlled from the landfill access road. The proposed Resource Recovery Project would continue to utilize the existing access onto the landfill property.

Traffic to the Tajiguas Landfill Project consists of County waste transfer trucks and private hauler waste collection trucks operated by the County's franchise haulers, a limited number of self-haul vehicles, commercial trucks hauling green waste, landfill employees, and periodic material delivery and service vehicles. As disclosed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents, traffic impacts (roadway and intersection capacity and traffic safety) from operation of the Tajiguas Landfill Project are less than significant.

Traffic to the proposed Resource Recovery Project would be similar in character to traffic to the Tajiguas Landfill Project, which was analyzed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents. MSW would continue to be delivered to the landfill property, as described above; however, once on-site, the waste would be further processed to remove recyclable materials and organics. There would be additional employee trips associated with operation of the MRF and AD facilities (and a decrease in employee trips associated with landfill staff). The duration of time trucks would access the site would also extend from approximately year 2026 to approximately year 2036 and there would be a potential increase in trips due to increased waste volumes associated with population growth in the region. In addition, recyclable materials recovered on-site from the MRF would be baled and transferred off-site and compost from the AD facility may also be marketed and sold off-site, resulting in new vehicle trips. New trips²⁰ could also result if processing of recyclable materials (CSSR and SSOW) from the county's existing and potential future collection programs is consolidated at the Resource Recovery Project (optional project element).

The proposed project would not modify the maximum permitted waste disposal capacity of the Tajiguas Landfill (permitted maximum of 1,500 tons per day); however, operation of the proposed project may increase amount of operational traffic above what was analyzed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents and extend the duration of time (by approximately 10 years) during which landfill-related traffic will be present on area roadways. The effect of the added project-related traffic on area roads and intersections (primarily U.S. Highway 101 and the intersection of the highway and the landfill access road and intersections in the vicinity of the SCRSTS) and traffic safety impacts from continued access to and from the site via the at-grade intersection with U.S. Highway 101 are unknown, potentially significant, and would require further study in the EIR. Construction-related circulation impacts could occur on-site as well due to the continued operation of the landfill while the Resource Recovery Project is under construction.

Mitigation Measures:

If traffic impacts are identified as significant, possible mitigation measures would be to limit peak hour trips by scheduling shift changes, deliveries and export of materials outside of the peak morning and afternoon hours. Construction-related circulation impacts could be mitigated by proper signage and traffic control.

Scope of Subsequent EIR:

- Preparation of a traffic study analyzing the traffic impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project as modified by the addition of the Resource Recovery Project. The content of the study will be as specified in the County's CEQA Environmental Guidelines and Threshold (October 2008) Manual. The study will assess project specific and cumulative impacts to traffic volumes and levels of service on the affected roadways and intersections (primarily U.S. Highway 101 and the intersection of the highway and the landfill access road and intersections in the vicinity of the SCRSTS) and will include an evaluation

²⁰ These trips currently occur on area roadways but they would be redirected to the Tajiguas Landfill.

of traffic hazards. The study will also analyze the increase in traffic volumes and traffic impacts associated with the option of processing CSSR and SSOW as a part of the project.

- If significant traffic impacts are determined to occur as a result of the modified project, identify mitigation measures to reduce project specific and cumulative impacts to less than significant levels.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

4.1.9 WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING

Setting and Impact Discussion:

Drainage and Water Quality

The Tajiguas Landfill is located within the Cañada de la Pila watershed (approximately 468 acres), which lies within the South Coast Hydrologic Unit as delineated in the Central Coast Region Water Quality Control Plan. The Cañada de la Pila watershed is flanked to the west by the Arroyo Hondo watershed (approximately 2,640 acres) and to the east by the Arroyo Quemado watershed (approximately 1,940 acres). As compared to the adjacent watersheds, the Cañada de la Pila watershed is relatively small and does not extend to the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Pila Creek is an ephemeral stream that drains the Cañada de la Pila watershed to the Pacific Ocean. The natural channel has been modified on the landfill site and downstream by construction of U.S. Highway 101 and the Union Pacific Railroad.

In the upper watershed area, surface flow in Pila Creek presently terminates north of the Operations Deck and storm flows are routed around the landfill in a 48-inch diameter buried pipe culvert. A second existing buried 48-inch diameter culvert is located above the primary culvert. The higher culvert provides back up drainage conveyance capacity. Surface flow reemerges in the natural channel of Pila Creek at the southern limit of the landfill, south of the existing energy facility. A sedimentation basin has been constructed at the landfill, east of Pila Creek. This basin captures most of the sediment generated by erosion of the landfill area, and is known as the north sedimentation basin (formerly the out-of-channel sedimentation basin). In addition to the sedimentation basin, a sediment control structure is located at the downstream boundary of the waste disposal area and captures storm run-off and entrained sediment from the southeastern portion of the landfill area.

The proposed project would be located on the existing Operations Deck. The deck is an engineered fill site that was compacted to 90+% relative compaction and is currently partially paved. Under the proposed project approximately 6 to 7 acres of the site would be covered with impervious surfaces (buildings, paved parking areas, etc.). The increase in impervious surfaces could increase the volume of storm water coming off of the site which could potentially impact downstream drainage structures. Storm water quality could also be impacted if it comes in contact with waste being processed or by carrying pollutants (e.g., sediment, oil and grease) from paved surfaces. Other potential water quality impacts could include an increase in erosion and sedimentation and surface water quality impacts due to grading and construction activities; water quality impacts due to outdoor digestate curing activities, and ground and surface water quality impacts due to disposal of water from the proposed on-site wastewater treatment plant and the potable water treatment system. Wastewater would primarily be generated from employee hand-washing, toilet flushing and wash-down of work areas.

The MRF and AD Facility are proposed to include an advanced, self-contained commercial wastewater treatment plant to treat and disinfect the liquid waste from facility operations. The treated wastewater is proposed to be used for spray or drip irrigation, trucked off-site for reuse or disposal, and/or discharged to Pila Creek. The groundwater supply proposed for the project will likely contain elevated

levels of total dissolved solids (TDS) and will require filtration and treatment through a reverse osmosis system. Treatment of the water will result in production of residual water with elevated sodium levels that is also proposed to be used for irrigation, trucked off-site for reuse or disposal, and/or discharged to lower Pila Creek. Off-loading and processing of waste within the enclosed MRF and AD facility, and the reduced amount of landfilling on a daily and annual basis, could result in a beneficial impact to water quality by reducing the potential for storm water to become impacted through contact with the waste. Drainage and water quality impacts are unknown and potentially significant and would require further study in the EIR.

Water Supply

The project would require water for construction activities (compaction and dust control), fire suppression water-storage, employee domestic needs, housekeeping activities and initial filling of the AD percolate systems. The AD percolate systems are closed loop storage systems and will not consume any water following their initial fill. Water would be provided from a new on-site well potentially equipped with a reverse osmosis treatment system. Wells on the project site draw from a number of formations including Vaqueros, Gaviota, Monterey and Sespe-Alegria Formations. Locally, the Vaqueros and Gaviota Formations generally provide the highest yields and the best quality. The adequacy of local supplies to meet the project demands and the potential for the new well to result in ground water impacts due overdraft conditions or well interference would be evaluated in the EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

Water quality mitigation measures would likely include a combination of structural and non-structural Best Management Practices during construction and operation of the project such as erosion and sedimentation control, good housekeeping, litter management, and compliance with construction and industrial storm water permits. Runoff from the digestate curing would be collected and used for dust control. Mitigation measures for increased runoff could include provision of on-site detention for peak flows. Mitigation for groundwater supply impacts could include low flow bathroom fixtures and use of dry cleaning methods where possible/practical.

Scope of Subsequent EIR:

- Identify existing water resource and drainage impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Project.
- Assess changes in impacts to water resources and drainage associated with construction and operation of the modified project (addition of the Resource Recovery Project), including surface and groundwater quality, drainage and flood hazards.
- Assess the adequacy of proposed water supplies for the Resource Recovery Project and impacts (e.g., well interference) associated with new extractions from the on-site consolidated rock aquifers.
- Assess the water quality and hydrological impacts and determine the feasibility of proposed wastewater and RO residual water disposal methods. Identify mitigation measures necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and identify the project's contribution to those impacts.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

4.1.10 NUISANCES

Setting and Impact Discussion:

As disclosed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents, transport and disposal of MSW at the Tajiguas Landfill can attract vectors and nuisance birds and result in odors, litter, illegal dumping and nuisance dust. These nuisance impacts were identified as significant but mitigable impacts. Similar nuisance impacts would continue to occur with modification of the Tajiguas Landfill Project through the addition of the Resource Recovery Project; however, because transfer and waste processing activities would occur within buildings and the residue that would be landfilled would have minimal organic and putrescible material, nuisance impacts are likely to be reduced as compared to the Tajiguas Landfill Project. Under the proposed optional project elements, in addition to receiving organic waste in the MSW, the Resource Recovery Project could also receive and process SSOW and CSSR, which could increase the level of nuisance impacts. The potential changes to the type and magnitude of nuisance impacts from operation of the MRF, AD facility, digestate curing and reduction in landfilling activities will be analyzed in the Subsequent EIR.

Mitigation Measures:

- Preparation and implementation of a vector management plan to include but not limited to use of good housekeeping practices to reduce potential vector habitat or harborage, limiting access to organic waste, and implementation of bird management measures.
- Use of litter control measures including but not limited to continued requirements for covering/tarping of waste delivery vehicles; good housekeeping practices at the MRF, use of debris collection fences at the digestate curing site(s).
- Implementation of measures identified through the air quality impact analysis to control dust and odors.

Scope of Subsequent EIR

- Identify existing nuisance impacts from the Tajiguas Landfill Project as analyzed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents.
- Analyze any changes (beneficial or adverse) in nuisance conditions and impacts resulting from the changes in processing of the MSW and from the additional processing of the SSOW and CSSR (optional project elements) associated with the modified project (addition of the Resource Recovery Project).
- Identify mitigation measures necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and identify the project's contribution to those impacts.
- Assess any residual impacts of the project after mitigation.

4.1.11 GROWTH INDUCEMENT

As required pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d), the Subsequent EIR will also include an analysis of the potential growth inducing impacts of the Resource Recovery Project.

4.2 IMPACTS NOT EXPECTED TO BE SIGNIFICANT (to be summarized in the Subsequent EIR)

4.2.1 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The Tajiguas Landfill is zoned and designated for agricultural use, but has a waste disposal facility overlay recognizing its use as a landfill. There are no agricultural uses on the landfill property and the landfill, once closed would not be suitable for agricultural production. Agricultural activities adjacent to the landfill site are limited to cattle grazing to the west and orchard operations on the County-owned Baron Ranch which borders the landfill to the east. The Baron Ranch was purchased by the County specifically to provide a buffer between the landfill and other agricultural and open space uses. The Resource Recovery Project would be located on the existing Operations Deck which is disturbed and used for landfill operations and would be accessed from existing landfill roads. The proposed project would not displace agricultural lands and is not expected to generate any conflicts with agricultural activities. Continued implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents for operation of the landfill with regards to land use, air quality and nuisances would continue to minimize conflicts with the ongoing agricultural operations in the area. Agricultural impacts would remain less than significant.

4.2.2 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The cultural and historic resources present in the project area and at the Tajiguas Landfill were analyzed in the Tajiguas Landfill Environmental Documents. Several archaeological sites have been documented on the landfill property, however the sites are not located in proximity to the Resource Recovery Project site and impacts would be less than significant.

4.2.3 ENERGY

Operation of the MRF and AD facility would require approximately 500 to 750 kilowatts per hour (kW/hr) of operation. However, the facility would be designed to accommodate solar energy arrays to partially off-set power needs and the biogas from the AD facility would power two (2) 1,537 horsepower CHP engines driving electric power generators that would generate approximately 1+ net megawatts of renewable power. With these elements, the project would be a net energy producer and the project would represent a beneficial energy impact.

4.2.4 PUBLIC FACILITIES

The proposed project would represent a beneficial impact to public facilities by providing a 20-year management solution for the region's solid waste disposal needs. The project would operate using an on-site well and on-site wastewater disposal and would not significantly increase the need for law enforcement and health care services. Therefore, the project would not result in significant impacts to public facilities.

4.2.5 RECREATION

Public recreation areas that are closest to the Tajiguas Landfill include the Arroyo Hondo Preserve operated by the Santa Barbara Land Trust, the county-operated public trail at the county-owned Baron Ranch and the state operated Refugio, Gaviota and El Capitan State Parks. The proposed Resource Recovery Project would be located at the existing Operations Deck and would not conflict with the use

of the recreational facilities. The visibility of the facilities from these public viewing locations would however be analyzed in the EIR.

5.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Pursuant to Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Subsequent EIR shall consider and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The alternatives selected should be capable of avoiding or lessening any significant environmental effects of the proposed project. RRWMD currently expects that the Subsequent EIR will include a discussion and analysis of the following alternatives:

- No Project/No Action Alternative
- Siting of the Resource Recovery Project Facilities at alternative project locations (including locations within the urban areas of the County and/or City of Santa Barbara)
- Use of alternative waste conversion technologies
- Expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill
- Disposal of MSW at other permitted in- or out-of county landfills

The specific details of these alternatives will be included in the Subsequent EIR. The alternatives analysis will also tier off, and incorporate by reference, the alternative analysis contained in the Statewide Anaerobic Digester Facilities for the Treatment of Municipal Organic Solid Waste Program EIR.

6.0 REFERENCES

CalRecycle. 2011. Statewide Anaerobic Digester Facilities for the Treatment of Municipal Organic Solid Waste, Final Program Environmental Impact Report. June 2011. SCH No. 2010042100.

*Santa Barbara, County of (County). 2002. Final Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project Environmental Impact Report (01-EIR-05). Prepared for Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste and Utilities Division by TRC. SCH No. 98041003.

*Santa Barbara, County of (County). November 8, 2006. Addendum pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15164 for the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Elimination of the Coastal Zone Southeast Corner Modification and Change in the North Borrow/Stockpile Area.

*Santa Barbara, County of (County). 2009. Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (08EIR-00000-00007) for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project. Prepared for Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division by Padre Associates, Inc. SCH No. 2008021052.

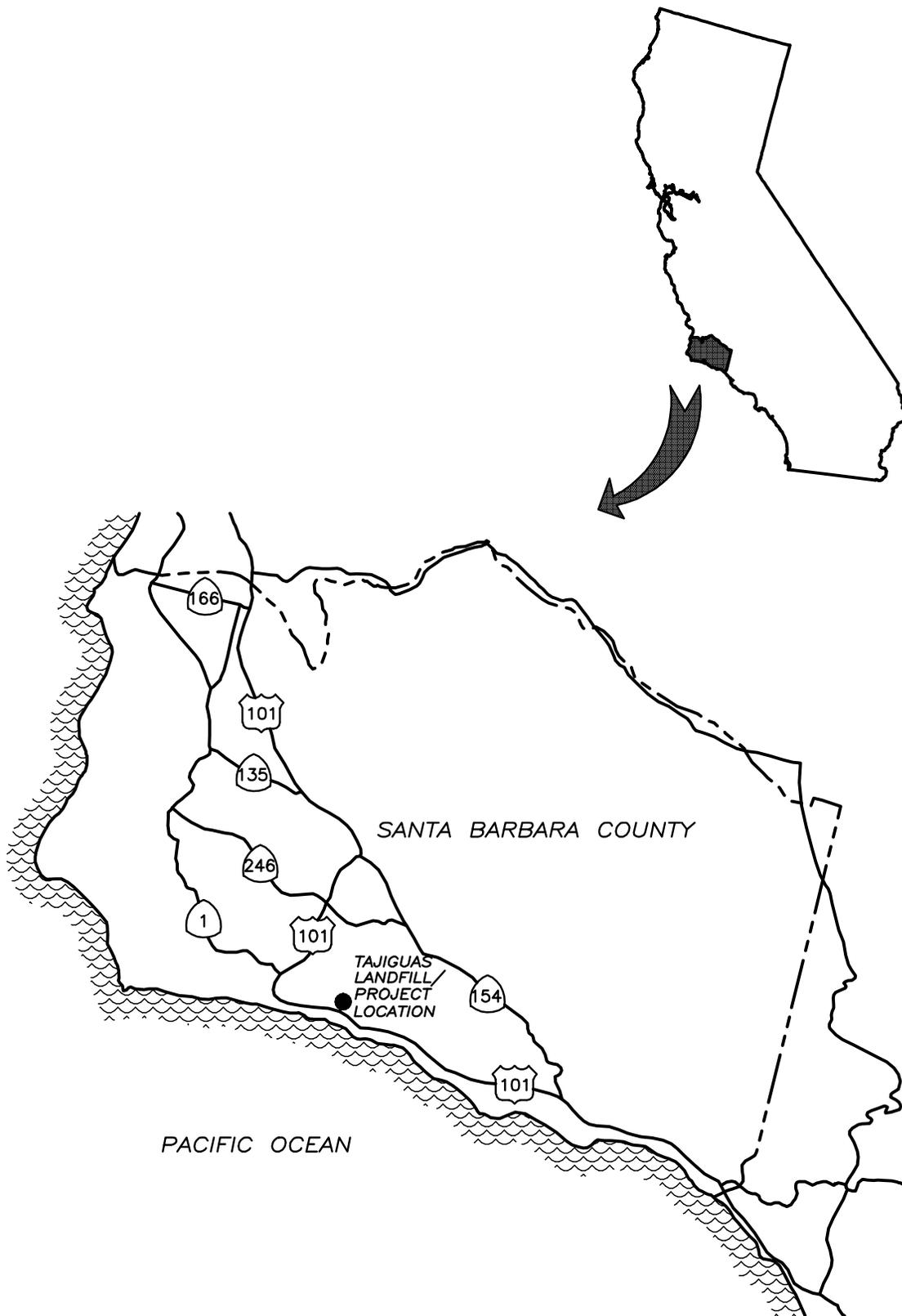
*Available for review at Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 100, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Project Figures

- Figure 1: Regional Location
- Figure 2: Tajiguas Landfill Site Map
- Figure 3: Landfill and Resource Recovery Project Site Map
- Figure 4:: Resource Recovery Project Site Plan
- Figure 5: Preliminary Grading Plan

**ATTACHMENT A
PROJECT FIGURES**



**Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project
Figure 1 - Regional Location Map**

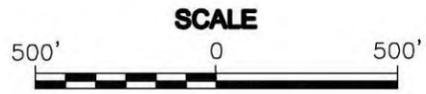
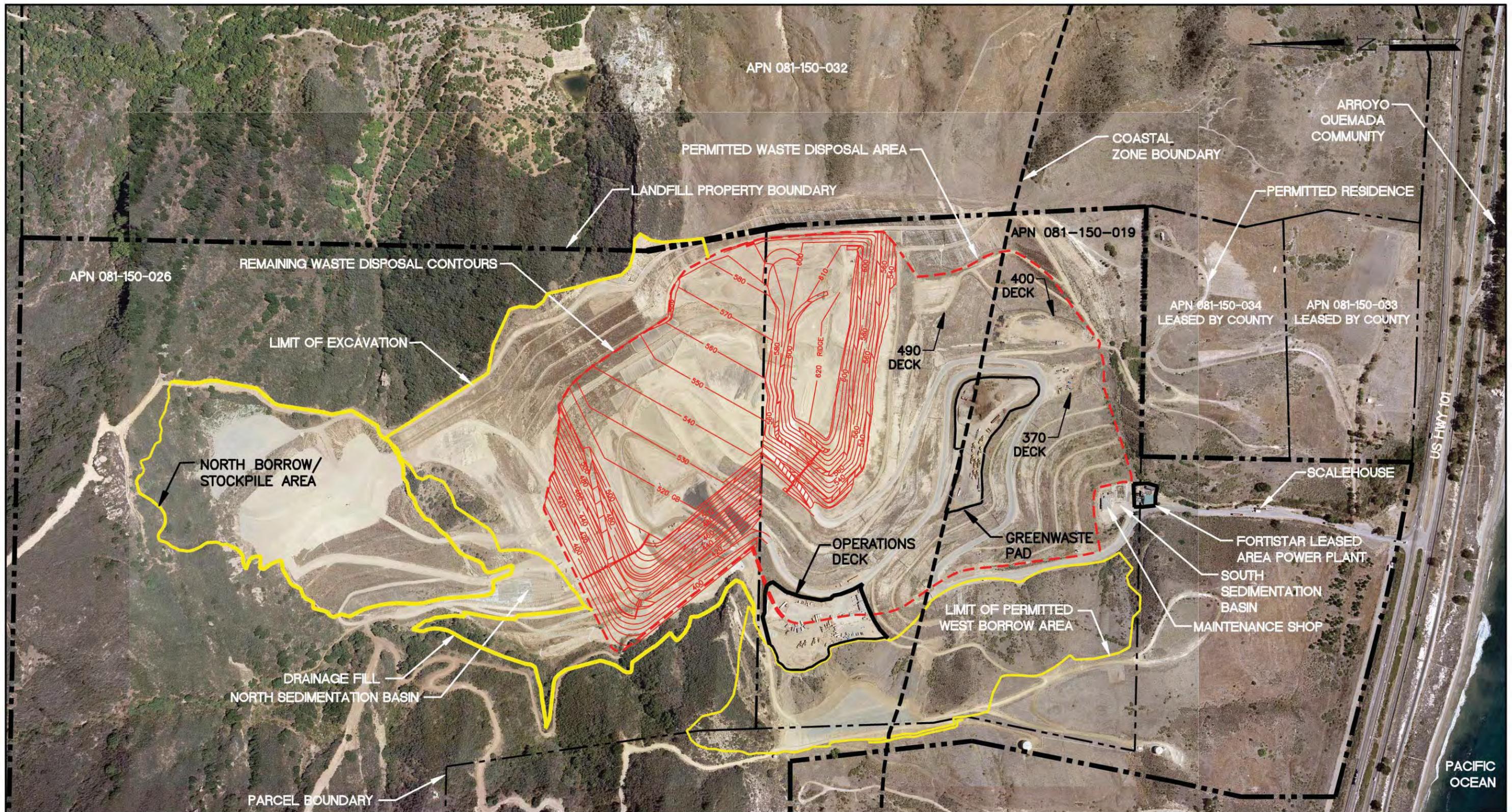
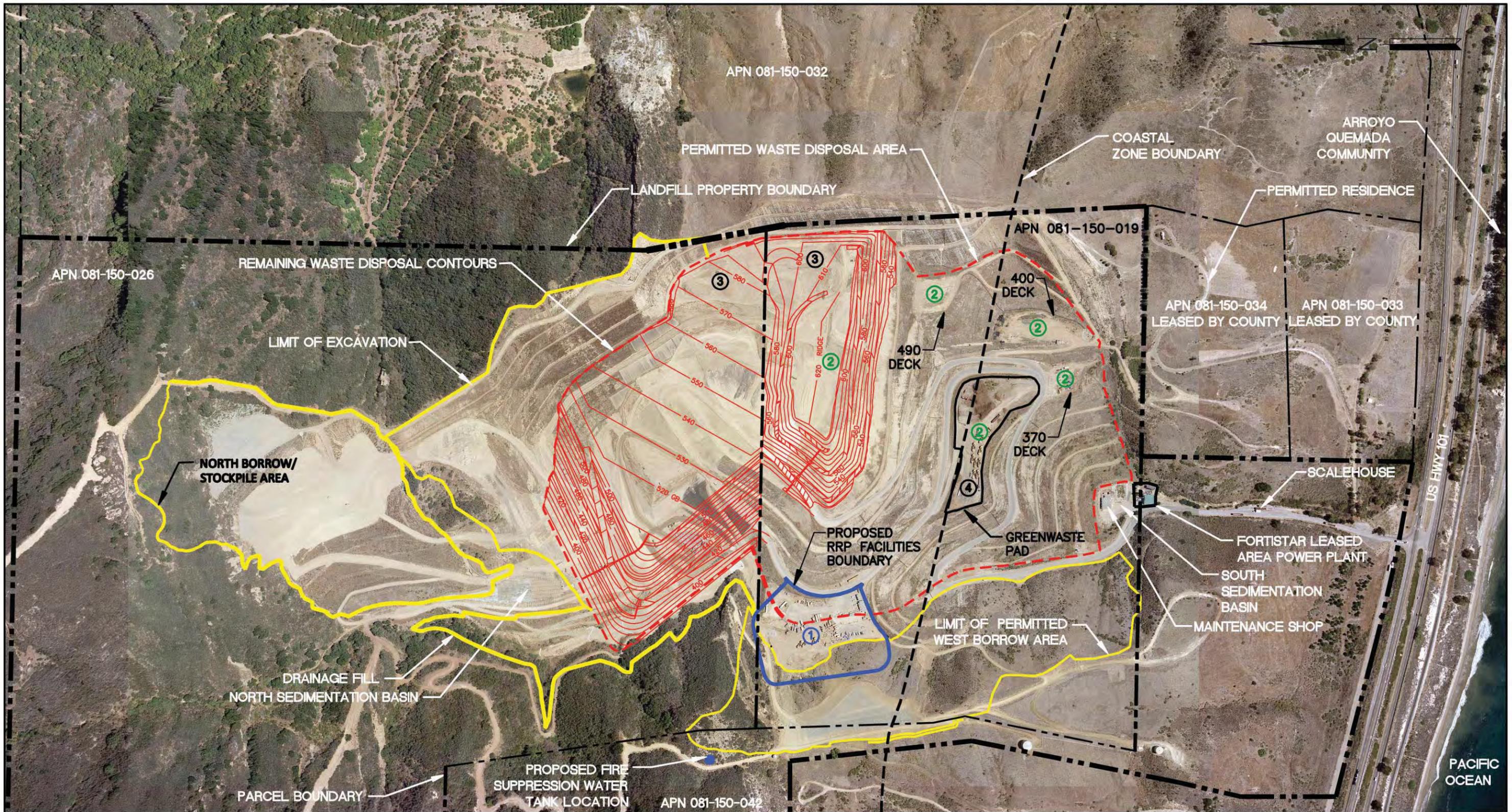


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ARROYO HONDO

Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project
Figure 2 - Tajiguas Landfill Site Map



- LEGEND**
- ① PROPOSED RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT
 - ② POSSIBLE DIGESTATE CURING LOCATIONS
 - ③ POSSIBLE LOCATION OF RELOCATED LANDFILL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITY
 - ④ LOCATION OF TEMPORARY OPERATIONS FACILITIES AND ABOVE GROUND FUEL TANKS DURING RRP CONSTRUCTION

**Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project
Figure 3 - Landfill and Resource Recovery
Project Site Map**

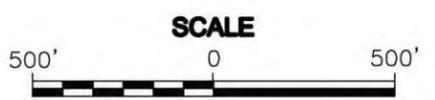
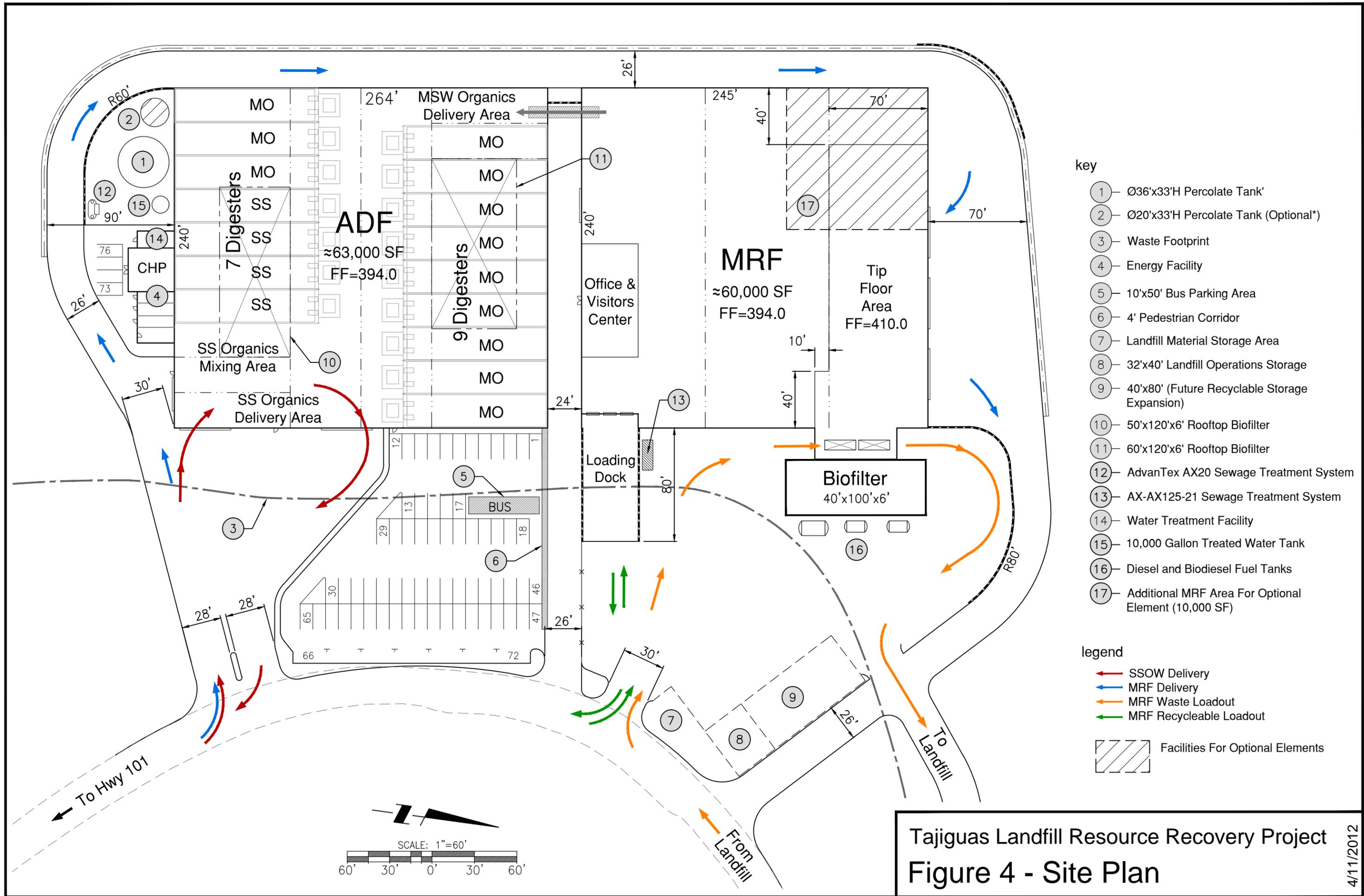
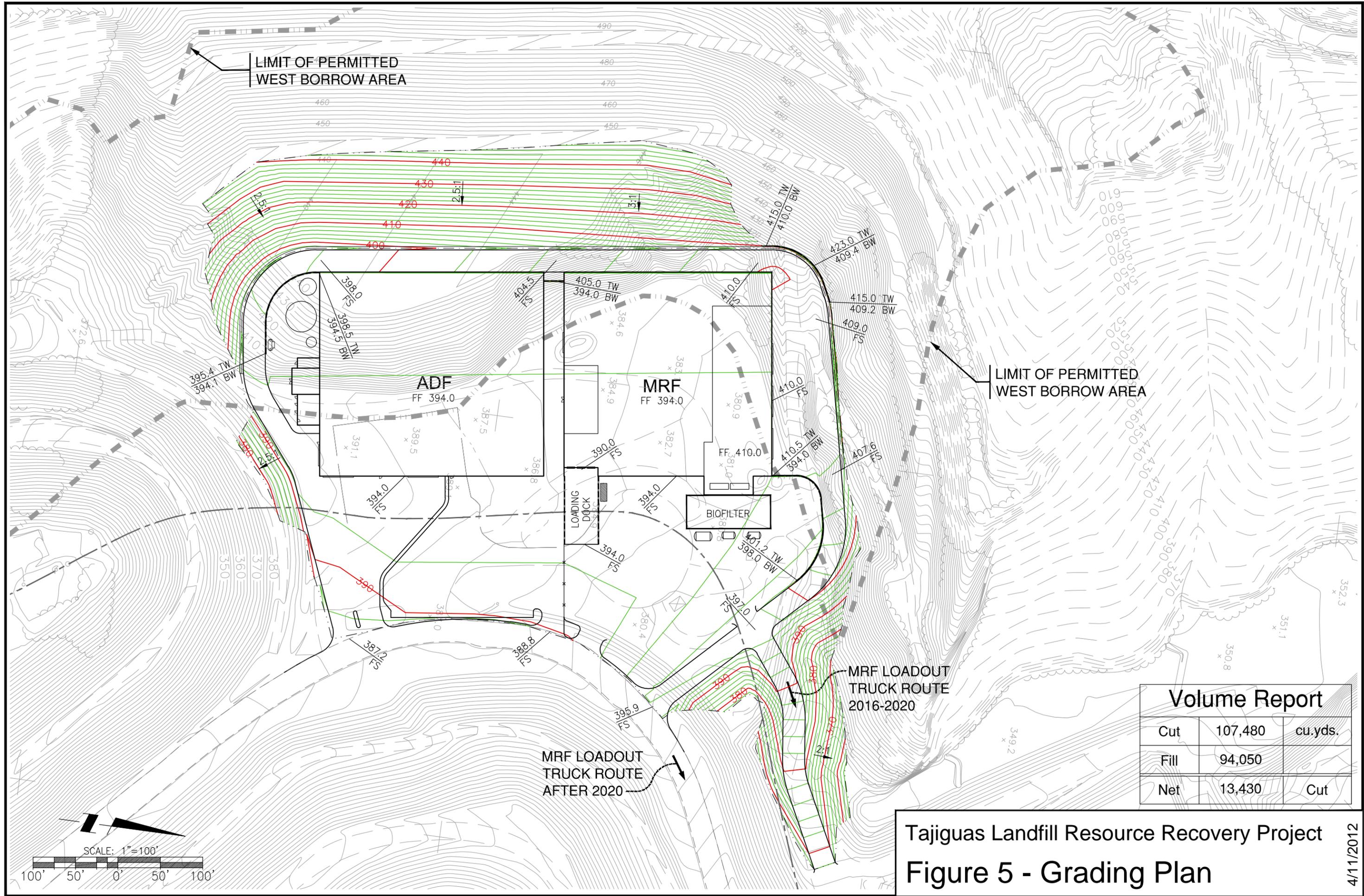


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Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project
Figure 4 - Site Plan
 4/11/2012



| Volume Report | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Cut | 107,480 | cu.yds. |
| Fill | 94,050 | |
| Net | 13,430 | Cut |

Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project
Figure 5 - Grading Plan

2/11/2012

