

Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project

Improving Landfill Design/Restoring the Environment



Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division

Proposed Project

- More Efficient Design and Operations
- Improved Environmental Conditions
- Reduced Landfill Construction Costs
- Major Restoration on the Gaviota Coast

Project Location



**Tajiguas
Landfill**

**Baron
Ranch**

Background

- Landfill operations began in 1967
- Expansion approved/permitted in 2002/2003
- Baron Ranch purchased in 1991
- Baron Ranch developed with orchards
- Both sites contain breeding populations of the California red-legged frog

California Red-legged Frog



California Red-legged Frog Habitat

Tajiguas Landfill



California Red-legged Frog Habitat

Baron Ranch



California Red-legged Frog Habitat

Tajiguas Landfill



California Red-legged Frog Habitat

Baron Ranch



Proposed Project

Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration

- Removal of the man-made ponds (in-channel sedimentation basins)
- Change configuration of waste footprint
- Reduces grading by 1.3 million cubic yards
- Modify drainage
- Improve out-of-channel sedimentation basin

- Does not expand the landfill

Permitted Configuration

December 2008
Project No. 0802-0331



SOURCE: SWT Engineering

padre
associates, inc.
ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS &
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS
Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration
and Baron Ranch Restoration Project

Base Map: Aerial Photograph - September 2007

PERMITTED FINAL LANDFILL FILL PLAN
FIGURE 3-3

Proposed Configuration

December 2008
Project No. 0802-0331



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Base Map: Aerial Photograph - September 2007

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PROPOSED LANDFILL FINAL FILL PLAN

FIGURE 3-4



Proposed Project (cont.)

Baron Ranch Restoration

- Baron Ranch Habitat Restoration Plan
- California Red-Legged Frog Management Plan
- Steelhead Passage Enhancements

Baron Ranch Habitat Restoration

38 acres of restoration

- ✓ Remove invasive species
- ✓ Create new riparian buffer
- ✓ Create new freshwater marsh
- ✓ Create new upland habitat
- ✓ Create new breeding pools
- ✓ Enhance tributaries

... Long-term preservation





Restoration Opportunities



Restoration Opportunities



Restoration Opportunities



Restoration Opportunities



Project Benefits

- More Efficient Design and Operations
- Improved Environmental Conditions
- Reduced Landfill Construction Costs by \$3 million
- Major Restoration on the Gaviota Coast (38 acres)

Public Outreach/CEQA Process

- Consultation with Regulatory Agencies
- Notice of Preparation (February 7, 2008)
- Public Scoping Meeting
- Landfill Tours
- DEIR Public Review (received comments)
- EIR Public Meeting (received comments)
- Prepared Final EIR (respond to comments)
- Board Hearing (today)

CEQA Beneficial (Class IV) Impacts

- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources

CEQA Alternatives

- Eight alternatives identified
 - Four alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail
 - Four alternatives reviewed in detail
- Proposed project determined to be Environmentally Superior
- Alternatives analysis also required for Army Corps of Engineers Permit

EIR Comments and Responses

- **Visual Impacts**
 - ✓ No increase in visual impacts

- **Archaeological Resources**
 - ✓ No resources in the project area at Tajiguas
 - ✓ Archaeological monitoring at Baron Ranch

- **Baron Ranch Trail**
 - ✓ Not a part of the project and not required for mitigation
 - ✓ RRWMD working with Parks independently to implement trail

- **Timing of Frog Relocation and Habitat Restoration**
 - ✓ Timing doesn't allow for restoration to occur prior to reconfiguration
 - ✓ Timing is critical because waste continues to come
 - ✓ Permitted maintenance activities require annual relocation of frogs
 - ✓ Temporal loss of habitat is acknowledged
 - ✓ Department has demonstrated successful restoration

Permitted Basin Maintenance



Permitted Basin Maintenance



Landfill construction takes time



Landfill construction takes time



Landfill construction takes time



...Our community's waste keeps coming



Ongoing Restoration Projects



Ongoing Restoration Projects



Ongoing Restoration Projects



Ongoing Restoration Projects



Comparison of Environmental Impacts

- 2002 EIR Significant and Unavoidable (Class I) Impacts
 - Biological Resources
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Resources
 - Visual Resources
- Statement of Overriding Considerations made for significant impacts
- Current EIR identifies similar Class I impacts requiring Overriding Considerations

Significant and Unavoidable (Class I) Impacts

Biological Resources

- Impacts to sensitive plants, specimen native trees, and sensitive wildlife (project specific and cumulative)
- ✓ Mitigation:
Baron Ranch Restoration Plan, CRLF
Management Plan and other impact specific
measures

Significant and Unavoidable (Class I) Impacts

Air Quality

- Cumulative air quality impacts
- ✓ Mitigation:
Continue existing measures from the 2002 Final EIR (01-EIR-05)

Overriding Considerations

Significant impacts are acceptable due to:

- Provision of Safe, Reliable and Cost Effective Solid Waste Management
- Improved Construction and Operational Conditions and Reduced Costs
- Improved Sediment Control and Surface Water Quality Protection
- Improved Groundwater Quality Protection
- Reduced Earthmoving Air Quality Emissions

Significant but Mitigable (Class II) Impacts

Biological Resources

- Loss of wetlands (project specific and cumulative), sensitive wildlife, sensitive and nesting birds and bats, habitat loss (cumulative)
- ✓ Mitigation:
Baron Ranch Restoration Plan, pre-construction surveys and relocation, avoidance of breeding season or surveys for and protection of active nests, avoidance of maternity colonies or surveys for and protection of colonies

Significant but Mitigable (Class II) Impacts

Cultural Resources

- Restoration may impact unreported buried cultural resources
- ✓ Mitigation:
Worker education, monitoring sensitive areas and Phase 2 (evaluation) and Phase 3 (data recovery if needed)

Class II Impact Findings

- Identified impacts are mitigated to a level of insignificance with implementation of proposed mitigation measures

Summary

- No expansion of landfill capacity
- Class I impacts similar to approved project
- Reconfigures landfill shape



Summary

- Reduces earth moving by 1.3 million CY
- Reduces construction costs by \$3 million
- Restores 38 acres of habitat



Recommendations

- Certify Subsequent EIR
- Adopt Findings and Overriding Considerations
- Approve Project
- Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program
- Approve other recommended actions to further project development

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