

### **INTRODUCTION**

*This section analyzes the solid waste impacts of the RiverPark Specific Plan Project. Each City within Ventura County has the responsibility to develop plans and strategies to accommodate solid waste generated by uses within the County in a safe and cost effective manner. In the past, solid waste was simply collected and disposed of in landfills. Today, in response to State mandates, economic factors, and the difficulty in approving new landfills, alternative methods of collection, transfer, disposal, source reduction, and recycling are prominent methods of dealing with solid waste. The prediction of the type of disposal and recycling options available in the future is difficult due to the changing dynamics of this industry. This is especially true given the time span for build-out of the Specific Plan, and the rapid development of new technologies and markets for recycled materials, which contribute to the reduction in solid waste entering local landfills. The methodology utilized to conduct this analysis assumes that no new landfills or other means of solid waste disposal (i.e., co-generation plants, transfer and recycling stations) will be constructed during the course of Specific Plan build-out.*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

#### **Regional Solid Waste Plans and Policies (AB 939)**

Solid waste disposal is an issue of regional and statewide significance. The traditional method of landfill disposal is becoming increasingly problematic, as landfills approach or reach their capacity and the ability to find and develop new landfill sites is complicated by numerous environmental, regulatory and political concerns. Because of the environmental concerns associated with landfills, Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) was enacted by the state legislature to add Section 40050, et seq., to the State Public Resources Code. This legislation, otherwise known as the California Integrated Waste Management Act, mandates that all local and county governments adopt a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to identify means of reducing the amount of solid waste reaching landfills. The law requires that landfill disposal be reduced by 25 percent by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000.

## Countywide Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste disposal in Ventura County is a competitive and dynamic system and, theoretically, waste can be disposed at any landfill depending upon the preference of individual solid waste haulers and other factors, such as proximity to the collection area, tipping fees, and daily capacities at the landfill sites. Currently, most solid waste collected within Ventura County by public and private haulers is disposed of in the County. However, this does not guarantee that solid waste haulers do not or would not take solid wastes outside the County. Solid waste management in Ventura County no longer focuses on “waste sheds,” or fixed areas that dispose of their wastes at a particular landfill. For the same reasons, solid waste disposal planning is also no longer done on the basis of population forecasts.

Solid waste generated within Ventura County was historically disposed of at three major landfills: Bailard, Simi Valley, and Toland Road Landfills. Solid waste generated within the City of Oxnard was disposed of at the Bailard landfill until the closure of this facility in August of 1996. The Bailard landfill closed because the limits on solid waste flows contained in the Conditional Use Permit and Solid Waste Permit under which the landfill operates were reached.

In response to legislative mandates to reduce the waste stream and to address the need for solid waste disposal facilities, the City of Oxnard has constructed the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station. This facility opened concurrent with the closure of the Bailard Landfill. Solid waste is transported to this facility where all recyclables are extracted and stored for sale.<sup>1</sup> Non-recyclables are disposed of at the Simi Valley and Toland Road Landfills, although alternative landfill sites located in Los Angeles County or other counties may ultimately receive waste from this facility, including the Chiquita Canyon Landfill near Santa Clarita.<sup>2</sup> The two primary options for disposal are discussed below.

The Toland Road Landfill is a class II municipal landfill located north of Highway 126, between the cities of Santa Paula and Fillmore. This landfill underwent a vertical and lateral expansion to maintain continuity in public waste disposal after the closure of the Bailard Landfill. The landfill is now fully permitted to receive a maximum of 1,500 tons per day. The landfill began its expanded operations in August of 1996. This expansion extends the lifespan of the landfill by 31 years, with closure projected to occur in the year 2027.<sup>3</sup> The County of Ventura Conditional Use Permit (CUP)

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<sup>1</sup> City of Oxnard (<http://www.ci.oxnard.ca.us/refuse/refusedelnorte.html>) April, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Chi Hermann, Ventura Regional Sanitation District, April 4, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

requires that the operator can only accept waste generated within the County, with the minor exception of a small amount of waste generated in Carpinteria.

The Simi Valley Landfill is a private landfill operated by Waste Management Inc., of California. The CUP for this landfill permits a maximum of 3,000 tons per day of solid waste to be disposed, with operation allowed until the year 2004. The landfill averages approximately 2,000 tons per day. Approximately 9 million cubic yards of available space remain at the landfill, which equates to a remaining lifespan of more than 8 years at maximum daily tonnage or approximately 12 years at the current disposal rate. A new permit application must be filed by the year 2004 in order to allow the landfill to reach its total lifespan described above.<sup>4</sup>

## **City of Oxnard Solid Waste Plans and Policies**

### ***Source Reduction and Recycling***

In 1991, the City adopted an SRRE to provide a comprehensive strategy to meet the mandates of AB 939. Waste reduction programs from the SRRE that are being implemented include recycling programs, re-use programs, and regional materials recovery. The principal components of the City's SRRE include:

- Non-procurement efforts by the City of Oxnard, for example, to use double-sided copying of its documents, purchase durable beverage containers, etc.
- Educational programs to inform the public of source reduction alternatives, including formal in-school programs, fliers and public workshops.
- Curbside recycling in the City's residential zones.
- Multi-Family and Commercial Recycling Programs.
- City Parks and Recreation Department works with developers to identify waste reduction and recycling opportunities in their landscape and facility designs.
- Yard Waste Collection Programs.
- Awards program that provides public recognition to businesses, organizations, community groups, etc., which excel in source reduction and recycling efforts.

In support of the City's efforts to reduce the volume of solid waste entering local landfills, a Special Use Permit for a Regional Materials Recovery and Waste Transfer Facility (MRF) was approved in June

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<sup>4</sup> Interview with Frank Kiesler, District Manager, Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling, March 22, 2001.

1993. On July 25, 1995, the City Council approved the location of the MRF at the corner of Sturgis Road and Del Norte Road. The facility opened in August of 1996.

The MRF is an integral part of the source reduction and recycling program. The principal activity of the facility is to remove recoverable material before transferring the refuse to a landfill for disposal. The material recovery portion of the facility handles all grades of recyclable commodities for which there is a resale market. Typical recyclable materials include aluminum, glass, papers of all grades, metals, plastics, wood, and yard waste. The permitted capacity of the MRF is 2,780 tons per day. Other features of the facility include a buy-back center, administrative offices, and a recyclable household hazardous waste collection center that collects batteries, antifreeze, used motor oil, oil filters, and water based paint.<sup>5</sup>

### ***Other Relevant City Solid Waste Policies***

The *Household Hazardous Waste Element* (HHWE) for the City of Oxnard seeks to maximize the removal of household hazardous waste (HHW) from the waste stream, thereby enhancing the environment and quality of life.

Short-term objectives of the HHWE include: reduction of illegal disposal of HHWs; to the extent possible, recycle oil, paint, auto batteries and antifreeze through annual HHW collection days or permanent centers; investigate the use of mobile reclamation facilities; and, expand public education to ensure proper disposal and use of less environmentally hazardous products.

Medium-term objectives of the HHWE include: development of standards and public controls that require solid waste facilities to adhere to monitoring principles and procedures which will deter the illegal disposal of HHW; attempt to promote the development of a regional HHW facility; and, expand and promote educational programs regarding proper disposal of HHW and the overall reduction in the use of toxic materials.

Within the *2020 General Plan*, the *Public Facilities Element* seeks to reduce the volume of solid waste requiring disposal at local landfills and to encourage recycling by: utilizing resource recovery to reduce the amount of solid waste requiring disposal; by working cooperatively with the Ventura Regional Sanitation District (VRSD), and other Ventura County cities in support of voluntary recycling programs; and to establish a regional recycling facility or facilities in Ventura County; requiring

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<sup>5</sup> City of Oxnard (<http://www.ci.oxnard.ca.us/refuse/refusedelnorte.html>) April, 2001.

applicants for discretionary development approval to employ practices that reduce the quantities of wastes generated and promote resource recovery; and implementing or participating in appropriate source reduction and recycling programs to meet mandated waste reduction of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000 in accordance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.

### **City of Oxnard Solid Waste Disposal**

The City of Oxnard provides refuse and recycling collection service for both residential, commercial, and industrial accounts within the City limits. Solid waste collected from commercial and industrial accounts generates the highest volume of wastes (63 percent of all waste), compared to the residential (37 percent).<sup>6</sup>

## **PROJECT IMPACTS**

### **Thresholds of Significance**

The City of Oxnard considers the impact of a project on solid waste collection services and disposal facilities to be significant if:

- The project solid waste disposal stream would be reduced less than the applicable waste reduction target of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent past the year 2000.

### **Short-Term Construction Waste**

Construction within the proposed RiverPark Specific Plan Area would begin in 2002 and is anticipated to continue through the year 2020. Development of individual development projects within the Specific Plan Area would temporarily generate solid waste during the construction of the proposed structures. As build-out of the Specific Plan occurs, increasing amounts of solid waste would also be generated on a recurring and long-term basis. Where these solid wastes are disposed and how they are recycled is economically driven. As previously discussed, solid waste disposal in Ventura County is competitive and dynamic and, theoretically, waste can be disposed at any landfill, depending upon the preference of individual solid waste haulers and other factors, such as proximity to the collection area, tipping fees, and daily capacities at the landfill sites. Furthermore, the amount of solid waste entering landfills over the long term versus the amount generated would be based upon a number of variables, including market demand for recyclables (fluctuations in prices for recyclables will

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<sup>6</sup> California Integrated Waste Management Board. Jurisdiction Profile for City of Oxnard. (<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile1.asp?RG=C&JURID=356&JUR=Oxnard>), March 2001.

determine their types and quantities), product packaging, utilization of reusable products (e.g., coffee mugs versus paper cups), and disposal alternatives (e.g., composting or incineration within co-generation plants). Therefore, based on such uncertainties, it is difficult to determine the exact amount of waste that projects would contribute to landfill waste streams and its ultimate disposal location. Nonetheless, an attempt is made in the following discussion to identify the amount of solid waste that would be generated by the proposed Specific Plan during demolition and construction.

Site preparation and construction activities would generate an estimated total of approximately 52,066 cubic yards over the build-out period for the Specific Plan assuming no diversion of construction wastes. Construction generation rates are based on 15 cubic yards of waste per residential unit. Construction waste generation rates are based on a factor of 15 cubic yards of waste per residential unit, and 70 cubic yards of waste for every 20,000 square feet of commercial land use.<sup>7</sup> Wastes generated during build-out will include scrap lumber, packaging material, plastics, and inert wastes (i.e., wastes that are not likely to produce leachates of environmental concern, such as dirt, concrete, asphalt, rocks, building materials, yard trimmings, stumps, tree limbs, and leaves).

Generally, waste generation typically occurs over short time periods and ceases following completion of the construction phase. Waste generated during construction of the project would be processed at the City's MRF. This facility would separate recyclables thereby reducing the waste stream entering local landfills. As described above, the Toland Road Landfill is the most likely candidates to accept waste processed by the MRF. With the recent expansion of the Toland landfill the operation of this facility has been extended to the year 2027. Given the present and expected future availability of landfill space at the Simi Valley and Toland Road Landfill, the incremental nature of solid waste generated during construction, and the recycling of waste at the newly opened MRF, no significant impacts to solid waste disposal facilities are expected during construction of the Specific Plan.

### Operational Impacts

Once fully developed and fully occupied, approximately 15,132 tons of solid waste per year would be generated by the permitted uses on the Specific Plan Area, based upon generation rates developed by the Ventura County Solid Waste Management Division. **Table 4.10.5-1** illustrates the amount of solid waste generated by type of use. Waste composition is expected to consist of cardboard and plastic materials used in product packaging, along with aluminum cans, glass, food wastes, and backyard green trimmings.

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<sup>7</sup> David Gordon Wilson, *Handbook of Solid Waste Management*, 1997.

**Table 4.10.5-1**  
**Estimated Volume of Solid Waste Generated by Permitted Uses**

Use	Generation Factor <sup>1</sup> (tons/year)	Square Feet or # of Units	Waste Generated (tons/year)	Material Diverted (tons/year)	Waste Disposed in Landfill (tons/year)	% of Waste Diverted (tons/year)
Single-family Residential	2.04	1,477 DU	2,862	1,889	973	66%
Multi-family Residential	1.17	1,328 DU	1,589	1,049	540	66%
Retail	0.0024	3 million SF	1,542	1,018	524	66%
Eating and Drinking	0.0108	477,500 SF	5,157	3,404	1,753	66%
Hotel and Motel	0.0053	696,960 SF	2,703	1,784	919	66%
Office	0.0014	1.7 million SF	1,113	735	378	66%
Education and Schools	0.0013	1.8 million SF	166	109	56	66%
<b>Total</b>			<b>15,132</b>	<b>9,987</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>66%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, Guidelines for Waste Treatment/Disposal-Solid Waste, November 1992.

It is noted that new development projects are required to cooperate with the city-wide programs and to implement site-specific source reduction, recycling and re-use programs, as well. Tables 4.10.5-1 and also identifies the volume of solid waste which is estimated to be diverted and sold in conformance with the City's recycling program. All waste would be transported and handled at the Del Norte MRF. This facility currently accepts an approximate daily volume of 1,200 tons per day, which is about 43 percent below the permitted capacity of 2,780 tons per day.<sup>8</sup> As described above, a total of 15,132 tons per year of waste would be generated annually at build-out of the Specific Plan with the permitted uses. This amounts to an average of 41.5 tons per day for build-out with permitted uses and 55.6 tons per day of solid waste for build-out with conditional uses. When these numbers are added to the 1,200 tons of waste presently sorted on a daily basis by the Del Norte Facility, a total of 1,241.5 tons of waste per day would be sorted with the build-out of the permitted uses and 1,255.6 tons of waste per day for the build-out with permitted uses. As can be seen, this is substantially below the capacity of this facility, and no significant impacts to the facility are expected.

On February 23, 2000, the California Integrated Waste Management Board approved the City's diversion rate at 66 percent.<sup>9</sup> This is above the 50 percent diversion rate required by the City of Oxnard in conformance with AB 939. Because the diversion rate of the City of Oxnard is above the required by AB 939, the solid waste generated by the project will not result in a significant impact on the City's collection and recycling system or landfill capacity.

<sup>8</sup> Personal communication with Mr. Jay Duncan, Recycling Manager, City of Oxnard Waste Reduction & Education Program, March 12, 2001.

<sup>9</sup> City of Oxnard Waste Reduction & Education Program. (<http://www.ci.oxnard.ca.us/refuse/refuse.html>), March 2001.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Construction of all the related projects on the City's current project list and build-out of the Uses allowed by the City's 2020 General Plan will generate additional solid waste. The City's SRRE programs have thus far been successful in reducing the City's total volume of solid wastes requiring landfill disposal. With the success of the MRF, the city-wide solid waste 66 percent diversion rate is above the required 50 percent diversion rate. Further, any related or future projects are required to comply with the City's SRRE programs. This would ensure the continued effort toward source reduction and recycling. Continued implementation of the SRRE programs, operation of the MRF and cooperation by new development projects in implementing site-specific solid waste management programs are expected to achieve the mandates of AB 939 on a citywide basis. As such, no significant cumulative impacts will result.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required as no significant impacts have been identified.

## **UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS**

No unavoidable significant solid waste impacts will result from the RiverPark Project.