



County of Santa Cruz

Department of Community Development and Infrastructure

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NOTICE

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Interested Parties
All Recipients on the Distribution List

Lead Agency: County of Santa Cruz

Contact: Nicole Steel, Project Manager
701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz CA 95060
(831) 454-5139, BuenaVistaProject@santacruzcountyca.gov

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
and Scoping Meeting

Project Title: Buena Vista Landfill Redevelopment Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the County of Santa Cruz (County) will be the Lead Agency and will host a scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to assess the potential project impacts of the project described below on the environment, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS to solicit public input on environmental concerns and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR for the Buena Vista Landfill Redevelopment Project (Project). Responsible agencies may need to use the EIR when considering permits or other approvals for the project, and trustee agencies should plan to review and comment on the EIR with respect to trust resources within their jurisdiction.

The focus of this notice and the scoping meeting is specifically to gather input on potential environmental issues and project alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental review process, not the merits of the project itself or the project design.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT IS to ensure an orderly landfill closure program that meets State requirements and provides on-going solid waste handling capabilities to allow the

County to meet State required waste management goals for waste reduction, source separation, materials recycling, and organics diversion.

PUBLIC INPUT DUE DATE: Written comments should be submitted or postmarked to the locations below within 30 days of the receipt of this Notice, as provided by State law, and thus should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2024. Please include the commenter's name, agency, or organization (if applicable), phone number, and email (typed or written legibly) in your response. The focus of the NOP and your comments is specifically to gather input on potential environmental issues and project alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR, not the merits of the project itself or the project design.

Nicole Steel, Project Manager
County of Santa Cruz, Department of Public Works
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, California 95060
Email: BuenaVistaProject@santacruzcountyca.gov
Comment form on project website: bit.ly/buena-vista-comment

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

The Buena Vista Landfill Redevelopment Project site is the County's Buena Vista Landfill, located at the intersection of Harkins Slough Road and Buena Vista Drive in unincorporated southern Santa Cruz County, within the California Coastal Zone (Figure 1). The Buena Vista Landfill is projected to reach its capacity between 2030-2034 depending on the rate of the annual tonnage of waste disposed at the landfill. The purpose of the redevelopment Project is to ensure an orderly landfill closure program that meets State requirements and provides on-going solid waste handling capabilities to allow the County to meet State required waste management goals for waste reduction, source separation, materials recycling, and organics diversion.

The proposed Project includes three primary components: 1) Developing two new waste transfer stations at the existing landfill site to implement transfer station operations for waste handling and transport; 2) Developing an organics diversion facility to support organics waste processing and diversion; and 3) Implementing the landfill closure plan once site capacity is reached. The Project is planned to be implemented by 2028.

The EIR will include an evaluation and disclosure of the potential impacts associated with the Project, in accordance with State law and the CEQA Guidelines. As required by CEQA, the County will also consider other project alternatives, which must meet most of the project objectives while substantially lessening or avoiding any of the significant impacts of the proposed project. As part of this scoping process, the County is soliciting input from agencies and the public on additional alternatives that should be considered. Comments regarding suggested alternatives should include a clear description in narrative and graphic formats to the extent possible, and the commenter's thoughts on how it would reduce impacts.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

Although, at this very early stage of the environmental review process, it is impossible to know with certainty the precise nature and extent of the environmental effects that will be identified as preparation of the Draft EIR gets underway, it is possible to identify key categories of environmental effects that the proposed Project may affect. These include Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Transportation/Circulation, and Tribal Resources.

SCOPING MEETING:

Pursuant to the public participation goals of CEQA, as set forth in particular in Public Resources Code section 21083.9, subdivision (a), the County will host an EIR Scoping Meeting at the date, time and location indicated below to share information about the project and gather additional input on the scope of the EIR analysis. The meeting will be hybrid, whereby people may attend either in person or virtually.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024, 5:00 PM

Aptos Library Community Room
7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos, California 95003

Click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86862334085>

Meeting ID: 868 6233 4085

Call-in Options via Telephone:

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 868 6233 4085

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kQPNM3WzJ>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, specifically a communication disability, and you would like to request a reasonable modification or accommodation to fully participate in the meeting via videoconference or telephone, please contact the Department of Public Works at (831) 454-2160 or nicole.steel@santacruzcounty.us at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to discuss your accessibility needs. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda and presentation in an alternative format.

Figure 1. Buena Vista Landfill Redevelopment Project Area Map

DRAWN BY: SRS DATE: 02/01/2024 FILE NAME: BUENA VISTA LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS

