



5.19 Solid Waste



5.19 SOLID WASTE

5.19.1 PURPOSE

This section identifies solid waste services within the Study Area and provides an analysis of potential impacts associated with implementation of the General Plan Update. Potential impacts are identified and mitigation measures to address potentially significant impacts are recommended, as necessary.

5.19.2 EXISTING REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Code of Federal Regulations Title 40

In cooperation with Section 4005(c)(1)(C) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Code of Federal Regulations, under Title 40 – Protection of the Environment, Chapter 1 – Environmental Protection Agency, Subchapter I Solid Wastes, the authority to regulate solid waste disposal facilities, including state programs and permits is granted to individual states.

STATE REGULATIONS

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is the State agency designated to oversee, manage, and track California's waste generated each year. CalRecycle is one of the six agencies under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). CalRecycle develops regulations to control and manage waste, for which enforcement authority is typically delegated to the local government. CalRecycle works jointly with local governments to implement regulations and fund programs.

California Integrated Waste Management Act

In 1989, the Legislature adopted the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) to “reduce, recycle, and re-use solid waste generated in the State to the maximum extent feasible.” The term “integrated waste management” refers to the use of a variety of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle the municipal solid waste stream with the least adverse impact on human health and the environment. AB 939 establishes a waste management hierarchy as follows:

- Source Reduction;
- Recycling;
- Composting;
- Transformation; and
- Disposal.



The law also requires that each county prepare a new Integrated Waste Management Plan and each city prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) by July 1, 1991. The SRRE is required to identify how each jurisdiction would meet the mandatory State waste diversion goal of 50 percent by the year 2000. AB 939 mandated that California's 450 jurisdictions (i.e., cities, counties, and regional waste management compacts), implement waste management programs aimed at a 25 percent diversion rate by 1995 and a 50 percent diversion rate by 2000. If the 50 percent goal was not met by the end of 2000, the jurisdiction was required to submit a petition for a goal extension to CalRecycle. SB 2202 made a number of changes to the municipal solid waste diversion requirements under the Integrated Waste Management Act. These changes included a revision to the statutory requirement for 50 percent diversion of solid waste to clarify that local governments shall continue to divert 50 percent of all solid waste on and after January 1, 2000. California jurisdictions are required to submit annual reports to CalRecycle to update their progress in reducing waste set forth in AB 939 goals.

Assembly Bill 341

On May 7, 2012, the Office of Administrative Law approved AB 341 to adopt regulations for mandatory commercial recycling. The law addresses recycling requirements for businesses that generate 4.0 or more cubic yards of commercial solid waste per week and multifamily residential dwellings with five or more units, regardless of the amount of waste generated. In addition, local jurisdictions would need to implement a program that includes education, outreach, monitoring, and reporting. The regulations are designed to allow jurisdictions flexibility to utilize their existing tools and solid waste management infrastructure to inform the businesses of the State requirement and to follow up with businesses that are not recycling. In addition to mandatory commercial recycling, AB 341 sets a Statewide goal of 75 percent disposal reduction by the year 2020. This is not written as a 75 percent diversion mandate for each jurisdiction. CalRecycle would evaluate the jurisdiction's implementation of its outreach, education, and monitoring programs during its AB 939 review of the jurisdiction's SRRE.

LOCAL REGULATIONS

Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code

Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code (Municipal Code) Article IV, Construction and Demolition Debris Diversion, promotes the recycling of construction and demolition debris in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to meet the City's obligations under AB 939.

Municipal Code Section 5.06.720, *Minimum construction and demolition debris diversion requirements*, requires all covered projects to reuse, recycle, or divert the minimum percentage of construction and demolition debris generated from landfills or disposal sites. With the subsequent adoption of the California Green Building Code, the minimum diversion rate is set at 65 percent. In addition, Municipal Code Section 9.04.090, *Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities*, established provisions for the collection, storage, and removal of solid waste from non-residential and multi-family establishments and for the redemption and recycling of reusable materials and to make such facilities convenient to the consumer in order to reduce the solid waste stream to landfills and increase the



recycling of reusable materials. The recycling facilities are intended to encourage recycling services by providing a comprehensive and easily understood program of permitting and regulating such uses.

5.19.3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita is currently contracted with CR&R Incorporated Environmental Services for solid waste and recycling collection services for residential and commercial waste. The City provides residential collection services for single- and multi-family units as follows:

- Residential customers are entitled to four bulky item pickups (material that does not fit into the trash container) per year at no additional cost. A bulky item pickup consists of a maximum of four items per pickup or up to 20 bags of green waste.
- Residential customers are entitled to the collection of electronic waste at no additional cost.
- Residential customers may receive an additional recycling and green waste container at no additional cost. Additional trash and three or more recycling or green waste containers may be requested at an additional expense.

In addition, commercial collection services are provided in the City as follows:

- Commercial customers that do not have space for or do not generate enough waste to require bin service may request residential size containers and be charged at the approved rate.
- Recycling bins and containers are available to commercial customers at no additional cost.
- Food waste recycling containers are available to restaurants and businesses. Containers are provided for interior and exterior collection of food waste. The food waste would be turned into compost for reuse.
- CR&R provides roll-off box containers to registered nonprofit groups for the collection of recyclables at no charge. All proceeds from the sale of the recovered recyclable material are remitted to the nonprofit group at least quarterly.

According to CalRecycle, in 2016, the City disposed of approximately 31,918 tons of solid waste to the following regional disposal facilities:¹

- Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill;

1 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), *Jurisdictional Disposal By Facility*, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/Viewer.aspx?P=ReportYear%3d2016%26ReportName%3dReportEDRSJurisDisposalByFacility%26OriginJurisdictionIDs%3d614>, accessed April 26, 2018.



- Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill;
- Azusa Land Reclamation Company Landfill;
- El Sobrante Landfill; and
- Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill.

Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill is primarily responsible for waste generated from the City. Of the 31,918 tons of solid waste generated by the City in 2016, approximately 89.0 percent was sent to the Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill and 10 percent was sent to the Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill. The remaining waste was distributed among the Azusa Land Reclamation Company Landfill, El Sobrante Landfill, and Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill. The maximum daily throughput, remaining capacity, and anticipated closure date of these landfills are provided in Table 5.19-1, Landfills Serving the City.

**Table 5.19-1
Landfills Serving the City**

Landfill/Location	Maximum Daily Throughput (tons per day)	Remaining Capacity (cubic yards)	Anticipated Closure Date
Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill ¹ 32250 La Pata Avenue, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675	4,000	87,384,799	2067
Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill ² 11002 Bee Canyon Access Road, Irvine, CA 92618	11,500	205,000,000	2053
Azusa Land Reclamation Company Landfill ³ 1211 West Gladstone Street, Azusa, CA 91702	8,000	51,512,201	2045
El Sobrante Landfill ⁴ 10910 Dawson Canyon Road, Corona, CA 91719	16,054	145,530,000 tons	2045
Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill ⁵ 1942 North Valencia Avenue, Brea, CA 92823	8,000	34,200,000	2021
Source:			
1 CalRecycle, <i>Facility/Site Summary Details: Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill (30-AB-0019)</i> , http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/30-AB-0019/Detail/ , accessed April 26, 2018.			
2 CalRecycle, <i>Facility/Site Summary Details: Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary LF (30-AB-0360)</i> , http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/30-AB-0360/Detail/ , accessed April 26, 2018.			
3 CalRecycle, <i>Facility/Site Summary Details: Azusa Land Reclamation Co. Landfill (19-AA-0013)</i> , http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/19-AA-0013/Detail/ , accessed April 26, 2018.			
4 CalRecycle, <i>Facility/Site Summary Details: El Sobrante Landfill (33-AA-0217)</i> , http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/33-AA-0217/Detail/ , accessed April 26, 2018.			
5 CalRecycle, <i>Facility/Site Summary Details: Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill (30-AB-0035)</i> , http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/30-AB-0035/Detail/ , accessed April 16, 2018.			

The State of California has established 50 percent as the minimum waste reduction rate for all cities. In 2015, the City had 46 diversion programs in place.² The 50 percent diversion equivalent target for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita is 7.8 pounds per resident per day and 15.9 pounds per employee per day. In 2015, the City's annual per capita

2 CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Diversion/Disposal Rate Summary (2007-Current)*, *Jurisdiction: Rancho Santa Margarita*, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/reports/diversionprogram/JurisdictionDiversionPost2006.aspx>, accessed April 26, 2018.



disposal rate was 3.6 for residents and 13.0 for employees.³ Thus, the City is currently achieving its diversion equivalent target.

Household hazardous waste is prohibited by State law to be thrown away in the garbage and is required to be disposed of properly. The City provides a list of County facilities which allows residents to dispose of their household hazardous waste items, including fertilizer, gasoline, household cleaners, medications, oil, paint, pesticides, pool chemicals, and propane.⁴

5.19.4 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist, which includes questions relating to solid waste. The issues presented in the Initial Study Environmental Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if it:

- Is served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; and/or
- Does not comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

5.19.5 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

LANDFILL CAPACITY

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY A LANDFILL WITH INSUFFICIENT PERMITTED CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROJECT'S SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL NEEDS AND WOULD COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SOLID WASTE.**

Impact Analysis: The projected growth anticipated by the General Plan Update would potentially impact solid waste disposal services and the capacity of landfill facilities that serve the City.

The General Plan Update projects a net increase of 528 dwelling units and 3,085,014 square feet of nonresidential development by 2040. Table 5.19-2, Net Increase in Solid Waste Generation, indicates that the proposed project would generate an additional 46,562 pounds per day or 23.3 tons of solid waste per day over existing conditions.

3 CalRecycle, *Jurisdiction Diversion/Disposal Rate Summary (2007-Current)*, Jurisdiction: Rancho Santa Margarita, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/reports/diversionprogram/JurisdictionDiversionPost2006.aspx>, accessed April 26, 2018.

4 City of Rancho Santa Margarita, *Household Hazardous Waste*, <https://www.cityofrsm.org/384/Household-Hazardous-Waste>, accessed April 26, 2018.



**Table 5.19-2
Net Increase in Solid Waste Generation**

Land Use	Net Development	Generation Factor ¹	Solid Waste Generation (pounds per day)
Residential	528 units	12.23 pounds per unit per day	6,457
Non-Residential	3,085,014 square feet	13 pounds per 1,000 square feet per day	40,105
Total			46,562 pounds per day or 23.3 tons per day
Source: CalRecycle, <i>Estimated Solid Waste Generation Rates</i> , https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteCharacterization/General/Rates , accessed April 26, 2018.			

As stated above, the Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill, which receives a majority of the City's solid waste has a maximum daily throughput of 4,000 tons per day with a remaining capacity of 87,384,799 cubic yards and is scheduled to remain open until 2067. Conservatively assuming all solid waste generated by the project would be taken to the Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill, the landfill would have adequate capacity to accommodate the project's 23.3 tons per day. In addition, it is more likely that project-generated solid waste would be distributed to the other landfills serving the City listed in [Table 5.19-1](#) in addition to the Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill. Therefore, project-generated solid waste would be adequately accommodated by all landfills serving the City.

In addition, compliance with City and County waste reduction programs and policies would further reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills. Individual development projects within the City would be required to comply with applicable State and local regulations, thus reducing the amount of landfill waste by at least 50 percent.

The General Plan Land Use Element also includes policies pertaining to solid waste. Land Use Element Policy 7.1 ensures all solid waste collection and disposal service providers deliver adequate services to City residents and businesses; Land Use Element Policy 7.1 encourages local programs that increase per capita reduction of solid waste to meet State mandates; and Land Use Element Policy 7.3 ensures convenient recycling collection facilities are provided to residences and businesses. Thus, the General Plan Update policies would not result in significant impacts to solid waste disposal services and facilities. Additionally, future development resulting from the implementation of the General Plan Update would be reviewed on a project-by-project basis to ensure that solid waste disposal services and landfill facilities would be available to serve the development. All development projects would be required to comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. As such, implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts.



Proposed General Plan Update Goals and Policies:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Goal 7: Ensure that local providers of solid waste collection and disposal provide sufficient, cost-effective recycling and solid waste disposal services.

Policy 7.1: Ensure solid waste collection and disposal service providers deliver adequate solid waste collection and disposal services to City residents and businesses.

Policy 7.2: Participate in local and regional programs that encourage the per capita reduction of solid waste in Rancho Santa Margarita in order to meet State mandates for waste reduction.

Policy 7.3: Provide recycling collection facilities convenient to residences and businesses.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.19.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND OTHER CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES AND LANDFILL DISPOSAL CAPACITY.**

Impact Analysis: Future development associated with the General Plan Update and associated cumulative projects within the local area would increase demand for solid waste collection and disposal services. Rancho Santa Margarita, along with cities and County lands in the surrounding area, would continue to use common landfill resources, thereby gradually reducing the capacity of local landfills.

Although the General Plan Update would not significantly impact existing landfill capacity, the increase in solid waste generation from the proposed project and related cumulative projects together could significantly impact the finite resources associated with solid waste disposal. Individual development projects and related cumulative projects would be required to meet current recycling goals, reducing the amount of solid waste requiring disposal at landfills. Future developments would be reviewed on a project-by-project basis and solid waste impacts would be evaluated based on existing and planned disposal facilities and capacities available at that time.

Similar to the proposed project, all related projects would be required to comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Pursuant to AB 939, every city and county in the State is required to divert 50 percent of solid waste generated in its jurisdiction away from landfills. Implementation of source reduction measures, such as recycling and converting waste to energy, that would be



implemented on a project-by-project basis would serve to divert solid waste away from landfills. Therefore, the contribution of the proposed project to cumulative impacts associated with increased solid waste would be less than significant.

Proposed General Plan Update Goals and Policies: Refer to the General Plan Update goals and policies cited above.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.19.7 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Solid waste impacts associated with implementation of the General Plan Update would be less than significant. No significant unavoidable solid waste impacts would occur as a result of the General Plan Update.

5.19.8 SOURCES CITED

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), Jurisdictional Disposal By Facility, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/Viewer.aspx?P=ReportYear%3d2016%26ReportName%3dReportEDRSJurisDisposalByFacility%26OriginJurisdictionIDs%3d614>, accessed April 26, 2018.

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CalRecycle, Facility/Site Summary Details: El Sobrante Landfill (33-AA-0217), <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/33-AA-0217/Detail/>, accessed April 26, 2018.

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City of Rancho Santa Margarita, Household Hazardous Waste, <https://www.cityofrsm.org/384/Household-Hazardous-Waste>, accessed April 26, 2018.