



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date:	July 18, 2024
To:	California Office of Planning and Research; Interested Agencies and Parties
Subject:	Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Meetings
Project:	North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2022020271 <i>(formerly known as the “Acton/Agua Dulce, Quartz Hill, Antelope Valley East, and Antelope Valley West Garbage Disposal Districts and/or Residential Franchise Program”)</i>
Lead Agency:	County of Los Angeles
Review Period:	July 18, 2024 – September 5, 2024

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) has been prepared for the proposed North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project (Project). The Draft EIR has been prepared by the County of Los Angeles (County), as lead agency, through the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to inform decision makers, public agencies, and members of the public of the potential significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the proposed Project. Pursuant to section 15086 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Public Works is soliciting comments from interested parties and agencies on the Draft EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project area encompasses approximately 1,419 square miles and comprises unincorporated communities in northern Los Angeles County, generally located north of the Angeles National Forest. The Project area is divided into four proposed solid waste collection service areas: (1) Acton/Agua Dulce; (2) Antelope Valley Central; (3) Antelope Valley East; and (4) Antelope Valley West. Each service area contains multiple unincorporated communities. The Project area is outlined in Figure 1, which also delineates the four proposed service areas. Pursuant to section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Project area includes properties that are enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; however, the proposed Project, which involves changes to existing solid waste collection, would not adversely affect or disturb hazardous waste sites or facilities.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed Project would implement organic waste collection and diversion services and expand recycling services in the Project area. If the Project is approved, Public Works would issue a revised¹ solicitation for waste haulers to provide services to the four proposed solid waste collection service areas. Under the proposed franchise contracts, selected solid waste hauler(s) would provide source-separated collection of three waste streams (refuse, recyclables, and organic waste including manure) for all residential and commercial customers. The selected waste hauler(s) would also provide illegal dumping pickup services within the public right-of-way and bulky item pickup upon request. This Project would support the County’s compliance with statewide targets set forth in Senate Bill (SB) 1383 pertaining to diversion of organic waste from landfills.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In February 2022, Public Works released an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the proposed Project, titled the “Acton, Agua Dulce, and Antelope Valley Garbage Disposal District or Residential Franchise Contracts IS/ND.” The IS/ND was circulated for 30 days of public review from February 11, 2022, to March 12, 2022. In response to the February 2022 IS/ND, members of the public raised concerns regarding potential fugitive dust impacts resulting from the increase in waste collection trucks traveling on unpaved roads. To address these concerns, Public Works revised the Project description such that **collection trucks would not generally travel on privately-owned and maintained unpaved roads, unless permissions were obtained from property owners and unless property owners agreed to treat**

¹ In early 2022, Public Works issued an Invitation for Bids but based on feedback from the affected communities, the Project was put on hold to reconsider the scope of work and potential environmental impacts.

the unpaved roads with dust suppressants. If such conditions were not met, customers along private, unpaved roadways would need to haul their waste containers to an agreed upon location along the public right-of-way. The revised Project was analyzed in a recirculated IS/ND, which was circulated for a 30-day public review period from June 10, 2022, to July 9, 2022. In the June 2022 IS/ND, the Project name was revised to the "Acton/Agua Dulce, Quartz Hill, Antelope Valley East, and Antelope Valley West Garbage Disposal Districts and/or Residential Franchise Program." No significant environmental impacts were identified in the June 2022 IS/ND.

Subsequent to circulation of the June 2022 IS/ND, Public Works received numerous comments expressing concerns about the feasibility of the revised Project. Specifically, property owners expressed concerns about the cost and logistics of treating private unpaved roads with dust suppressants, as well as the infeasibility of hauling their waste to the nearest public right-of-way. Based upon these comments and concerns, Public Works has revised the Project description again, such that the Project would include waste service along private unpaved roads even if such roads have not been treated with dust suppressants. Because Public Works does not have authority to control the maintenance of private roads, treatment with dust suppressants on private unpaved roads cannot be included as part of the Project or as mitigation for the Project. The proposed Project, as revised, would entail additional waste collection vehicles traveling along unpaved roads and may thereby result in potentially significant air quality impacts.

Section 15073.5, subdivision (d) of the CEQA Guidelines states: "If during the negative declaration process there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record, before the lead agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment which cannot be mitigated or avoided, the lead agency shall prepare a draft EIR and certify a final EIR prior to approving the project. It shall circulate the draft EIR for consultation and review pursuant to Sections 15086 and 15087, and advise reviewers in writing that a proposed negative declaration had previously been circulated for the project." Accordingly, Public Works has prepared a Draft EIR for the proposed Project, which has been renamed as the "North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project." While some changes to the Project description have occurred since the June 2022 IS/ND, the key parameters of the Project remain unchanged. Nevertheless, the previous ND is no longer valid because Public Works has determined that air quality impacts may be potentially significant. An updated IS checklist was released for review with the Notice of Preparation for the Draft EIR on February 2, 2023. Since release of the updated IS, Public Works has also determined that impacts to solid waste capacity may be potentially significant, and therefore this topic is also discussed in depth in the Draft EIR.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Draft EIR evaluates the potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed Project related to the resource areas of (1) Air Quality and (2) Utilities and Service Systems (only in regard to solid waste). The Draft EIR determined that vehicular travel on unpaved roads from the Project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) which would contribute to health effects associated with these air pollutants and potentially conflict with regional air quality management plans. Several mitigation strategies were considered for the Project, all of which have been rejected as infeasible. It was also determined that the proposed Project would result in a considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact regarding the need for organic waste processing capacity. There are no feasible mitigation measures to reduce this impact, but it is noted that as SB 1383 implementation continues, new and expanded infrastructure is anticipated to be built throughout the State to support the organic waste processing needs of the Project in conjunction with those of other jurisdictions.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

In accordance with section 15105, subdivision (a) of the CEQA Guidelines, the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR will begin on July 18, 2024, and conclude on September 5, 2024. All comments must be received by 5 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) on Thursday, **September 5, 2024**. The Final EIR for the Project will include responses to comments raising significant environmental issues that are received during this public review period. Written comments must be submitted via postal or electronic mail to the following address:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Attention: Krystle K. Jafari, P.E.
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
e-mail: NoCoSolidWasteEIR@pw.lacounty.gov

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Works will hold two in-person public meetings and one virtual public meeting during the public review period to receive verbal comments on the Draft EIR. Verbal comments received during these public meetings that raise significant environmental issues will be considered in the Final EIR for the Project.

In-Person Public Meetings

Date: August 13, 2024
Time: 5 p.m. (meeting will end after the last public commenter)
Location: Lancaster Library, 601 West Lancaster Boulevard, Lancaster, CA 93534

Date: August 21, 2024
Time: 5 p.m. (meeting will end after the last public commenter)
Location: Acton Agua Dulce Library, 33792 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510

Virtual Public Meeting

Date: August 17, 2024
Time: 10 a.m. (meeting will end after the last public commenter)
Location: Register online for the ZOOM meeting using the following link. (Note: registration can be completed prior to or during the meeting, and each attendee is encouraged to complete their own registration.)

https://pwlacounty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wHfHPaXISlyva608FSVhgQ

The meeting can also be accessed via telephone by dialing: 1 (669) 900-6833

Webinar ID: 883 0594 3693

Information regarding the public meetings, including the ZOOM meeting registration link and telephone call-in information for the virtual public meeting, is also available on the Project website:

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/NorthCountySolidWasteCollectionsvcs/CEQA.cfm.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

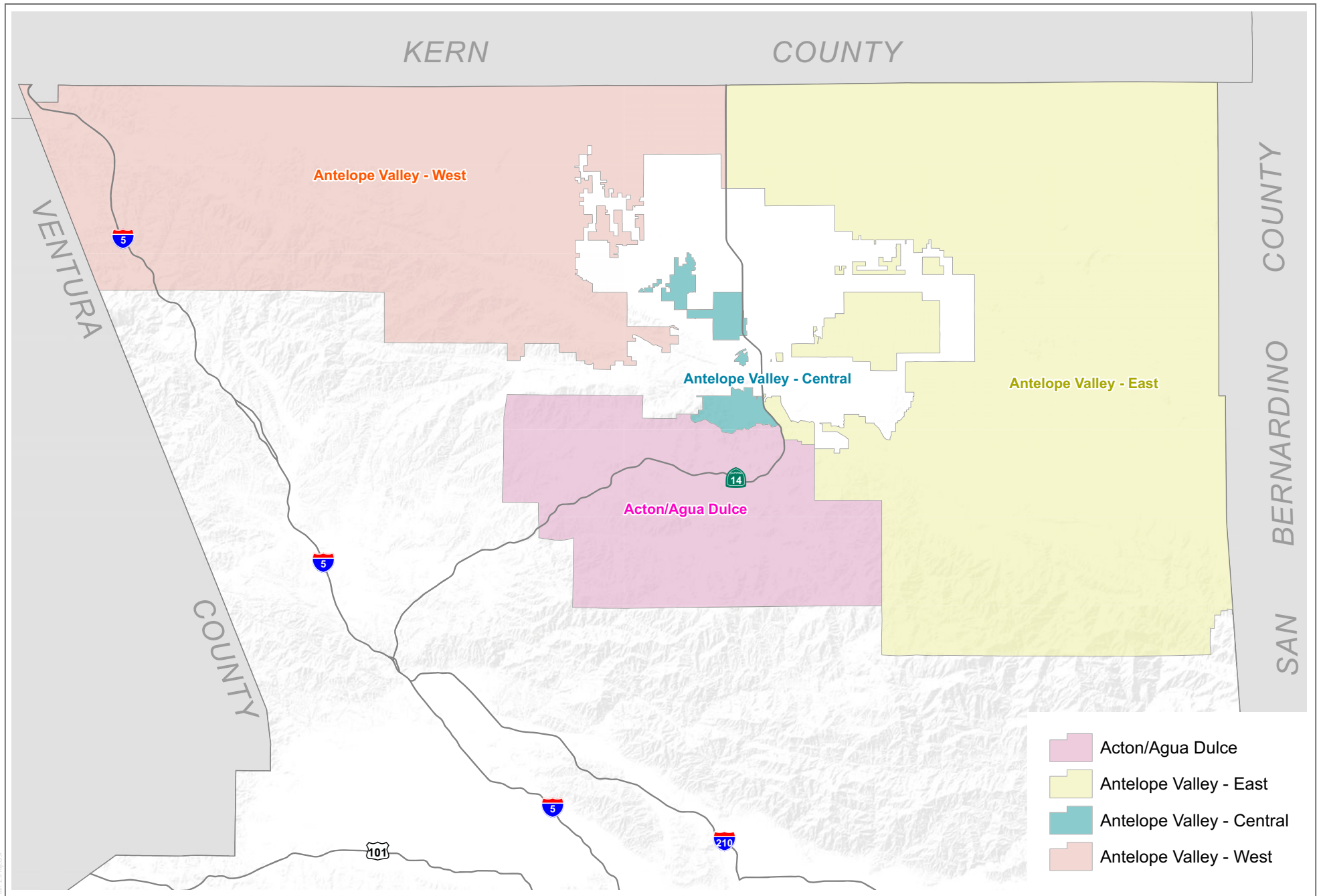
An electronic copy of the Draft EIR and this Notice of Availability are available on the Project website: pw.lacounty.gov/epd/NorthCountySolidWasteCollectionsvcs/CEQA.cfm. Physical copies of the Draft EIR are also available for review at the following Public Libraries and County office locations:

- Public Works Environmental Programs Division, Annex 3rd Floor, 900 S. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
- Public Works Environmental Programs Division, Antelope Valley Service Center, 335A East Avenue K-6, Lancaster, CA 93535
- Acton/Agua Dulce Library, 33792 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510
- Lake Los Angeles Library, 16921 East Avenue O, Suite A, Palmdale, CA 93591
- Lancaster Library, 601 West Lancaster Boulevard, Lancaster, CA 93534
- Littlerock Library, 35119 80th Street East, Littlerock, CA 93543
- Quartz Hill Library, 5040 West Avenue M-2, Quartz Hill, CA 93536

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Ms. Krystle K. Jafari, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer, (626) 458-3916 or NoCoSolidWasteEIR@pw.lacounty.gov, Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Si necesita asistencia con la traducción a Español, por favor comuníquese con el representante del departamento de Obras Públicas del Condado de Los Angeles, Sandra Perez (626) 458-3955, 72 horas antes de la reunión.

ADA and Title VI Accommodations: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other languages or in an alternate format may contact the department coordinator at (626) 458-7901. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711.



SOURCE: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works 2023

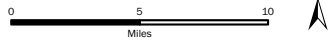


FIGURE 1
Project Area

North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project