

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations

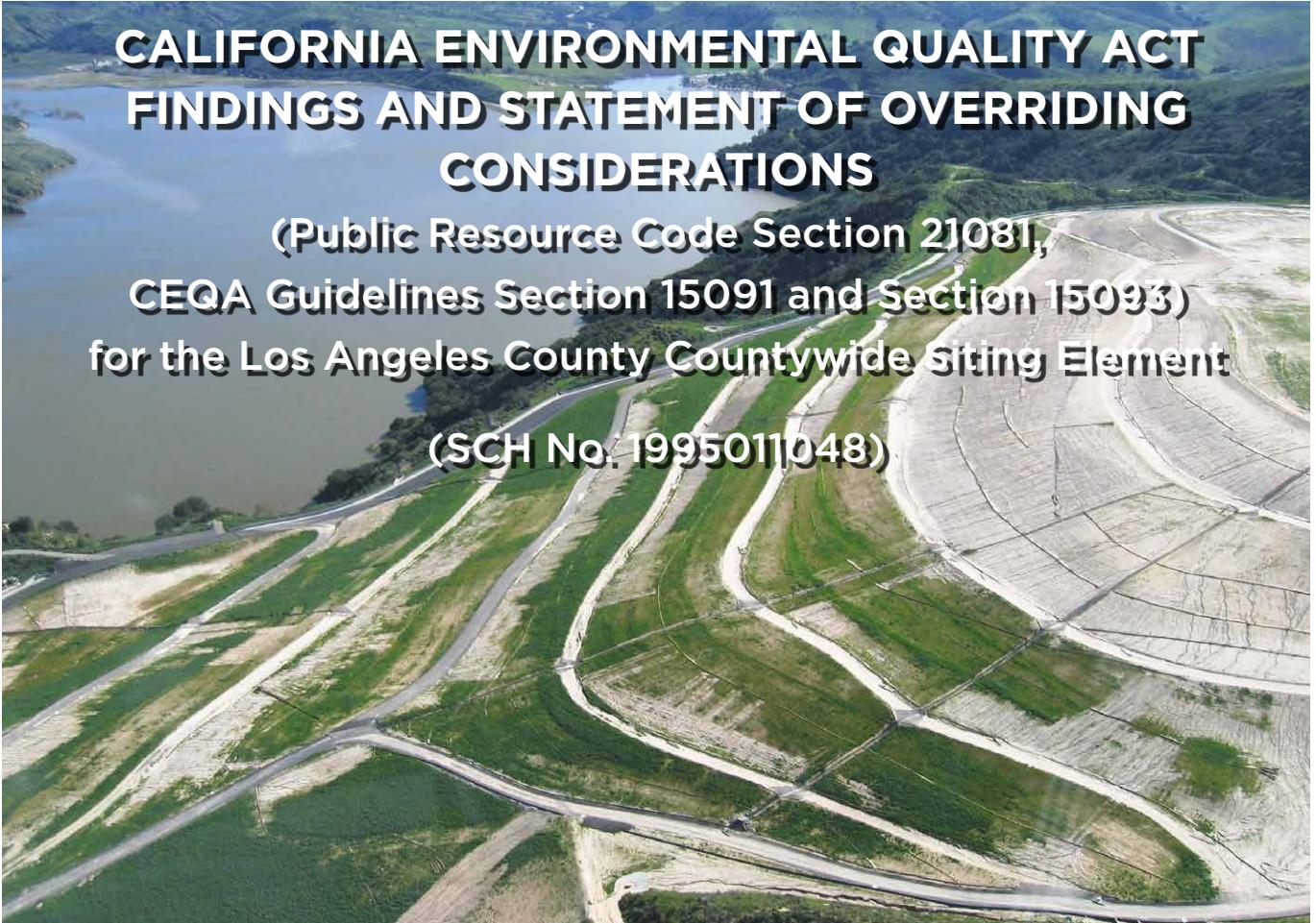
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #1995011048

(Public Resource Code Section 21081, CEQA Guidelines
Section 15091 and Section 15093) for the

Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element



April 2022



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

(Public Resource Code Section 21081,
CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and Section 15093)
for the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element
(SCH No. 1995011048)

1.0 Introduction

The County of Los Angeles (County) has made the following Findings of Fact for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State Clearinghouse (SCH) Number 1995011048, prepared for the proposed Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (Project herein referred to as the Proposed Plan). The EIR analyzes the significant and potentially significant environmental impacts, which may occur as a result of the Proposed Plan. The Draft EIR (DEIR) was published on July 1, 2021 and circulated for an initial public review for a period of 45 days. This DEIR review period was extended twice and ended November 15, 2021. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Notice of Completion and the DEIR were filed with the State Clearinghouse at the time of publishing and are posted on the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research's CEQAnet Web Portal (SCH Project Number: 1995011048). Notices were subsequently filed with the State Clearinghouse on August 10, 2021, and September 30, 2021 in supporting extending the public and agency comment period.

The County, as the CEQA Lead Agency, prepared the Final EIR for the Proposed Plan on June 12, 2022. The Final EIR includes comments received on the DEIR, responses to issues raised in the comments, and revisions to the text of the DEIR. Unless expressly called out independently, the Final EIR and the DEIR together constitute the "EIR" referenced throughout this document.

Section 10 of this document describes the Findings Regarding Project Alternatives and explains why the County has determined that each alternative to the Proposed Plan would be infeasible.

Section 11 of this document identifies the economic, social, and technical benefits of the Proposed Plan and the County's other overriding considerations in its decision to approve the Proposed Plan notwithstanding the significant and unavoidable environmental impacts that would result from the Project.

1.1 PURPOSE OF CEQA FINDINGS OF FACT AND TERMINOLOGY

The CEQA Findings of Fact play an important role in the consideration of projects for which an EIR is prepared. Under Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, when a Final EIR identifies one or more significant environmental effects, a project may not be approved until the public agency—in this instance SCRRA as the CEQA lead agency—makes written findings supported by substantial evidence in the administrative record regarding each of the significant effects (Findings of Fact). The three possible findings specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a) are:

1. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.
2. Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
3. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the EIR.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15092(b) provides that no public agency shall approve a project for which an EIR was prepared unless either:

1. The project approved will not have a significant effect on the environment, or
2. The public agency has:
 - (a) Eliminated or substantially lessened all significant effects where feasible as shown in the findings under Section 15091, and
 - (b) Determined that any remaining significant effects on the environment found to be unavoidable under Section 15091 are acceptable due to overriding concerns as described in Section 15093.

For those significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, the public agency is required to find that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the proposed project outweigh the significant effects on the environment (CEQA Section 21081(b) and Guidelines Section 15093). If such findings can be made, the Guidelines state in Section 15093 that “the adverse environmental effects may be considered acceptable.” CEQA also requires that findings made pursuant to Section 15091 be supported by substantial evidence in the record (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091(b)). Under CEQA, substantial evidence means enough relevant information has been provided (reasonable inferences from this information may be made) to support a conclusion, even though other conclusions might also be reached. Substantial evidence includes facts, reasonable assumptions predicated on facts, and expert opinion supported by facts (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15384).



2.0 Project Description

The County is seeking to revise the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE), a long-term planning and policy document, which identifies the proposed management and disposal of solid waste generated in the County in accordance with the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP 1997). The purpose of the revised CSE is to update strategies, policies, and guidelines to address solid waste disposal needs of the County for a 15-year planning period as mandated by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939). The existing CSE, dated 1997, was approved in 1998. Similar to the 1997 CSE, the CSE Revision serves as a policy document rather than a specific development program. The CSE Revision contains goals and policies and establishes a Siting Criteria (Appendix 6-A of the CSE) for the development of new solid waste disposal facilities and expansion of existing solid waste disposal facilities over the 15-year planning period (2018 to 2033). The Proposed Plan identifies eight potential alternative technology (AT) facilities.

As described more in Section 9 of this Findings of Fact, the County analyzed three alternatives to the Proposed Plan that were considered but were rejected as infeasible due to more or greater environmental effects or an inability to achieve the basic project objectives.

2.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Proposed Plan includes the following objectives:

- Continue to promote extended producer responsibility and development of adequate markets to increase the use of recycled materials and compost products in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Decrease the volume and tonnage of solid waste being disposed of at landfills by continuing to implement and expand source reduction, recycling, reuse, composting, and public education Plans as well as by promoting the development of alternative technologies that complement recycling efforts.
- Promote, encourage, and expand waste diversion activities by solid waste facility operators.
- Conserve Class III landfill capacity through recycling and reuse of inert waste, disposal of inert waste at inert waste landfills, increased waste disposal compaction rates, recycling of organic materials from the waste stream, and the use of appropriate materials, such as tarps, for alternative landfill daily cover, provided the use of such materials is environmentally appropriate and protects the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens in Los Angeles County, as well as the environment.
- Protect the health, welfare, safety, and economic well-being of the County by ensuring that the cities and the County unincorporated communities are served by an efficient and economical public/private solid waste management system.
- Foster the development of environmentally appropriate alternative technologies as alternatives to landfill disposal.
- Provide siting criteria that considers and provides for the environmentally appropriate and technically feasible development of solid waste management facilities, including alternative technology facilities (e.g., conversion technology, transformation) and landfills.
- Protect the health, welfare, and safety of all citizens of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County and the County unincorporated communities by addressing their solid waste disposal needs during the 15-year planning period through development of environmentally appropriate and technically feasible solid waste management facilities for solid waste that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled, composted, or otherwise put to beneficial use. This goal incorporates policies to:
 - Enhance in-County landfill disposal capacity, and
 - Facilitate utilization of remote and/or out-of-County disposal facilities.

2.2 DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS/APPROVALS BY OTHER AGENCIES

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR identify the regulatory approvals anticipated for a project. This includes a list of responsible agencies other than the lead agency, which have discretionary approval authority over the Proposed Plan. Along with the incorporated cities within Los Angeles County, the following agencies, at minimum, are expected to use the Final EIR for Project-related discretionary actions and permitting processes:

- Los Angeles County
- Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
- California Air Resources Board
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7
- Coastal Commission
- Department of Fish & Wildlife, Region 5
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 6
- State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality
- California Environmental Protection Agency

3.0 Project Location

For the purposes of the EIR, the County defined the Plan Area as the entire County, which is approximately 4,100 square miles. The Plan Area encompasses the unincorporated portions of the County and 88 incorporated cities of the County of Los Angeles, California. The “Plan Area” for the purposes of this environmental document is contiguous with the limits of Los Angeles County. The Plan Area is bounded by Kern County to the north, San Bernardino County to the east and Ventura County to the west. To the south, the Plan Area is bounded by Orange County to the southeast and the Pacific Ocean to the southwest. San Clemente and Santa Catalina islands are both encompassed within the territory of the County; thus, they are considered part of the Plan Area. The Plan Area is divided into eleven unincorporated planning areas based on physical geography, localized planning issues, and inter-relationships with adjacent cities. The Plan Area encompasses the unincorporated portions of the County and 88 incorporated cities of the County of Los Angeles, including all existing solid waste management facilities (e.g., landfills and transformation facilities).

The Proposed Plan includes the potential for up to eight (8) proposed alternative technology (AT) facilities within the Plan Area. These potential future projects would occur at up to 8 site locations (herein referred to as EIR Focus Area) within the Plan Area and are located within multiple cities and unincorporated areas of the County.

4.0 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

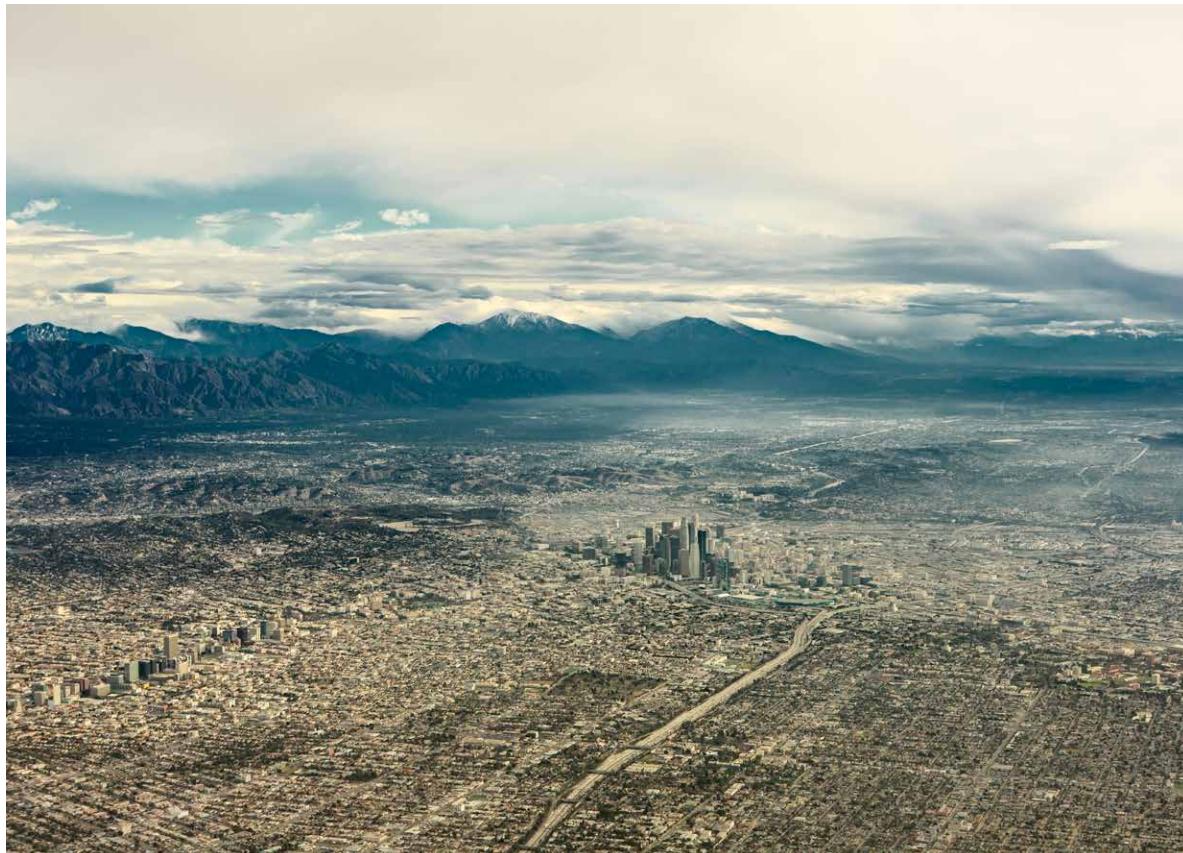
Pursuant to PRC Section 21081.6, the County has prepared and adopted a detailed mitigation monitoring and reporting Plan (MMRP) for the Proposed Plan. The MMRP is designed to ensure that all mitigation measures required to reduce potentially significant Project impacts are applied on a timely basis during Project implementation.

The mitigation measures presented in the MMRP are referenced in the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations herein, as presented in Section 12 of the Final EIR.

5.0 Record of Proceedings

For purposes of CEQA compliance, including these Findings of Fact, the record of proceedings for the County of Los Angeles' decision on the Proposed Plan consists of: (a) matters of common knowledge to the County of Los Angeles, including, but not limited to, federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and (b) the following documents which are in the custody of the County of Los Angeles, located at Los Angeles County Public Works Environmental Plans Division, P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460.

- Notice of Preparation and other public notices issued by the County in conjunction with the Proposed Plan
- The DEIR dated July 2021, including all associated technical appendices and documents that were incorporated by reference
- Testimony, documentary evidence, and all correspondence submitted in response to the Proposed Plan during the scoping meeting or by agencies or members of the public during the public comment period of the DEIR; and responses to those comments (Section 11, Response to Comments, of the Final EIR)
- The Final EIR dated June 12, 2022, including all associated technical appendices and documents that were incorporated by reference
- The adopted MMRP (Section 12, MMRP, of the Final EIR)
- Findings of Fact and resolutions adopted by the County in connection with the Proposed Plan; and all documents cited or referenced therein
- Final Project technical reports, studies, maps, correspondence, and all planning documents prepared by the County or the consultants
- Documents submitted to the County by agencies or members of the public in connection with development of the Proposed Plan
- Actions of the County with respect to the Proposed Plan
- Other materials required by PRC Section 21167.6(e) to be in the record of proceedings.



6.0 No Environmental Impacts

6.1 AESTHETICS

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista (Impact 5.1-1) The Proposed Plan would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway (Impact 5.1-2) The Proposed Plan would not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings (Impact 5.1-3). The Proposed Plan would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area (Impact 5.1-4).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the obstruction or degradation of a scenic vista. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the damaging of any scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the creation of new sources of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

6.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Impact 5.3-1). The Proposed Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Impact 5.3-2). The Proposed Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means (Impact 5.3-3). The Proposed Plan would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites Impact 5.3-4). The Proposed Plan would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (Impact 5.3-5). The Proposed Plan would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan (Impact 5.3-6).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to any species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations,



or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or the impediment of the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in any conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

6.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 (Impact 5.4-1). The Proposed Plan would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 (Impact 5.4-2). The Proposed Plan would not have any environmental effects which directly or indirectly destroy unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature (Impact 5.4-3). The Proposed Plan would not have any environmental effects which could disturb human remains, including those interred outside of a formal cemetery (Impact 5.4-4).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to changes in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the disturbance, alteration, or modification of any existing historic or cultural resources cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the disturbance, alteration, or modification of any existing historic or cultural resources. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the disturbance of human remains, including those interred outside of a formal cemetery.

6.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not locate new facilities in areas susceptible to seismic impacts such as (1) rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area based on other substantial evidence of a known fault, (2) strong seismic groundshaking, or (3) seismically induced liquefaction or landslides, which could expose people, structures, or habitat to potential risk of loss, damage, injury, or death (Impact 5.5-1). The Proposed Plan would be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse- (Impact 5.5-3). The Proposed Plan would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil (Impact 5.5-2). The Proposed Plan would not be located on expansive soil as defined in 24 CCR 1803.5.3 of the 2013 California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or structures (Impact 5.5-4). The Proposed Plan would not have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of a

septic tank or alternative wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater (Impact 5.5-5).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to location of new facilities in areas susceptible to seismic impacts of various kinds. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to location on expansive soil. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tank or alternative wastewater treatment systems. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state, or a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan, or other land use plan.

6.5 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment (Impact 5.6-1). The Proposed Plan would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs (Impact 5.6-2).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to generation of GHG emissions. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to confliction with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

6.6 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or the accidental release during construction and maintenance activities (Impact 5.7-1). The Proposed Plan would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing school (Impact 5.7-3). The Proposed Plan would not create a significant hazard to the environment, including accidental upset of a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Impact 5-7.4). The Proposed Plan would not site new facilities within the vicinity of an airport, which could otherwise result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the area (Impact 5-7.5). The Proposed Plan would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan (Impact 3.7-6). The Proposed Plan would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands (Impact 5.7-7).

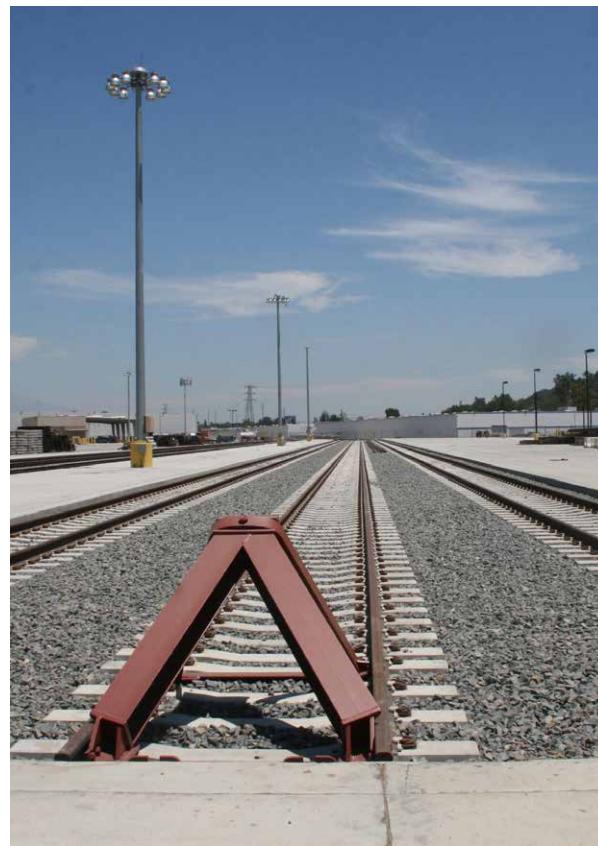
Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the creation of a significant hazard to the public or environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or accidental release during construction and maintenance activities. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed

Plan would result in no impact relating to an accidental upset of a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to siting new facilities within the vicinity of an airport. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing school. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the implementation of an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to exposure of people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

6.7 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or further degrade water quality (Impact 5.8-1). The Proposed Plan would substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (Impact 5.8-2). The Proposed Plan would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or by other means, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site (Impact 5.8-3). The Proposed Plan would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or, by other means, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site (Impact 5.8-4). The Proposed Plan would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff (Impact 5.8-5). The Proposed Plan would not develop future facilities which could otherwise substantially degrade water quality (Impact 5.8-6). The Proposed Plan would not place structure within a flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows, or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam (Impact 5.8-7). The Proposed Plan would not expose structures to a significant risk of loss, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam (Impact 5.8-8). The Proposed Plan would not place structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow (Impact 5.8-9).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the depletion of groundwater supplies or interference with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the



Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the alteration of the existing drainage pattern of a site in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the alteration of the existing drainage pattern of a site which would increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the creation or contribution to runoff water. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the development of structures which could otherwise degrade water quality. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to placement of structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to exposure of structures to a significant risk of loss, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to placement of structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

6.8 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not physically divide an established community (Impact 5.9-1). The Proposed Plan would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Plan (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal Plan, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect (Impact 5.9-2). The Proposed Plan would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan (Impact 5.9-3).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the physical division of an established community. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to confliction with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Plan adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental impact. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to confliction with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

6.9 MINERAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan (Impact 5.10-1).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the loss of availability of any mineral resources.

6.10 NOISE AND VIBRATION

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies (Impact 5.11-1). The Proposed Plan would not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive groundborne vibration (Impact 5.11-2). The Proposed Plan would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project (Impact 5.11-3).

The Proposed Plan would not result in result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project (Impact 5.11-4).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive groundborne vibration. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

6.11 POPULATION AND HOUSING



Potential Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Plan would not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure) (Impact 5.12-1). Implementation of the Proposed Plan would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere (Impact 5.12-2). Implementation of the Proposed Plan would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere (Impact 5.12-3).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to introduction of substantial

population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to displacement of substantial numbers of people.

6.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

Potential Impact. The Proposed Plan would not result in substantial staffing or response time problems at the fire station or sheriff's substation serving the project site (Impact 5.13-1).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to staffing or response time problems at the fire station or sheriff's substation serving the project site.

6.13 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Potential Impact. The development of future facilities contemplated under the proposed Plan would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit (Impact 5.14-1). The development of future facilities contemplated under the Proposed Plan would not conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards

and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways (Impact 5.14-2). The Proposed Plan would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (Impact 5.14-3).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to applicable congestion management programs. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to design features or incompatible uses.

6.14 UTILITES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Potential Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Plan would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board or result in the construction of new treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities if the wastewater treatment provider has inadequate capacity to serve the Proposed Plan (Impact 5.15-1). The Proposed Plan would not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects (Impact 5.15-2). The development of future facilities contemplated under the Proposed Plan would not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects (Impact 5.15-3). The development of future facilities contemplated under the proposed Plan could need new or expanded water entitlements (Impact 5.15-4). The Proposed Plan would not result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments (Impact 5.15-5). The development of future facilities contemplated under the proposed Plan would have sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs (Impact 5.15-6).

Finding. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to new or expanded water entitlements. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to wastewater treatment capacity inadequacy. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on the Final Plan EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Plan would result in no impact relating to solid waste disposal needs.



7.0 Findings of Significant Impacts, Required Mitigation Measures and Supporting Facts

The County of Los Angeles, having reviewed and considered the information contained in the EIR and the entire administrative record, including but not limited to the expert opinions of the County's professional planning and engineering staff and independent consultants familiar with the environmental conditions of the Plan Area and the facts and circumstances of the Proposed Plan who prepared the EIR, finds pursuant to PRC Section 21081(a)(1) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1) that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Plan which would mitigate, avoid, or substantially lessen to below a level of significance the potential significant environmental effects identified in the EIR.

The Findings of Fact summarized below in Section 7.1 incorporate the facts and discussions from the EIR. For each of the significant impacts, the following sections are provided:

- *Potential Impact:* A specific description of the environmental impact identified in the EIR.
- *Finding:* One or more of the three specific findings set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.
- *Facts in Support of Finding:* A summary of the reasons for the finding(s).
- *Mitigation Measure(s):* Identified feasible mitigation measures or actions that are required as part of the Project and, if mitigation is infeasible, the reasons supporting the finding that the rejected mitigation is infeasible.

7.1 AIR QUALITY

1. **Potential Impact.** Implementation of the Proposed Plan would result in significant construction and operational emissions of criteria air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides.
2. **Finding.** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1), changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Proposed Plan which avoid or substantially lessen the significant and unavoidable environmental effect as identified in the EIR.
3. **Facts in Support of Finding.** Based on the analysis provided in Section 5.2 of the EIR, the Project's potentially significant construction and operation-related criteria pollutant emissions impacts would reduce potentially significant impacts with implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ 1 through AQ-3.
4. **Mitigation Measure(s)**
 - **Mitigation Measure AQ 1** Air Emission Reduction Measures During Construction
 - **Mitigation Measure AQ-2** Air Emission Reduction Measures During Operations
 - **Mitigation Measure AQ-3** Minimization of Odors

8.0 Cumulative Impacts

8.1 AIR QUALITY

As analyzed in Section 5.2 of the EIR, although implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ 1, AQ 2, and AQ-3 provide measures to reduce air emissions and odors during construction and operations, the impacts resulting from these activities would remain significant and unavoidable.

In combination with other projects, even following the application of the proposed mitigation, implementation of the solid waste management facilities contemplated under the Proposed Plan would have the potential to cumulatively result in a violation of existing air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation (see EIR Section 5.2).

9.0 Findings Regarding Project Alternatives

CEQA Guidelines Section 15128 require that an EIR contain a brief statement disclosing the reasons why various possible significant effects of a project were found not to be significant, and therefore would not be discussed in detail in the EIR. Section 8 of the EIR identifies Agriculture and Forestry Resources as an area that will not be impacted by the Proposed Plan.

10.0 Findings Regarding Project Alternatives

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(a), EIRs must “describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of this project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.”

The alternatives to the Proposed Plan are evaluated in Section 7 of the EIR in terms of their ability to meet the basic objectives of the Proposed Plan and eliminate or further reduce its significant environmental effects. Based on these parameters, the following alternatives were considered and analyzed in the EIR:

1. No Project Alternative (Status Quo)
2. Alternative 1 – Potential In-County Class III Landfill Expansions
3. Alternative 2 – Increase in Exports to Out-of-County Landfills

10.1 NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE (STATUS QUO)

The CEQA Guidelines require analysis of the no project alternative (PRC Section 15126). According to Section 15126.6(e), “the specific alternative of ‘no project’ shall also be evaluated along with its impacts. The ‘no project’ analysis shall discuss the existing conditions at the time the Notice of Preparation is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced, as well as what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services.”

Compared with the Proposed Plan, under the No Project Alternative the potential for new AT facilities would be eliminated and the disposal options available to the County would be limited by leveraging existing In- and Out-of-County landfill capacity over the planning period. Thus,

1. **Finding.** The No Project Alternative reduces some of the impacts identified in the Proposed Plan, but also results in greater impacts related to GHG emissions, truck emissions, and plan consistency compared to the Proposed Plan. It is found pursuant to PRC Section 21081(a)(3), that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, make the No Project Alternative infeasible.
2. **Facts in Support of Findings.** Under the No Project Alternative, the County would leverage existing permitted In- and Out-of-County disposal facilities (excluding disposal at inert waste landfills) similar to existing conditions. Similar to the proposed CSE Revision, continued jurisdiction’s diversion efforts (increasing countywide diversion rate to 75 percent by 2020 and thereafter) would be necessary to maintain sufficient disposal capacity reserve under this alternative. No In-County landfill expansions or expanded AT facilities would occur under this alternative. Under the No Project Alternative, the County would not experience a disposal capacity shortfall during the planning period however, it fails to meet most of the project goals and objectives, including complying with State law.

For the reasons stated above, the No Project Alternative would provide less than half the landfill disposal capacity reserve in 2033 when compared to the proposed CSE Revision. Additionally, the No Project alternative would limit the disposal capacity options available to the County.

10.2 ALTERNATIVE 1 – POTENTIAL IN-COUNTY LANDFILL EXPANSION

Under Alternative 1, Potential In-County Class III Landfill Expansion, a solid waste management strategy that places greater emphasis on expanded In-County landfill capacity would be implemented. Similar to the proposed CSE Revision, this alternative assumes the following during the planning period: (1) use of existing In-County permitted disposal facilities (excluding disposal at inert waste landfills); (2) continued jurisdiction's diversion efforts (increasing countywide diversion rate to 75 percent by 2020 and thereafter); and (3) utilization of current exports to out-of-County landfills. No new AT facilities would be constructed under this alternative. To provide the required In-County landfill capacity, this alternative would include expansion at one or more existing landfills within the County to compensate for the disposal capacity provided by AT facilities under the Proposed Plan. This alternative would provide sufficient disposal capacity during the planning period.

Compared with the Proposed Plan, Alternative 1 provides a slight variation in the way the County achieves its total daily disposal capacity and assumes the same level of solid waste diversion through maximizing reuse, recycling, and composting Plans. These alternatives would essentially replace the increase in daily AT disposal capacity as proposed under the CSE Revision with additional In- or Out-of-County landfill capacity.

- 1. Finding.** This alternative is unlikely to avoid significant air quality impacts and would negate the opportunity for lowering GHG emissions in the future as compared to the Proposed Plan. It is found pursuant to PRC Section 21081(a)(3), that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, make Alternative 1 infeasible compared to the Proposed Plan.
- 2. Facts in Support of Findings.** Under Alternative 1, an increase in the daily permitted disposal rate would occur at one or more existing landfills. The increase in the daily permitted disposal rate would involve additional truck trips that originate from various points in the region and localized increases in point and/or area source emissions. No AT facilities would be constructed under this alternative and emissions of criteria air pollutants (e.g., NO_x) may be lessened, but not avoided. An increase in the localized emissions of toxic air contaminants (TACs) may occur with expanding landfills as compared to new AT facilities, which could result in elevated health risk impacts. These air quality impacts could be greater when compared to the Proposed Plan. However, the overall impacts on aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, GHG emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, public services and recreation, mineral resources, noise and vibration, population and housing, transportation, and utilities and service systems would be similar to the Proposed Plan. Therefore, the same mitigation measures and regulatory approvals recommended for the Proposed Plan would apply to this alternative.

Since it is unlikely that Alternative 1 would avoid significant air quality impacts and would negate the opportunity for potentially lowering GHG emissions in the future through the use of AT facilities to meet disposal needs, the County concluded that the proposed Plan is environmentally superior.

For the reasons stated above, this alternative is unlikely to avoid significant air quality impacts and would negate the opportunity for lowering GHG emissions in the future as compared to the Proposed Plan. As such, the County has concluded that the Proposed Plan is environmentally superior and Alternative 1 would not be pursued as described in Section 1 of the EIR.

10.3 ALTERNATIVE 2 – INCREASE IN EXPORTS TO OUT-OF-COUNTY LANDFILLS

Alternative 2, Increase in Exports to Out-of-County Landfills, includes a solid waste management strategy that places greater emphasis on expanded Out-of-County landfill capacity. Similar to the proposed CSE Revision, this alternative assumes the following during the planning period: (1) use of existing In-County permitted disposal facilities (excluding disposal at inert waste landfills); (2) continued jurisdiction's diversion efforts (increasing countywide diversion rate to 75 percent by 2020 and thereafter); and (3) increase in exports to out-of-County landfills (including additional disposal capacity through the waste-by-rail system). No AT facilities would be constructed as part of this alternative during the planning period. The reduction in AT capacity would be accommodated by an increase in Out-of-County exports to adjacent jurisdictions. This alternative would be capable of providing the required disposal capacity over the planning period.

Compared with the Proposed Plan, Alternative 2 provides a slight variation in the way the County achieves its total daily disposal capacity and assumes the same level of solid waste diversion through maximizing reuse, recycling, and composting Plans. These alternatives would essentially replace the increase in daily AT disposal capacity as proposed under the CSE Update with additional In- or Out-of-County landfill capacity.

- 1. Finding.** Of the alternatives considered, Alternative 2 is considered environmentally superior to Alternative 1 and the No Project Alternative, given that it avoids significant environmental impacts associated with In-County landfill expansion (e.g. aesthetics, biological resources, etc.). However, it is found pursuant to PRC Section 21081(a) (3), that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, make Alternative 2 infeasible compared to the Proposed Plan.
- 2. Facts in Support of Findings.** Alternative 2 places greater emphasis on exports of solid waste to Out-of-County facilities. Under this alternative, increases in the daily permitted disposal rate to Out-of-County disposal facilities would involve additional truck trips that originate from various points in the region and localized increases in point and/or area source emissions. No AT facilities would be constructed under this alternative and emissions of criteria air pollutants (e.g., NO_x) would be lessened, but not avoided. The reduction of additional AT capacity and emphasis on additional Out-of-County capacity may result in reductions in criteria air pollutants; however, a corresponding increase in TACs would also be expected. An increase in the localized emissions of TACs could result in greater elevated health risk impacts when compared to the proposed Plan. However, the overall impacts on aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, GHG emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, public services and recreation, mineral resources, noise and vibration, population and housing, transportation, and utilities and service systems would be similar to the Proposed Plan. Therefore, the same mitigation measures and regulatory approvals recommended for the Proposed Plan would apply to this alternative.

It is likely that Alternative 2 could avoid environmental impacts (e.g., aesthetics, biology, etc.) related to the operation of expanded landfill facilities within the County as contemplated under Alternative 1. Since it is unlikely that either of the alternatives would avoid significant air quality impacts and would negate the opportunity for potentially lowering GHG emissions in the future through the use of AT facilities to meet disposal needs, the County concluded that the proposed Plan is environmentally superior.

For the reasons stated above, this alternative is unlikely to avoid significant air quality impacts and would negate the opportunity to lower GHG emissions in the future as compared to the Proposed Plan. As such, the County has concluded that the Proposed Plan is environmentally superior. However, of the alternatives considered, Alternative 2 is environmentally superior over Alternative 1 and the No Project Alternative as described in Section 1 of the EIR.

10.4 FINDINGS REGARDING RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

1. **Finding.** The EIR considers a reasonable range of alternatives as more fully described in Section 7.0, Alternatives of the EIR. Substantial evidence supports the conclusion of the EIR regarding the alternatives considered and rejected. Substantial evidence supports the conclusion that all three alternatives are infeasible when compared to the Proposed Plan.
2. **Facts in Support of Findings.** The purpose of studying alternatives to the Proposed Plan is to identify alternatives that would substantially reduce or avoid the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Plan. Substantial evidence shows that potentially significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Plan are mitigated below significant levels. However, potentially significant impacts related to air quality were determined significant and unavoidable. There are no feasible alternatives that would avoid the significant and unavoidable impact identified for the Proposed Plan. Consequently, the range of alternatives studied in the EIR is reasonable because it included alternatives to the Proposed Plan that substantially reduce or avoid impacts. As the CEQA Lead Agency, the County of Los Angeles has determined that the Proposed Plan is the CEQA environmentally superior and preferred alternative.

10.4.1 Findings Regarding Growth Inducing Impacts

Substantial growth impacts could be established through the provision of infrastructure or service capacity to accommodate growth beyond the levels currently permitted by local or regional plans and policies. In general, growth induced by a project is considered a significant impact if it directly or indirectly affects the ability of agencies to provide needed public services or if it can be demonstrated that the potential growth significantly affects the environment in some other way.

The proposed CSE Revision responds to future projected growth within the Plan Area through a long-term strategy that provides for sufficient solid waste disposal capacity over a 15-year period through 2033. Solid waste disposal facilities are demand-response public service systems that develop in response to community growth. The CSE Revision provides a strategy for the provision of disposal capacity as a response to the projected demand for responsible solid waste management. The CSE does not provide the actual capacity; rather, future solid waste projects would provide the needed capacity in response to continued growth. In this context, future new facilities and/or landfill expansions would not promote new growth, but would merely respond to it on an incremental, project by project basis. Therefore, the Proposed Plan would not result in direct or indirect growth inducing impacts (see Section 10 of the EIR).

10.4.2 Findings Regarding Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the associated impacts that this consumption could have on future generations. Irreversible impacts result primarily from the use or destruction of a specific resource (e.g., energy and minerals) that cannot be replaced within a reasonable time frame. Irretrievable resource commitments involve the loss in value of an affected resource that cannot be restored as a result of the action (e.g., extinction of a threatened or endangered species or the disturbance of a cultural resource).

The construction and implementation of the Proposed Plan would entail the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of some land, energy, and human resources. These resources include the following:

- Commitment of non-renewable and/or slowly renewable energy resources, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, electricity, human resources, and natural resources such as lumber and other forest products, sand and gravel, steel, asphalt, copper, lead, other metals, and water;
- Commitment of social services and public maintenance services (e.g., police, fire, sewer, water services) would be required as projects identified in the Plan are developed over time; and,
- Long-term irreversible commitment of vacant parcels of land or redevelopment of existing developed land in the Plan Area.

The Plan emphasizes a variety of landfill diversion measures with objectives of decreasing the volume and tonnage of solid waste being disposed of at landfills by continuing to implement and expand source reduction, recycling, reuse, composting, and public education Plans as well as by promoting the development of alternative technologies that complement recycling efforts.

Also, the Plan includes siting criteria that considers and provides for the environmentally appropriate and technically feasible development of solid waste management facilities, including alternative technology facilities (e.g., conversion technology, transformation) and landfills.

There is currently no specific development project included in the Proposed Plan, and the Plan in and of itself, would not result in an irreversible commitment to non-renewable resources. Future development of certain solid waste related facilities identified in the Plan would likely involve construction activities that entail the commitment of land dedicated for the facilities, the manufacturing of materials used to construct the facilities and energy in the form of natural gas, petroleum products, and electricity consumed during construction and operation would contribute to the incremental depletion of renewable and non renewable resources. Steel, concrete, and other materials would be recycled, to the extent feasible; however, the loss of these resources is considered irreversible because their reuse for some other purpose than the Proposed Plan would be highly unlikely or impossible. Based on these considerations, the Proposed Plan constitutes an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of natural resources.

The use of non renewable energy sources, such as diesel fuel, is considered an irreversible, irretrievable commitment of these petroleum resources. The commitment of resources to construct and operate the solid waste related facilities as a result of the Proposed Plan is based on the belief that residents, employees, and visitors would benefit from the CSE Revision. These benefits are anticipated to substantially outweigh any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of non renewable resources.

11.0 Statement of Overriding Considerations

Pursuant to PRC Section 21081(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15093(a) and (b), the County of Los Angeles is required to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region wide or statewide environmental benefits, of the Proposed Plan against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the Proposed Plan.

For the foregoing reasons, the County finds that the unavoidable significant environmental impacts pertaining to the generation of criteria air pollutants are outweighed by these considerable benefits because the Proposed Plan as implemented would:

- Remove Elsmere Canyon and Blind Canyon from the CSE in accordance with the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors' decision on September 30, 2003, to remove those sites from the list of potential new landfill sites
- Update of the goals and policies to be consistent with the new solid waste management paradigm, to enhance the comprehensiveness of Los Angeles County's solid waste management system and incorporate current and upcoming solid waste management processes and technologies
- Promote the development of alternatives to landfill technologies, such as conversion technologies, on a Countywide basis
- Promote the development and use of infrastructure to transport solid waste to out-of-County landfills to complement the County's waste management system, such as the Mesquite Regional Landfill waste-by-rail system
- Emphasize redirecting efforts to first reduce, reuse, and recycle. Materials are processed through alternative technologies, such as conversion technologies, to further extract beneficial uses from otherwise disposed materials
- Generate employment opportunities during the construction and operation phase of the Project, which would create both short-term and long-term jobs for the County, as well as help lower the current rates of unemployment
- Contribute to protecting the health, safety, and economic well-being of residents and provides an environmentally safe, efficient, and economically viable solid waste disposal system
- Increase the capability of the County to meet its disposal capacity needs by promoting extended producer responsibility, continuing to enhance diversion Plans, increasing the Countywide diversion rate, and developing conversion and other alternative technologies
- Ensure adequate landfill capacity is available throughout the 15-year planning period

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