



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

DATE: May 29, 2020

TO: Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Steven E. White, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Bernard Jimenez, Assistant Director
Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: John R. Thompson, Assistant Director

- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: William M. Kettler, Division Manager
- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: Chris Motta, Principal Planner
- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Current Planning, Attn: Marianne Mollring, Senior Planner
- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Policy Planning, ALCC, Attn: Mohammad Khorsand, Senior Planner
- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Zoning & Permit Review, Attn: Daniel Gutierrez/James Anders
- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Site Plan Review, Attn: Hector Luna
- * Development Services and Capital Projects, Building & Safety/Plan Check, Attn: Dan Mather
- Resources Division, Solid Waste, Attn: Amina Flores-Becker
- * Development Engineering, Attn: Laurie Kennedy, Grading/Mapping
- * Road Maintenance and Operations, Attn: John Thompson/Nadia Lopez/Wendy Nakagawa
- * Design Division, Special Projects/Road Projects, Attn: Mohammad Alimi/Dale Siemer/Brian Spaunhurst
- * Water and Natural Resources Division, Attn: Glenn Allen, Division Manager; Roy Jimenez
- * Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Attn: Deep Sidhu/Steven Rhodes
- * U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Joaquin Valley Division, Attn: Matthew Nelson
- * CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn: Dale Harvey
- * CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Craig Bailey, Environmental Scientist
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Fresno District, Attn: Jose Robledo, Caitlin Juarez
CA Department of Toxic Substance Control (CEQA unit), Attn: Dave Kerezis
- * San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (PIC-CEQA Division),
- * Kings River Conservation District, Attn: Rick Hoelzel
- * Fresno County Fire Protection District, Attn: Jim McDougald, Division Chief

FROM: Chrissy Monfette, Planner
Development Services and Capital Projects Division

SUBJECT: Environmental Review Application No. 7861, American Avenue Landfill Entrance Improvements

APPLICANT: Fresno County Design Division

DUE DATE: June 9, 2020

This project is being rereouted with all of the prior environmental reviews attached. Please review the §15162 request in light of all of the previous reviews, which consist of the following: EIR (SCH#84050705) published in 1985 for CUP 2145; Environmental Assessment No. 3986 prepared for CUP 2623; Supplemental EIR (SCH#98091036) prepared for CUP 2804 published in 1999; Initial Study No. 4877 prepared for CUP 3055 in 2003; and Initial Study No. 6631 prepared for CUP 3393 (for the Household Hazardous Waste site) in 2014.

The project site is currently operating as the American Avenue Landfill. This application proposes the following improvements:

1. Constructing 4-foot wide paved shoulder with shoulder backing on each side of American Avenue from Placer Avenue to Madera Avenue (approximately 5.9 miles) in Fresno County. The shoulder would be paved with asphalt concrete over aggregate base and compacted native soil. At road intersections, the shoulder improvements would be paved to match existing intersecting road pavement while affected parts of access roads and driveways would be removed and replaced with the same structural section as the shoulder widening. The scope of work is proposed to improve air quality by decreasing the amount of airborne particulate matter caused by vehicles traveling along the roadway.
2. Constructing a ditch, approximately 15 feet wide, on the north side of American Avenue between Plumas Avenue and Humboldt Avenue, a distance of 1 mile, to mitigate roadway flooding in front of the landfill during rain events.
3. Constructing a 12-foot wide lane on the north side of American Avenue beginning at the landfill entrance and ending approximately 1400' to the east of the entrance to provide a storage lane adjacent to the travel lanes for landfill haulers entering the landfill.
4. Widening the Landfill entrance road from 2 lanes (1 lane to enter and 1 lane to exit) to 3 lanes (2 lanes to enter and 1 lane to exit) to improve access and safety to the haulers. Miscellaneous modifications around the landfill entrance area such as grading, existing drainage culvert pipe, fence and gate will be necessary to accommodate widening of the access road.

The most recent Initial Study prepared for this project related to the establishment of a Household Hazardous Waste facility on site. This review has been attached to this memo for your reference.

Because a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, "... no subsequent Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration shall be prepared unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken, which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the follow:
 - a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or Negative Declaration.
 - b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR or Negative Declaration.
 - c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
 - d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR or Negative Declaration would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.”

If you believe that one of the conditions above have been met, please include justification for this determination in our comments.

We must have your comments by **June 9, 2020**. Any comments received after this date will not be used.

NOTE - THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS. If you do not have comments, please provide a “NO COMMENT” response to our office by the above deadline. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE COMMENTS BY THE DATE ABOVE, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE ‘NO COMMENTS’.

Please address any correspondence or questions related to environmental and/or policy/design issues to me, Chrissy Monfette, Planner, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, 2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor, Fresno, CA 93721, or call (559) 600-4245, or email cmonfette@co.fresno.ca.us.

CMM:

G:\4360Devs&PIn\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\Environmental\Exemptions - Exclusions - CE(N)ST\7000-7999\ER 7861 - American Avenue Improvements\IS 7861 Rtg Ltr2.doc

Activity Code (Internal Review):2332

Enclosures

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**AMERICAN AVENUE SANITARY LANDFILL
EXPANSION PROJECT
(Environmental Assessment No. 2554)**

CUP
Prepared for
The County of Fresno

2146
Prepared by

**Michael Paoli and Associates
1111 Fulton Mall, Suite 306
Fresno, California 93721**

January, 1985

**Final
Environmental Impact Report**

**FRESNO COUNTY
AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
EXPANSION PROJECT**

(E.A. NO. 2554)

2146

RECEIVED

FEB 8 1985

**FRESNO COUNTY RESOURCES
& DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

CUP 2146

**Michael Paoli
And Associates**

INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Report for the American Avenue Landfill Expansion Project consists of a summary of the draft EIR and two appendices which present the results of the public review for the draft EIR. Appendix B contains a list of agencies and individuals to whom the draft EIR was made available, and Appendix C presents the comments received on the draft EIR and responses to those comments. (Appendix A is in the draft EIR.)

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SUMMARY OF DRAFT EIR

A. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The project site consists of 440 acres of primarily undeveloped and agricultural land located on the north side of American Avenue, four miles west of State Highway 145 (Madera Avenue) at Lake Avenue, in Fresno County, California. The site is in a rural setting with agriculture the predominant surrounding land use.

The proposed project would expand the existing 30-acre American Avenue Landfill into a regional disposal site in two phases: first, to 160 acres on land owned by Fresno County and ultimately, up to 440 acres on adjoining land that would be acquired by the County. When completed, the landfill would consist of a series of knolls rising 100 feet above the existing ground surface.

The landfill would have capacity for 32.7 million cubic yards of refuse, most of which would come from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The facility would have a service life ranging from 23 to 93 years, depending upon the fill scenario. The fill scenario that is contemplated in the revised Fresno County Solid Waste Management Plan would provide the 93 year service life. This scenario involves the landfill receiving primarily ash from a waste-to-energy plant that is planned to be operational in 1987 at a site in the south Fresno area.

The landfill qualifies as a Class II-2 facility under current State regulations. With this classification, the site can accept for disposal non-hazardous municipal wastes. If the landfill receives ash from the waste-to-energy plant, its classification and the design standards under which it must operate may change to reflect applicable State regulations.

B. INSIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project would either not adversely impact or would have insignificant adverse impacts on the following natural and human resources and conditions: air quality (except dust), geologic conditions, slope stability, vegetation (no rare or endangered plant species were found on the site), wildlife (no rare or endangered wildlife species appear to inhabit the site), public land use policy and zoning, growth inducement, transportation, historical resources, odors and vectors.

C. POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Development and operation of the landfill may cause the potentially significant impacts presented in the following list. The possibility of any of the listed impacts occurring can be

substantially reduced if not in most cases eliminated through proper application of mitigation measures incorporated in the project plans or recommended in this EIR.

1. Airborne dust resulting from soil excavation and ash disposal could become noticeable in downwind areas during periods of high winds.
2. Property located west of the project site, along the north side of American Avenue, could be impacted if contaminated runoff should leave the landfill site.
3. Landfill leachate could be generated which could degrade groundwater quality in the area.
4. The existence of the landfill, including the nature of the use and its operational characteristics and appearance, may be considered undesirable by the few nearby residents.
5. An increase in the area exposed to noise levels exceeding applicable Fresno County standards would occur in the immediate vicinity of the landfill. Noise levels along the haul route would also increase. This impact would only be significant if North Avenue was selected as the haul route and the waste-to-energy plant was not implemented.
6. Landfill gas could migrate off the project site and adversely affect surrounding agricultural crops.
7. Fires in the landfill could occur if hot ash loads are dumped with loads of unprocessed waste.

D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures designed to reduce or eliminate impacts are included in the project plans. Additional mitigation measures are recommended in the EIR to supplement and strengthen these measures. They include:

1. Testing for landfill gas should be conducted in accordance with State and Federal regulations to ensure that migrating gases do not exceed: (1) 25 percent of the lower explosive limit for gases in facility structures and (2) the lower explosive limit for gases at the property boundary.

As an additional measure, gas monitoring should be conducted when the landfill encroaches within 1,000 feet of any enclosed structures.

2. The intermediate and final cover should be designed in accordance with State minimum standards to preclude percolation of rainfall both from large storms and during wet years. Irrigation of the cover landscaping should be avoided entirely if possible.

3. A properly designed and conducted groundwater monitoring program should be established.

4. Based upon the presently contemplated general location of the waste-to-energy plant in south Fresno, Jensen Avenue should be given primary consideration as the haul route between the plant and the landfill.

5. To preclude future land use conflicts, the County should consider the acquisition of the residences near the landfill over time as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the residences are located and the application of zoning which will prevent further residential development in the landfill vicinity.

E. SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Research and evaluation conducted for this EIR has not identified any significant unavoidable adverse impacts to on- or off-site areas associated with the project.

F. ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives section addresses the "no project" alternative, alternative site locations and alternative design configurations for the landfill. Under the no project alternative, the existing 30-acre American Avenue landfill could continue to operate until it reaches capacity in 1985. The agency that would be most affected by the no project alternative would be the City of Fresno which must find a means of disposing of 550 tons per day of refuse before its existing landfill reaches capacity in the latter part of 1985.

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Solid Waste Commission studied a number of possible locations for the landfill before selecting the American Avenue site. The alternative sites that were given in-depth consideration are described in Section VI.

Three design alternatives were considered for the American Avenue Expansion project. These alternatives are described in Section VI and involve differences in fill capacity and visual characteristics.

G. CUMULATIVE AND IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

The proposed project would have minor cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, agricultural land, and vegetation and wildlife.

**APPENDIX B
NOTIFICATION**

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Fresno County American Avenue Landfill Expansion Project
Draft EIR Distribution List

EIR #2554

Those Receiving a Draft EIR plus Operational Statement:

EPC Members

George Bleth, Deputy CAO
R. Al. Siracusa, Planning Dept.
R. Welton, Public Works
Lou Dooley, Env. Health
Marvin Panter, LAFCO
Cosmo Insalaco, Ag. Commission
Bill Blain, Parks & Recreation
W. Hambleton, Farm Advisor
G. Swan, Resources & Development Dept.

Board of Supervisors

Vernon Conrad, Chairman
Betty Ramacher
Jeff Reich
Sharon Levy
Deran Kologian

Public Copies

County Library Main Branch (3)
Co. Lib. San Joaquin (2)
Co. Lib. Kerman (2)
Co. Planning Dept. Library
Co. Resources Division Library
Kerman City Hall
San Joaquin City Hall
Kerman Chamber of Commerce
American Ave. Disposal Site (4)

Resources Staff

*Gerald Swan, Director
Walter Clark, Manager
Edward Gaylord, Supr. Engineer
Richard Anthony, Solid Waste Coordinator
Ann Getz
Melinda Marks
Geology Staff
File Copy

*Duplicate

Draft EIR Distribution List (2554)

Fresno-Clovis Solid Waste Commission

*Jeff Reich, Board of Supervisors
*Deran Koligian, Board of Supervisors
Karen Humphrey, Fresno City Council
Chris Peterson, Fresno City Council
Les Kimber, Fresno City Council
Harry Armstrong, Clovis City Council
Tom Stearns, Clovis City Council (SWC alternate)
Peggy Bos, Clovis City Council (SWC alternate)

West County Solid Waste Planning Committee

Henry Rebeci	Roy White
Frank Filice	Fidel DeLaCruz
John Armas	*Supervisor Deran Koligian
Bob Semple	*Supervisor Vernon Conrad

Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Sharon Thomas	Marcus Barile
Leon Lancaster	Susan Vasquez
Mary Curry	Charles Leonard
Jim Martin	Joe Caglia
Thomas Collister	Sharon Chicoine

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Mary Savala	Bruce Morris
James Kenley	Duane Soares
Tom Flynn	Loris Johnson

County of Fresno Offices

Inger Allison, Real Property
Tom Riggs, County Counsel
Jerry Boren, Development Services
Bruce Spaulding, Co. Admin. Office
Les Jorgensen, Public Works
Hal Durham, Public Works
Henry Chin, Public Works
*Gary Carozza, Env. Health
*County Planning, Env. Section

State Agencies

M. B. Parlier, CALTRANS, Dist. 6
Bruce Walters, Office of Planning & Research (10)
G. Nokes, Dept. of Fish & Game, Fresno Office
J. Wolfson, Water Quality Control Board, Fresno Region
W. Hage, Dept. of Health Services, Fresno
D. Strauch, CA Waste Management Board
L. Beck, CA Dept. of Water Resources
Arvey Swanson, CA Dept of Water Resources
*Duplicate

Draft EIR Distribution List (2554)

Schools

Superintendent Fresno County Dept. of Education

Fire Districts

North Central Fire District
Mid-Valley Fire District

Irrigation Districts

Mid-Valley Water District c/o B. Ewell
W. Johnston, Westlands Water District

Cities

City Managers

Allen Goodman, Clovis
Glen Marcussen, Coalinga
Robert Christofferson, Fresno
Perry Powers, Firebaugh
*Frank Filice, Huron
Dan Ayala, Kernan
Paul Owahadi, Mendota
Calvin Brady, San Joaquin

Planning Depts.

George Kerber, Development Dept., Fresno
John Wright, Clovis

Public Works

*Jim Martin, Fresno
*Leon Lancaster, Clovis

Others

Council of Fresno County Governments
Bob Hampton, Fresno County Refuse Removal Assn.
George Hanna, CSUF
Hugo Kavorkian, BSK
Dick Leach, Emcon Associates
Maurice Strantz

Property Owners

Ernest & Gracie Sullivan
Richard & Betty Maron
Raymond & Star Gerawan (returned)
Pamela Mathios & Betsy Kimball

*Duplicate

Those Receiving Notification of Draft EIR Availability plus Draft EIR Summary
(Chapter I):

Pacific Gas & Electric
John Beyer, USDA Soil Conservation Service
Sierra Club
Audubon Society
C.A.U.S.E.
CA Native Plant Society
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Co. Farm Bureau
Bldg. Industry Assn.
Golden Valley Ecological Soc.
Pamela Melville, CWMB, Frs. Co. Clean Community Comm.
Brown, Vence & Associates
Herzog Contracting Corp.
A. Volpa, Rice Road Dump
Engineering Science
J. Logan, Planning Consultant
Sanger Energy Co., Inc.
Betty Noblett, League of Women Voters

City Councils

Clovis

*Harry Armstrong, Mayor
*Tom Stearns
*Peggy Bos
Marilyn Zygnier
Councilperson--vacant

Fresno

Dan Whitehurst, Mayor
Dale Doig
Joe Williams
*Karen Humphrey
Ted Wills
*Chris Peterson
*Les Kimber

Kerman

Harry Pederson, Mayor
*John Armas
Trinidad Rodriguez
Reno Lanfranco
Robert Mitchell

San Joaquin

James Fish
*Richard Maron, Mayor
George Nahhas
Lenore Barnes
Roy White

*Duplicate

Draft EIR + Summary Distribution List

School Districts on Potential Routes (Superintendents)

Kerman Unified
San Joaquin ESD
Tranquillity Union HSD
Central Unified
West Park ESL
Fresno Unified
Orange Center ESD
American Union
Washington Union HSD

Mailing Lists

Fresno-Clovis Solid Waste Commission (abridged)
West County Solid Waste Planning Committee (abridged)
Media (partial)
Property Owners within 1/2 mile from expanded landfill boundaries
Property Owners of parcels fronting American Avenue from Yuba to Madera Avenues
American Avenue petitioners (those legible with complete addresses)

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Those Receiving Final EIR:

Board of Supervisors (10)

Vernon Conrad, Chairman
Sharon Levy
Jeff Reich
Betty Ramacher
Deran Koligian

Planning Commission (10)

Howard Watkins, Chairman
Virginia Causey
Walter Lingo
Dode Radics
Edwin Rousek
Ralph D. Carr
Kenneth Cruff
Alvin Quist

MSM/pl
09/12/84

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Those receiving a copy of the draft EIR:

Mrs. Ruth Couto
20223 W. Jensen
Kerman, CA 93630

Mr. Jim Provost
3636 N. First, #112
Fresno, California 93726

Dr. Richard S. Burford
1443 W. Sample
Fresno, California 93711

Marc Boswell
Fresno County Environmental
Health Department

James K. Crossfield
1324 Purvis Circle
Clovis, California 93612

Ida and Albert Lowe
2355 S. Biola Avenue
Kerman, California 93630

Herman and Margaret Sandbothe
13443 W. Jensen
Kerman, California . 93630

Charles Claxton
4447 S. Green
Kerman, California 93630

Alma Furtado
2536 S. Goldenrod
Kerman, California 93630

Sharon Chicoine
532 Timmy
Clovis, California 93612

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APPENDIX C
COMMENTS RECEIVED
AND
RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

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Memorandum

OCT 04 1984

To : Walter Clark
Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan
Solid Waste Commission
4499 E. Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, CA 93702

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Date: OCT 01 1984

Bruce Walters
State Clearinghouse

From : CALIFORNIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Subject: Fresno County, American Avenue Landfill Expansion Project, DEIR

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the above mentioned project.

We have reviewed the draft and find the report very adequately addresses the items mentioned in our letter of June 5, 1984, on the Notice of Preparation, as well as our general concerns.

We suggest however, that the final draft include a further discussion of the recycling activities (page 30) proposed at the landfill expansion. The anticipated volumes of materials to be recovered should be listed. These figures might be projected based on other similar landfills in the region.

Should you have any questions on our comments, please contact Cy Armstrong at (916) 322-1342.

Odin Marlow by C. Armstrong

Odin Marlow, Chief
Office of Planning

Attachment

2146

**Responses to Comments of California Waste Management Board,
Odis Marlow, Chief, Office of Planning:**

The comment regarding the adequacy of the draft EIR is noted.

The anticipated volume of materials to be recovered through recycling is very small. This is primarily because the volume of waste that is anticipated to be brought to the landfill from other than municipalities is estimated to be only about 50 tons per day.

CUP

2146

Ms. Melinda Marks
Staff Analyst
Resources & Development Dept.
4499 E. Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, CA 93702

Dear Ms. Marks:

Subject: Draft EIR for Fresno County American Avenue Landfill Expansion

The Fresno County Planning Department has reviewed the subject draft EIR and has the following comments to offer:

1. Page 28 - The Fresno County Street Names Committee should review "realignment of Lake Avenue." The alignments proposed are Plumas Avenue (north/south) and Malaga Avenue (east/west). Transferring the name "Lake" to another alignment is not consistent with County Street naming policy. Lake Avenue is not a County maintained road. It should be clearly stated if its replacement will be County maintained.
2. Page 40, Paragraph 8 - If the waste-to-energy plant is not constructed, then landfill related emissions would be expected to double those amounts shown in Table 5 (Page 38). If this "worst case" situation develops, would regional air quality, public health and aesthetics be affected?
3. Page 42 - The addition of airborne ash from the waste-to-energy plant and dust resulting from soil excavation is considered to be an unavoidable adverse impact. Accordingly, are there any potential health hazards associated with this impact?
4. Pages 65-78 - This section provides an excellent data base regarding potential noise generation. But what effects would project noise have on nearby residents?
5. Page 75 - IF Route "B" is selected, noise levels could increase significantly if the waste-to-energy plant is not developed. If this occurred what are the anticipated off-site impacts?
6. If the waste-to-energy plant is not constructed or is delayed, where will the transfer station(s) be located? If the transfer station(s) is located in another place, will this alter projected traffic volumes and haul routes? If this happens, will public safety impacts increase?
7. The concept of a transfer stations whereby waste from the smaller collection trucks would be transferred to larger vans for shipment to the American Avenue site is not clearly presented.

Ms. Melinda Marks
Page 2
November 7, 1984

8. The discussion of impacts in this EIR could be irrelevant if the waste-to-energy plant is not located in the Orange and North area and the haul route trips, and consequent noise, do not occur on North or Jensen Avenues to reach the American Avenue site. If no waste-to-energy plant is established in the near future, transfer stations would probably need to be established. Since their location cannot now be determined, the related haul routes and consequent noise impacts cannot now be determined or adequately evaluated for environmental impacts. Other scenarios and alternatives should be evaluated for their haul-route and noise impacts, as well as other impacts.
9. The proposed site is designated for Agriculture by the Fresno County General Plan. The proposed project is consistent with the agricultural policies and the public facilities policies of the Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this document.

Sincerely,

Katie Bearden

Katie Bearden
Staff Analyst III

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RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

**Responses to Comments of County Fresno Planning Department,
Katie Bearden, Staff Analyst III:**

Item 1. It is agreed that the Fresno County Street Names Committee should review the "realignment of Lake Avenue" and that the naming of the street should be consistent with County street naming policy.

The placement street will not be designated as a County maintained road. It is presently contemplated that the street will be maintained as part of the normal landfill maintenance and operations.

Item 2. Local air emissions would increase if a greater volume of unprocessed municipal refuse is deposited at the landfill than is projected in association with a waste-to-energy facility. Given the types and amounts of emissions expected, overall air quality in the region would be impacted to a small degree, primarily due to emissions from the increased volume of trucks required to haul unprocessed refuse to the site. Emissions from the landfill itself would have little or no impact on local air quality. The effect of the additional emissions on public health and aesthetics would be insignificant.

Item 3. Dust and ash particles from the landfill that may become airborne would rapidly disperse and would thus not likely pose an adverse public health impact in the site's vicinity.

Health effects of occupational exposure to incinerator ash are not well documented. However, it may be desirable to equip landfill workers with face masks to reduce inhalation of dust and ash, since these employees will potentially be exposed to relatively high concentrations of particulates over an 8-hour workday.

Item 4. The "Potential Impacts" section of the Noise Study (Page 68 of the draft EIR) describes project-related increases in noise levels for the two project scenarios when compared to existing conditions. Figure 15 shows the area surrounding the expanded landfill where noise levels would exceed the standards of the Fresno County Noise Element and Noise Ordinance. Concerning traffic noise impacts along the various proposed haul routes, increases in noise levels of 2.0 dB or less would generally not be noticeable to local residents. Increases of approximately 3.0 dB or greater would be noticeable and should be considered significant. The only section of roadway where this could occur would be along North Avenue west of West Avenue if the proposed waste-to-energy plant is not constructed.

Item 5. See Item 4, above.

Item 6. The locations where transfer stations would be sited if the waste-to-energy plant is not constructed have not been determined. Traffic volumes and haul routes may change depending on the locations of the transfer stations. The impacts on public safety would have to be assessed at such time as the actual locations are determined.

Item 7. The respondent's comment should clarify any misunderstandings regarding the concept of transfer stations.

Item 8. The draft EIR evaluates the project as it is proposed by the County of Fresno as well as alternative locations and designs that have been considered for the project by the County. Should circumstances involving the design, operation or location of the project change to any significant degree (including changes in the haul route), a supplemental environmental evaluation would have to be performed to address the new circumstances.

Item 9. Comment noted.

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TO: Melinda Marks
FROM: Harold F. Durham, Traffic Engineer
DATE: October 3, 1984

SUBJECT: Fresno County American Avenue Landfill Expansion Project (EA 2554)

Public Works believes that the construction of a paved road along the new alignment will encourage development of the existing parcels north of the landfill. As conditions of approval, the following should be required:

1. An engineer to certify that there is adequate site distance at the intersection of the new alignment of Lake and American Avenues. The proposed intersection appears to be near a bridge abutment.
2. Provisions to prevent the unimproved alignments of Bell and Green avenues from becoming more traveled. These alignments would provide shorter travel distance for the existing parcels to the northwest.
3. The design speed of the road is 35 MPH or greater.
4. The road is constructed to the A-1b standard or greater. In lieu of the A-1b standard, an A-15 road may be constructed if no future subdivisions are permitted to use the road as public access.

The following comments refer to specific sections of the E.I.R.:

1. Pg. 12 - Land Use, 2nd paragraph. Lake Avenue is not a County maintained road and is being built as an A-15 road to relocate an unofficial dirt access easement to a group of existing trailers and landlocked parcels. It needs to be stressed that even if the County takes over maintenance of this road, the structural section and geometrics do not meet the public road standards, consequently, future subdivision using Lake Avenue for access should not be permitted.
2. Pg. 28 - Traffic and Access. See No. 1 for comments on the new Lake Avenue alignment. The existing alignment of Lake Avenue serves and will continue to serve as the entrance to the American Avenue land fill. This should be stated clearly to avoid confusion over the two roads.
3. Pg. 28 - Regional Access and Land Fill. It should be noted that there will be a minimum of a 2-year delay in the waste-to-energy plant coming on line. The proposed location of the plant has not changed.
4. Pg. 85, C. Existing Traffic Volumes. A level of service for the stated capacity on the existing roads should be given. The actual capacity of the road is influenced by many factors such as types of traffic, grades and road widths. As such, the "general rule of thumb, general volumes", may not be realistic.
5. Pg. 88. The installation of the right turn lanes at the 3 locations is desirable and would help to maintain the capacity of the roads through the intersections.

HG:ee:0114H

**Responses to Comments of County of Fresno
Harold F. Durham, Traffic Engineer:**

Items 1-4, top of page. The conditions listed should be added as mitigation measures for the project and required as conditions of approval with the conditional use permit for the project.

Item 1. Comment noted. The existing agricultural zoning in the area would not permit the development of additional subdivisions.

Item 2. Comment noted. See also Responses to Comments of Fresno County Planning Department, Item 1.

Item 3. Comment noted.

Item 4. The existing volumes are so far below the "rule of thumb" capacities of the roads that calculations of more accurate capacities and identification of levels of service were determined to be unnecessary for these straight and relatively flat routes.

Item 5. It is agreed and recommended in the draft EIR that the right turn lanes should be considered for safety and convenience but they do not appear to be necessary from a capacity standpoint.

2146

Date: November 7, 1984

To: Melinda Marks, Resources Division

From: Richard J. Leibold, Registered Sanitarian

Subject: Draft E.I.R., American Avenue Landfill

The Department of Health has reviewed the above cited document for our areas of expertise. We find that these areas are covered adequately and offer no specific comments. We would recommend that mitigation measures offered by the E.I.R be incorporated as conditions of approval for only discretionary permit required for this use.

If you have any questions please call me at 445-3271.

RJL/bf

cc: Marc Boswell
Stew Wilson

CUP

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NOV 08 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

2146

DATE 11/14/84
KT

**Response to Comments from County of Fresno, Department of
Health, Richard J. Leibold, Registered Sanitarian:**

Comment noted.

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2146

City of



City Hall • 209 488-1591
Fresno, California 93721-1899

Development Department

George A. Kerber
Director

November 6, 1984

Ms. Melinda Marks, Staff Analyst
Fresno County Resources and
Development Department
4499 East Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, California 93702

Dear Ms. Marks:

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR - FRESNO COUNTY
AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL EXPANSION PROJECT

Please find enclosed the subject comments by the Development Department and the Public Works Department.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Robert Dyer
Principal Planner

RD:cd

Enclosure

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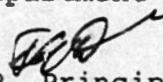
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RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Received
DATE 11/14/84
19

TO: GEORGE A. KERBER, Director
Development Department

DATE 11/5/84

FROM: 
ROBERT E. DYER, Principal Planner
Development Department

SUBJECT: COMMENTS FROM REVIEW OF DRAFT EIR
RELATING TO FRESNO COUNTY AMERICAN
AVENUE LANDFILL EXPANSION PROJECT

The following comments have resulted from review of the subject document:

1. In the event a proposed waste-to-energy plant is not located in the vicinity of Cedar Avenue between North and Central Avenues, a supplement to the landfill EIR must be prepared and must address the effects of waste truck traffic on routes between the waste-to-energy plant and the landfill site.
2. Page 40, ninth paragraph; if the projections for Scenario III in Table 13, page 86, are correct, refuse received at the landfill site will increase by 60 tons per year, not 60 tons per day per year.
3. The EIR does not identify the location at which the public may review the several technical studies listed in the preface.

RED:cd

cc: Al Solis

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Received
DATE 11/14/84
BY Kr

**Responses to Comments of City of Fresno Development Department,
Robert Dyer, Principal Planner:**

Item 1. See Responses to Comments of County of Fresno Planning Department, Item 8.

Item 2. Both the statement on page 40 and the table on page 86 are correct as printed in the draft EIR and do support each other. The caption on the table is "Increase in Solid Waste Flow to the Landfill Tons/Day," and the reference on page 40 is to "60 tpd," or tons per day.

Item 3. The technical studies were incorporated into the text of the draft EIR.

CUP

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TO: Bob Dyer, Principal PlannerDATE 11/1/84FROM: James L. Martin, Public Works DirectorSUBJECT: Draft EIR for American Avenue Landfill

The Public Works Department has reviewed the Draft EIR for American Avenue Landfill. We offer the following comments for your response.

1. The analysis of haul routes is incomplete. It is no longer certain where the haul trips will begin. If the point of origin is Neilsen Avenue, the trucks would have to go out of their way to get to Jensen Avenue, or go through residential areas.

There is no analysis of the volume of current truck traffic. This is especially important for Routes 180 and 145 which carry significant truck traffic during harvest seasons. The impact of landfill traffic through residential areas cannot be evaluated without information about the existing truck traffic.

2. There is no mention of the time of day the trucks will be using the selected route. While 116 trips spread over a 24-hour period may impose no significant impacts on the street system, 116 trips in an hour could have significant impacts on the capacity and operation of the major street intersections.
3. Right turn lanes are mentioned. However, there apparently has been no consideration of left turn lanes. Again, depending on the trucks and the hour, the capacity and level of service could be significantly affected.

JLM/BAS/sedp/4744H

L. J. BOYD

DATE 11/1/84BY JK

**Responses to Comments of City of Fresno Public Works Department,
James L. Martin, Public Works Director:**

Item 1. Regarding the analysis of haul routes, see Responses to Comments of County of Fresno Planning Department, Items 6 and 8.

The total traffic volumes on the potential haul routes that were evaluated utilize only a small percentage of the capacities of the roads. Therefore, determinations of the percentages of trucks contained in the existing flows were not deemed necessary.

Item 2. The additional equipment and man power costs that would be required to haul the waste material in a one-hour period would render the project financially infeasible. Economics will dictate that the daily hauling will occur over a nine (9) to twelve (12) hour period.

Item 3. Outbound left turn movements at the Cedar-Golden State and Golden State-Jensen intersections are discussed on Page 82. Due to the low traffic volumes, separate left turn lanes are not warranted at the outbound Jensen-Madera intersection or the inbound American-Madera intersection.

2146

MID VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
210 S. ACADEMY AVENUE
SANGER, CALIFORNIA 93657
PHONE 485-7500 • AREA CODE 209



September 14, 1984

Ms. Melinda Marks
Fresno Co. Resources & Development
4499 E. Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, CA 93702

RE: Draft Environmental Report-Fresno
County American Avenue Landfill
Expansion Project

Ms. Marks:


This office has reviewed the material submitted on the subject project
and has no additions at this time.

If we can be of further assistance, feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

FRED H. BATCHELOR
CHIEF

By


J. Walt Prather, Chief
Fire Protection Planning

JWP:cm

**Response to Comment of Mid Valley Fire Protection District,
J. Walt Prather, Chief, Fire Protection Planning:**

Comment noted.

CUP

2146

Tranquillity Union High School

P. O. Box 457

Tranquillity, California 93668

Phone (209) 698-7205

MALCOLM W. YOUNG ED.D.
SUPT / PRINCIPAL
GARY GROTH
ASST. PRINCIPAL
RICHARD COLE
CONT. SCH. PRIN.
AL VITAL
COM. ED. / ADULT ED. / ROP
DORA BRADY
BUSINESS MANAGER

LARRY ADAMS PH.D.
PRESIDENT
RAYMOND JOHNSON
VICE PRESIDENT
LARRY GILIO
CLERK
FREDDIE VALDEZ
KEITH EUBANKS

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OCT 24 1984

October 23, 1984

**RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Melinda Marks
Resources & Development Department
County of Fresno
4499 East Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, CA 93702

RE: American Avenue
Landfill Expansion
Project

Dear Ms. Marks:

It is the position of the Tranquillity Union High School District Board of Trustees to oppose the expansion of the American Avenue Landfill Site. The Board believes Clovis and Fresno should dump their garbage in their own yard.

Sincerely,

Malcolm W. Young
Malcolm W. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MWY:pg

TINO LOPEZ
DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE
DAVID McDONALD
ACTIVITIES ADVISOR

TONY BARAJAS
ATTENDANCE
DIANE WHITFORD
PROJECTS ADVISOR

**Response to Comment of Tranquillity Union High School,
Malcolm W. Young, Ed. D., Superintendent:**

Position noted. It should be noted that the project will not have any impacts on the Tranquillity Union High School.

CUP

2146

Memorandum

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD • CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

3374 E. Shields Avenue, Room 18

Fresno, California 93726

Phone: (209) 445-5116

TO: Mr. Bruce Walters
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Mr. James B. Wolfson
Senior Engineer

DATE: 4 October 1984

SIGNATURE: James B. Wolfson

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, FRESNO COUNTY AMERICAN AVENUE
LANDFILL EXPANSION, SCH NO. 84050705

Introduction

The project is proposed by the County of Fresno to expand the existing 30-acre landfill to a 440-acre regional landfill.

General Comments

None

Specific Comments

The draft EIR indicates the site will receive incinerator ash from waste-to-energy projects. The report recognizes that ash is considered a Group 1 waste under the existing regulations contained in Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 15 of the California Administrative Code. Furthermore, the report recognizes these regulations are being revised. On page 16 of the report, the discussion indicates the revised regulations would allow disposal of the incinerator ash with refuse in a Class III (proposed regulations) landfill provided the Department of Health Services determines the waste to be nonhazardous. The final EIR should recognize that under the proposed regulations, the Regional Board will consider ash to be a "Designated Waste" until such time as it is demonstrated the concentrations of soluble salts will not preclude classifying it otherwise. A designated waste could not be disposed of at a Class III landfill.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Lonnie Wass at (209) 445-5455 (ATSS 421-5455).

LMW:hmm

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OFFICE OF PLANNING
& RESEARCH

Response to Comment of California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, James B. Wolfson, Senior Engineer:

It is recognized that ash will have the status of a "Designated Waste" under the proposed regulations until such time that it is demonstrated the concentrations of soluble salts will not preclude classifying it otherwise.

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RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
Resources and Development DepartmentGerald Swan
DirectorSOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEEMinutes -- October 17, 1984

Members Present: James Crossfield, James Kenley, Bruce Morris,
Mary Savala

Staff Present: Richard Anthony, Ann Getz, Edward Gaylord,
Melinda Marks

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morris at 1:20 p.m.
with a quorum present.

Approval of the Minutes of September 19, 1984

Chairman Morris noted that since there were no corrections or
additions to the minutes, they stood approved as mailed.

Announcements

Richard Anthony introduced Dr. James Crossfield, newly
appointed to the Advisory Committee by Supervisor Reich.

Mr. Anthony announced the recycling conference scheduled for
California State University Fresno on November 8th. Chairman
Morris asked whether it would be appropriate for the County to
pay the members' mileage to the conference, and Mr. Anthony
answered he would check and get back to the members.

Mr. Anthony reported on the National Recycling Conference in
New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The next announcement was that the California Waste Management
Board had scheduled hearings on the Comprehensive Plan on
October 25th and 26th. At the Committee's request, Ann Getz
distributed the Agenda. Copies of the Plan would be ordered
from the State and distributed to the members.

Commission Update-Southeast Regional Solid Waste Commission

Mr. Anthony discussed the recovery project, leachate and
methane mitigation, and the Sanger Energy Company
negotiations.

Received

DATE 11/14/84

BY 19

-West County Solid Waste Planning Committee

The Committee's current business includes pursuing enforcement for illegal dumping, and a management program for triple-rinsed pesticide containers.

-Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Solid Waste Commission

Mr. Anthony reported on the full participation recycling study. The Committee discussed the option of separating yardwaste out for collection. James Crossfield discussed an article from Madison, Wisconsin, that reported an audit finding that the energy recovery project cost \$1.29 million more than landfilling.

-American Avenue Landfill Expansion

Mr. Anthony reported that the EIR is still out for public comment; the deadline is November 7th. Comments from the members were called for. Edward Gaylord and Melinda Marks joined the meeting, and Melinda Marks clarified the comment process.

James Crossfield expressed his opinion that the language on Page 3 of the cover letter to "prevent leachate production" was too strong a statement. Dr. Crossfield questioned what was meant on Page 3 of the cover letter that ground water monitoring would be done "as appropriate." Ed Gaylord clarified monitoring would be done quarterly in accordance with State regulations. Another question was whether current collection practices represented enough uncompacted refuse to justify construction of a recycling operation.

Edward Gaylord answered questions regarding the proposed ultimate open space land use designation.

James Crossfield noted that a base line for organic chemicals in the ground water appeared not to have been established. Ed Gaylord agreed that it had not. Dr. Crossfield also noted on Page 47 of the EIR that with increased canal irrigation there is a potential for an increase in the ground water, but there appears to be no plans for a clay liner. Ed Gaylord noted that any requirements for a clay liner would be placed by the Water Quality Control Board.

The Committee asked that Dr. Crossfield's comments, as recorded in the minutes, be submitted to the Director of the Resources and Development Department as an EIR comment.

County Solid Waste Management Plan

Ann Getz reported on the final preparations of the County Solid Waste Management Plan. The Committee requested sufficient time for review and comment.

Hazardous Waste Update

Ann Getz reported that the County has been meeting with a representative from the State Department of Health Services to reach a workable arrangement for the transfer of empty pesticide containers.

Legislative Update

According to Getz, all the bills reported at the last meeting to be pending the Governor's action were signed, except the Tanner Bill for hazardous waste planning.

Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Ann Getz for Richard Anthony
Richard V. Anthony
Solid Waste Coordinator

RVA/AVG/pl-1322F

2146

**Response to Comments of County of Fresno Solid Waste Advisory
Committee (Minutes of October 17, 1984 meeting)
James Crossfield, Member:**

The County of Fresno Resources and Development Department collected water samples from three wells at the project site on November 1, 1984. These were: T14S/R17E-29P2, 32P1, and 33N. The County of Fresno Department of Health determined contents of trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, dibromochloropropane, and ethylene dibromide in these water samples. Contents of all of these chemicals in the samples from the three wells were below the detection limits.

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PROVOST & PRITCHARD, INC.
CIVIL ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING
3636 NORTH FIRST STREET, SUITE 112
FRESNO CALIFORNIA 93726

JAMES R. PROVOST

PHONE (209) 226-2920

PAUL PRITCHARD
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FRESNO COUNTY

October 25, 1984

OCT 26 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Ms. Melinda Marks, Staff Analyst
Resources Division
Resources and Development Dept.
County of Fresno
4499 East Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, California 93702

Re: Draft EIR for American Avenue Landfill Expansion

Dear Ms. Marks:

From an interest on water supply to Fresno County, I reviewed Chapter IV, Section C. Groundwater, of the referenced report. My interest in the review was to learn if there might be any "perched" groundwater conditions, and what might happen to the deep groundwater if a surface water supply becomes available to farm land in the general area.

The report states that silt or clay layers exist, but that no evidence of perched groundwater was found. The test borings were deep enough to detect if the A-clay extended to the area, and it apparently does not. If a perched water condition does not exist now, one would not develop with the importation of a surface water supply, as virtually all of the neighboring acreage is now irrigated.

As to what might happen to the elevation of deep groundwater if a surface water supply becomes available, the report noted that the groundwater levels would continue to drop. It is given that the groundwater levels are now dropping 2.7 feet per year. Also, that the consumptive use of agricultural crops is at least 2.2 acre-feet per year and that if the estimated water supply is 1.5 acre-feet per acre, then the elevations will decline at a rate in the order of one foot per year. This approach is very general as to a procedure for analysis of how groundwater elevations might change. Using the same data, one could argue that elevations will increase. An annual decline of 2.7 feet per year represents a water shortage in the order of 0.5 acre-foot per year. It would then follow that an additional supply of 1.5 acre-feet will cause the groundwater elevation to raise 5.4 feet per year. I do not believe that either approach is correct in that the subsurface flows of groundwater is a significant item in the analysis. I would expect that with the importation of a

October 25, 1984
Ms. Melinda Marks
Page 2

surface water supply that subsurface inflow to the area receiving the water will decrease, and the subsurface outflow will increase. There is in the order of 110,000 acres in the general area which does not now have a surface water supply, and the groundwater overdraft is in the order of 75,000 acre-feet per year. It is hard to see how the importation of even 2.2 acre-feet to 12,000 acres of that land might have a significant change on groundwater elevations. However, I do not know what the impact might be.

Very truly,


James R. Provost

JRP:ls

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**Response to Comments of Provost and Pritchard, Inc.,
Civil Engineering and Land Surveying - James R. Provost:**

The overall conclusion in the comments is apparently that the importation of water to 12,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the project site will have little effect on water levels, due to a much larger surrounding area that is in a state of overdraft. Consultant agrees with this conclusion.

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November 7, 1984

Ms. Melinda Marks
Coordinator American Avenue EIR
Fresno County Resources and Development Department

1. You have been furnished a copy of my letter to the Board of Supervisors. This letter introduced the lack of consideration of the A horizon clays and is to be a part of the review.
2. It is my understanding that the consultants are reviewing whether the A horizon exists to the site and specifically the effect of the Mid-Valley Water District. The Exhibit 3 of the EMCON report may be redrawn if there is not evidence that there are discontinuities under the site.
3. The geohydrologist did not note the substantial deterioration in the two identical wells 29P and 32P (Tables 7 and 8) over a 2-year period. I would think that this would be a matter of concern and should be analyzed.
4. Figures 7, 8, and 9 are different from previous EMCON submittals and probably should be resubmitted by EMCON with explanations.
5. In previous correspondence I have questioned whether a channel to the Fresno Slough would not be more economical and have less groundwater hazard than the pond. It would also be more valuable as a fill site.
6. It appears that there should be a section on the cost and operating expenses.
7. It appears to me that traffic control lights will be required at both Madera Avenue intersections and the amount of charges for these and other traffic and road expenses should be identified.
8. There is a statement that some homes are to be relocated and that some zoning is to be established. What are the costs of these activities?
9. It appears to me that the alternatives must be real and expressed in dollars. This has not been done. If condemnation is required it must be for a need within 7 years and should represent the most economical alternative.

10. With this much new material I believe that there is a substantial change in the EIR so the new material should be submitted as a supplement and the comment period extended and not attempt to cover it in a Final EIR. It appears to me that if the excavation has to be restricted to say 10 feet, which would probably be the requirement if the clay is near the west side of the site or under it, then the cover material would limit the height to say 30 feet. The site would then be preserved for a westside only uses and other alternatives would need to be examined.

Sincerely,



Maurice Strantz

cc: Supervisor Reich
Supervisor Koligian
Supervisor Conrad
Loren Harlow, RWQCB

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NOV 07 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

MAURICE K. STRANTZ **ECONOMIST**

110 WEST BARSTOW, #105

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93704

209 / 431-8223

209 / 442-1243

September 17, 1984

Vernon Conrad, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

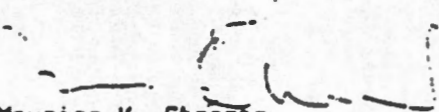
I am glad to see item 12 on the agenda since the Board needs to be advised as to the progress on the American Avenue Landfill. The present procedure is to have the matter go first to the planning commission and then come back to the board.

I want to object to the procedure for the Real Property Division beginning to negotiate even approval of a conditional use permit with the adjacent property owners. The EIR also requires a acquisition of some residential property and some restrictions on use of other agricultural property as to residential use on adjacent parcels.

I do not think that all of these disturbing activities should proceed until a clearer picture has developed as to whether a regional landfill can be placed there. My questions as to the water problems have not been addressed. The new borings confirm the continuity of the less permable materials. These have not been reflected in the artists (geologists) conception. I suggest that he read the reference, Croft, Page and Leblanc (copies attached). Dr. Schmidt has not recognized that the Midvalley Water District is essentially formed and surrounds the site on three sides. He doesn't recognize the effect of the improved water management efforts in Fresno Irrigation District. The very unprofessional phone calls of Chris Palmer (copies attached) and followup by the staff have not provided additional input but tended to cut off communication.

If the project is to be dialogued at the Planning Commission and rereferred to you, we should wait for that process.

Sincerely,


Maurice K. Strantz

MKS:wc

Attachments: 2

The logs of two core holes, one of which is shown in figure 2, show that the C clay is a yellowish-brown to grayish-blue, silty, calcareous clay about 10 feet thick. This clay, also identified on other electric logs, rarely is more than 50 feet thick. The C clay is considered to be of Pleistocene age.

A Clay.

The A clay is a fine-grained lacustrine or paludal deposit composed mainly of blue, olive brown, or dark greenish-gray, plastic, silty, sandy, gypsiferous, and highly organic clay. A log is shown in figure 2. In some areas, the clay is interbedded with a few lenses or stringers of fine to medium sand. The deposit generally is less than 60 feet thick and occurs at a depth of 10 to 60 feet beneath Buena Vista, Kern, and Tulare Lake beds and parts of Fresno Slough (pls. 1-3, 6).

In general, the deposit was mapped on the basis of electric logs as a single lense of fine-grained sediment, but logs of core and auger holes indicate that in some areas it consists of several thin clay deposits separated by thin beds of sand. The upper stratum was observed in a pit in section 9, T. 25 S., R. 23 E., about 10 feet below land surface. North of Buttonwillow Ridge (pl. 6), structural contours were drawn on the base of the lowest stratum of the A clay. Beneath Buena Vista and Kern Lake beds it was necessary to draw structural contours on the base of the upper stratum because lithologic data were lacking at the lower stratum.

Croft (1968) reported that a radiocarbon date (W-1506) of $26,780 \pm 600$ years was obtained from wood found in a core sample about 3 feet beneath the A clay at a depth of 39 feet in well 25E/21E-21D. The date suggests a correlation with the Stansbury stage of Lake Bonneville as dated by Eardley and others (1957, p. 1141) and is comparable to several radiocarbon dates at Searles Lake (fig. 1) that were obtained from material occurring near the base of the parting mud (Smith, 1962, p. 66). A radiocarbon date (W-1505) of $9,040 \pm 300$ years was obtained from wood within the upper stratum of the A clay in 32S/26E-10N, at a depth of 38 feet. The age of the A clay is therefore considered to be Pleistocene and Holocene(?). Radiocarbon determinations were by Meyer Rubin, Radiocarbon Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey (Am. Jour. Science, 1967, p. 514-515).

**Responses to Comments of Maurice K. Strantz, Economist
(Letter dated November 7, 1984):**

Item 1. A copy of the letter that was sent to the Board of Supervisors dated September 17, 1984, is included in this final EIR following the letter dated November 7, 1984.

Item 2. The results of EMCON Associates review regarding the existence of the "A" Clay is reported in a letter dated November 2, 1984, which is attached following these responses. A second letter dated September 25, 1984, from the Department of Water Resources which is also attached following these responses discusses the Mid-Valley Canal.

Item 3. The chemical analyses presented in Tables 7 and 8 for the same well may not be directly comparable, because of several factors. For example, sampling procedures may not have been the same, and different chemical laboratories analyzed the water samples. Conclusions on changes in groundwater quality shouldn't be drawn based on only two sampling rounds by different investigators. Regular monitoring of selected wells over a period of several years in the future should provide information on a change in groundwater quality.

Item 4. The previous EMCON submittals were preliminary designs which did not reflect the presently proposed size or configuration of the landfill. Figures 7, 8, and 9 represent the size and configuration that are now under consideration.

Item 5. The transporting of surface runoff from the project site to the Fresno Slough is viewed by the County and EIR Consultants as unnecessary and impractical. The runoff that will be generated can be most effectively managed if retained on the site in the proposed retention basin rather than having to construct and manage the facilities necessary to transport it several miles to the slough.

Item 6. The scope of the draft EIR as designed to comply with the requirements of the California Waste Management Board. These requirements do not include addressing costs and operating expenses.

The California Waste Management Board, in its response to the draft EIR, indicated that its concerns were very adequately addressed in the EIR. A copy of the Board's response is included in this final EIR.

Item 7. The traffic analysis that is included in the draft EIR and the responses of the County Traffic Engineer in this final EIR do not support the contention that traffic lights will be needed at the Madera Avenue intersections.

Item 8. There is a recommended mitigation measure on page 80 of the draft EIR which indicates that "consideration should be given to acquiring the residences located adjacent to the landfill over time as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the residences are located." The cost of acquiring the residences could be most accurately and appropriately determined as such acquisition is actually contemplated.

The normal fee for filing a rezoning application with the County of Fresno is \$370.00.

Item 9. The scope of the evaluation of alternatives in the draft EIR was as realistic as practicable and conforms with the requirements of the California Waste Management Board. It should be recognized that the main purpose of an EIR is to evaluate the impacts of a project on the physical environment and not to serve as an economic feasibility study for a project.

Item 10. Nothing has been presented in the comments received on the draft EIR that would justify the preparation of any supplemental documentation at this time or the extension of the comment period. As noted previously, the California Waste Management Board was very satisfied with the evaluation of the project presented in the draft EIR.

As described in Item 2, there is no evidence that the clay is under the site.

2146



EMCON
ASSOCIATES
Consultants in Wastes
Management and
Environmental Control

November 2, 1984
Project 600-01.04

Mr. Michael Paoli
Michael Paoli & Associates
Suite 306
1111 Fulton Mall
Fresno, California 93721

Re: Draft Environmental
Impact Report, Fresno
County, American Avenue
Sanitary Landfill
Expansion Project
(E.A No. 2554)

Dear Mr. Paoli:

This letter addresses comments contained in a letter dated September 17, 1984 from Maurice K. Strantz to Vernon Conrad, Chairman, Fresno County Board of Supervisors (enclosed). Mr. Strantz's letter was forwarded to me by the Fresno County Resource and Development Department with a request to direct my comments to your office.

In his letter Mr. Strantz refers to geological work done by Croft, Page and Leblanc and attached several papers and parts of maps from reports on the subsurface geology of San Joaquin Valley. The extracts refer to the existence of an "A" Clay which Mr. Strantz suggests extends beneath the proposed American Avenue Landfill Expansion.

The "A" Clay is described in the literature as "a fine-grained lacustrine or paludal deposit composed mainly of blue, olive brown, or dark greenish-gray, plastic, silty, sandy, gypsiferous, and highly organic clay." No such material was encountered in borings drilled on the American Avenue Landfill Expansion area by EMCON Associates nor was it reported by Dr. Kenneth D. Schmidt who explored the site in 1982. ("hydrogeologic Conditions at the American Avenue Landfill Extension Site," Schmidt, Kenneth D, 1982).

The "A" Clay is discussed in U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1999-H (Croft, 1972) which indicates the deposit occurs at a depth of 10 to 60 feet beneath Buena Vista, Kern and Tulare Lake Beds and parts of Fresno Slough. Plate 6 in this water supply paper shows the clay

Mr. Michael Paoli
November 2, 1984
Page 2

extending beneath a portion of Fresno Slough in the vicinity of the American Avenue Landfill with the boundary of the area extending under the westerly portion of the expansion area. However, the boundary contains question mark symbols indicating that its location is uncertain.

We contacted Mr. Ronald Page, a geologist located at the U.S. Geological Survey Sacramento office who is familiar with the "A" Clay mapping project, to discuss the basis for the "A" Clay limits shown on Plate 6. Mr. Page confirmed that the boundary on Plate 6 is uncertain and based on driller logs of wells distant from the American Avenue Landfill and not site-specific data.

In summary, exploration of the expansion site as well as the documents referenced by Mr. Strantz do not indicate the presence of the "A" Clay beneath the American Avenue Landfill expansion area.

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

EMCON Associates

Richard J. Leach

Richard J. Leach
Vice President
RCE 16111

RJL:kp

Enclosure

cc: Fresno County Resources and Development Department
Mr. Gerald Swan, Director
Mr. Ed Gaylord, Supervising Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

3374 East Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720



RECEIVED
FRESNO COUNTY

OCT 03 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

September 25, 1984

Mr. Edward R. Gaylord
Supervising Engineer
Resources and Development Department
County of Fresno
4499 East Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, CA 93702

Dear Mr. Gaylord:

As requested in your letter of September 14, I have reviewed the reports on the American Avenue landfill and the data on test hole logs and water levels. I agree with the conclusions in the reports. No perched water was encountered; water levels are declining about 3 feet per year and are expected to continue to decline even if Mid-Valley Canal deliveries become available to the area.

If you have any questions in this regard, please telephone me at 445-5181.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arvey A. Swanson".

Arvey A. Swanson, Chief
Planning Section
San Joaquin District

FRESNO COUNTY

NOV 07 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Nov. 7, 1984

Dear Melinda Marks,

I am writing about the plan to turn a 30 acre dump site into a 40 acre site. For one thing it is only 5 miles from Kernan, and there are several people living very close to the site. Can you imagine living that close to something like that. Why can't some place be found near Clovis & Fresno to take care of their garbage. With that much garbage being taken there it will be full before you know it. Then what? I am concerned with the added traffic on Jensen Ave. 56 trucks with garbage, added to the traffic already there, will make it very hard to travel on. The people who live in this area. Plus, all the debris that is bound to be left along the roadside. Who is going to clean that up?

I think it is very unfair to expect the residents in this area to have to expect the garbage from Fresno & Clovis to be dumped in our back yard. Why can't this site be left for the Kernan & West Side people & a new one somewhere nearer Clovis & Fresno for theirs.

Sincerely,
Alma Furtado
2536 S. Goldenrod Kernan, Ca. 93224

Resources and Development Department:

Dear Sirs:

The traffic is bad on Jensen now and we have to close it every day to get work. This would not be a good route.

The dump is located too close to the growing Kernan district. It is too small for such a large operation. Jensen would be too small a road for these trucks plus all other traffic.

Mrs Ida L. Lowe
Albert E. Lowe
2355 So. Byla Ave
Kerman, Calif 93630

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FRESNO COUNTY

NOV 07 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

2146

NOV 07 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

No 4, 1984

Dear Sirs;

I have come and bought your Environmental Impact Report and ^{have} a few comments.

First of all you probably haven't received very many comments because most people you talk to feel that it's all cut and dry. you will do what you please no matter what we have to say.

According to this most of this E.I.R. has been done with the idea of the Waste to Energy Plant to be located in Fresno. And as it looks there's not much going on in that direction.

Also from reading this it gives you the idea. What if we don't go along with this for the Fresno Met and Clovis Waste Problem that our dump will be fill to capacity in 1985, what will happen for the County own waste would the County add another ten acres to the present site or what?

Your part on transportation is not quite correct there is no white line all the way to Madras ave from Fresno on Jensen Ave. Also ⁵⁶ your few

NOV 07 1964

DEPARTMENT
RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

rural residence on Jensen between
Dickerson and Maduca counts up
to over thirty-five, with three
business besides.

Another thing ^{you} have done is
the consideration of a left turn
lane at Maduca Ave. I don't believe
that having it will cause us
to have any less accidents than
we have had before. There have
been more than I would like to
remember there. Also you don't
mention high density of residents
just past Jensen Ave on Maduca
Ave, there are quite a few home
as well as the two business
that's located close there at Jensen Ave.

My feeling are that your ideas
are probably going to go thru and
carry all the weight. But if this
thing has to become a reality you
might think twice about closing
Jensen Ave. I have lived here all
of my thirty-eight years. When
Jensen Ave was much busier,
there was a meat packing firm
further down on Jensen Ave; the
were lots of big trucks coming
and going and after awhile our
road became lumpy and bumpy
with a chuck hole here and
there, the shoulders gave way
and one place was so bad
that a hay truck lost part
of his load.

Our road since then has been rework and is in good repair and I would like to keep it that way. I have a business in my home and have people coming in and out quite often I feel adding more traffic especially large trucks causes a bigger danger for my patronage as well as I have a child in school who has to wait for the bus and be left off the bus. We have approximately twenty children just in one to one-half miles. That means the trucks will be being stop for children to be cross to the other side of the street.

I don't like to recommend anything for anyone else that I don't want myself, but there are fewer residences on north ave past Rickerson point and probably the other way up east of Dickerson also. Fewer residences and no business that I know of. Besides if you come down north ave part of the traffic that would be coming down Madua would probably be turning on to Jensen or down to the grocery store or residence in that area, so there would be less cross traffic to contend with.

Since I have live here all my life I know what its like

to have more traffic, more dirt
more litter, more danger for
our children yes they don't belong
out on a busy road but sometimes
they do get away from you and
being on a busy road make even
hushier is even more dangerous.

Another thought is the farmers
out here own land in different areas
and have to move their equipment
on the road they don't want more
trucks to have to worry about or
more litter in their fields.

Maybe this isn't the place to
say it but why don't Fresno & Clovis
find something that's a whole lot
closer to them. You put down
its 25 or 30 miles to the dump
site I think you could invest
that money on fuel into a much
closer area of ground. You are
taking agricultural land out
here why not add on to the
present location with agriculture
land there?

Thank you

Margaret Sandbothe
13443 W Jensen
Kerman Ca 93630

846-8445

NOV 07 1984

Resource and Development Department

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

It has recently been brought to my attention that the County is planning to expand the American Avenue Landfill Site, hereafter, referred to as the "dump". The county also proposes to use Jensen Avenue as the main route of haul. Use of Jensen would increase the traffic flow, this is the basis of my argument.

First of all let me address the problem. Trash is what we are talking about. The sad fact is, that it is not even my trash. The County is going to be sending the Fresno-Clovis area trash through my front yard. Why do I have to put up with someone else's garbage? I dispose of my own trash, but if this proposal passes I will be cleaning my street and disposing of other people's trash. Can you spell UNFAIR?

Secondly, the County wants to send fifty-six loads of waste daily, over a ten hour period. One hundred and twelve times a day a garbage truck will pass my house. Approximately one truck every five minutes will pass by my house, this is in addition to the traffic already on the road. Can you spell NOISE POLLUTION?

With the addition of the trucks, which will have to make a left hand turn on to Madera Avenue (145), it will cause traffic congestion at the already busy intersection. Without a signal or stop sign at the intersection you would be asking for a traffic accident. Can you spell LOSS OF LIFE?

Jensen is ^a rural street, it is travelled by slow-moving farm machinery as well as fast-moving trucks. The severe increase in traffic would over tax the street and many more traffic accidents would occur resulting in loss of property and loss of life.

I have another concern, that is our children. There are many families with children living along Jensen. School busses travel Jensen five days a week picking students up and then returning them home. I feel with the sudden addition of traffic there will be a serious threat to the welfare of our children.

Finally, I feel sorry for the people living near the dump. It is true many people bought land after the dump had been established. However, they did not know it would ever be expanded to fourteen and a half times its original size. They also did not know they would have to sell-out just to make room for Fresno City's trash. Can you spell INJUSTICE?

In conclusion I'd like to suggest a better route, that of North Avenue. There is less traffic, and the North canal borders one side, thus eliminating a lot of cross-traffic problems. The best solution however, would be to send your trash elsewhere. Can you spell NEW PLAN?

I think you should.

2146

Sincerely
Joseph E. Perry
Joseph E. Perry

RECEIVED
RESNO FRESNO COUNTY

NOV 07 1984

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Johnnie & Ruth Couto

20223 W. Green
Kerman, Ca. 93630

November 6, 1984

Fresno County Resources & Development
4499 E. Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, Calif 93702

To Milinda Marks

In regard to the American annular dump site and the environmental and ecological impact on the area and its water table, it seems the trash to be disposed of is the only consideration. The underground water here in this area is one of the few places left in this whole area left unpolluted.

Garbage can be put anywhere but pure water is becoming more scarce everyday and should be considered more than any thing else. The news everyday tells of the danger you maybe imposing on the area. Garbage dumps have polluted the area in Fresno around them and now it will also ruin this water too. After it is done it is too late to say, well if we had only known.

Thank you
Ruth Couto

Responses to Comments of Alma Furtao, Ida L. Lowe and Albert E. Lowe, Margaret Sandbothe, Joseph E. Perry and Ruth Couto:

The above respondents all appear to live in the general vicinity of Jensen Avenue or the proposed landfill site. The most commonly expressed concern in their comments related to traffic safety along Jensen and Madera Avenues. Other concerns included noise and litter associated with project traffic, that the approval of the project is a foregone conclusion, that the project will adversely impact groundwater in the area, that Fresno and Clovis should take care of their own garbage and that the landfill will adversely impact residences in its immediate vicinity.

The reasons for selecting Jensen and North Avenues for evaluation as potential haul routes for the landfill are explained on pages 81 through 88 of the draft EIR. Three important factors should be noted regarding these routes. First, the County has not made a final determination on the actual haul route that will be used. This determination will be made at some future time if the project is approved, and the information presented in this EIR, including the respondents' comments, will be taken into consideration in making the determination.

Second, the traffic analysis prepared for the EIR does not indicate that the traffic generated by the project would have a significant adverse impact on any of the roads that were considered as possible haul routes. All of the roads would continue to operate at acceptable levels of service without or with the project.

Third, on page 88, mitigation measures are suggested for enhancing traffic safety and convenience along the haul routes.

The potential impacts of the project on noise levels along the two haul routes that were studied are described in Section IV,H, of the draft EIR. It is concluded that noise levels along the haul route would increase as a result of project-related truck traffic. If Jensen Avenue is selected, increased noise levels would not be significant. If North Avenue is selected, noise levels could increase significantly if the waste-to-energy plant is not developed.

The County of Fresno has an ongoing litter control program which is in effect now and is utilized to remove litter from landfill haul routes and other County roads. This program would be extended to the American Avenue haul route if the project is implemented.

The potential impacts of the project upon groundwater are described in Section IV,C, of the draft EIR. The proposed

project cannot be operated as a dump, due to strict regulations that have been adopted by the State Water Board. Historically, monitor wells were not in place near most landfills where problems developed. At the American Avenue Landfill expansion site, the proposed operation would be carefully monitored. If pollution is observed in water from the monitor wells, corrective actions would be required by the regulatory agencies involved.

The draft EIR notes that the existence of the landfill, including the nature of the use and its operational characteristics and appearance, may be considered undesirable by the few residents who would live near it. The EIR also suggests as a mitigation measure that the County consider acquiring the houses located adjacent to the landfill as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the houses are located. This measure would preclude any possible long-term conflicts with residents in the immediate area.

The need for the project, the area it will serve and the status of the existing American Avenue facility are described in Section II of the draft EIR. Alternative locations that were considered for the landfill are discussed in Section VI.

Finally, any contention that the approval of the project is a foregone conclusion is erroneous. The County of Fresno must consider and approve a conditional use permit application before the project can be implemented. The public will have an opportunity to present testimony for or against the project at the public hearing on the conditional use permit.

2146

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CUP

2146

Draft

Environmental Impact Report

FRESNO COUNTY

AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL

EXPANSION PROJECT

(E.A. NO. 2554)

2146

**Michael Paoli
And Associates**

**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**AMERICAN AVENUE SANITARY LANDFILL
EXPANSION PROJECT
(Environmental Assessment No. 2554)**

CUP
Prepared for
The County of Fresno

2146

Prepared by
**Michael Paoli and Associates
1111 Fulton Mall, Suite 306
Fresno, California 93721**

August, 1984

I

SUMMARY

A. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The project site consists of 440 acres of primarily undeveloped and agricultural land located on the north side of American Avenue, four miles west of State Highway 145 (Madera Avenue) at Lake Avenue, in Fresno County, California. The site is in a rural setting with agriculture the predominant surrounding land use.

The proposed project would expand the existing 30-acre American Avenue Landfill into a regional disposal site in two phases: first, to 160 acres on land owned by Fresno County and ultimately, up to 40 acres on adjoining land that would be acquired by the County. When completed, the landfill would consist of a series of knolls rising 100 feet above the existing ground surface.

The landfill would have capacity for 32.7 million cubic yards of refuse, most of which would come from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The facility would have a service life ranging from 23 to 93 years, depending upon the fill scenario. The fill scenario that is contemplated in the revised Fresno County Solid Waste Management Plan would provide the 93 year service life. This scenario involves the landfill receiving primarily ash from a waste-to-energy plant that is planned to be operational in 1987 at a site in the south Fresno area.

The landfill qualifies as a Class II-2 facility under current State regulations. With this classification, the site can accept for disposal non-hazardous municipal wastes. If the landfill receives ash from the waste-to-energy plant, its classification and the design standards under which it must operate may change to reflect applicable State regulations.

B. INSIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project would either not adversely impact or would have insignificant adverse impacts on the following natural and human resources and conditions: air quality (except dust), geologic conditions, slope stability, vegetation (no rare or endangered plant species were found on the site), wildlife (no rare or endangered wildlife species appear to inhabit the site), public land use policy and zoning, growth inducement, transportation, historical resources, odors and vectors.

C. POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Development and operation of the landfill may cause the potentially significant impacts presented in the following list. The possibility of any of the listed impacts occurring can be substantially reduced if not in most cases eliminated through proper application of mitigation measures incorporated in the project plans or recommended in this EIR.

1. Airborne dust resulting from soil excavation and ash disposal could become noticeable in downwind areas during periods of high winds.
2. Property located west of the project site, along the north side of American Avenue, could be impacted if contaminated runoff should leave the landfill site.
3. Landfill leachate could be generated which could degrade groundwater quality in the area.
4. The existence of the landfill, including the nature of the use and its operational characteristics and appearance, may be considered undesirable by the few nearby residents.
5. An increase in the area exposed to noise levels exceeding applicable Fresno County standards would occur in the immediate vicinity of the landfill. Noise levels along the haul route would also increase. This impact would only be significant if the waste-to-energy plant was not implemented.
6. Landfill gas could migrate off the project site and adversely affect surrounding agricultural crops.
7. Fires in the landfill could occur if hot ash loads are dumped with loads of unprocessed waste.

D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures designed to reduce or eliminate impacts are included in the project plans. Additional mitigation measures are recommended in the EIR to supplement and strengthen these measures. They include:

1. Testing for landfill gas should be conducted in accordance with State and Federal regulations to ensure that migrating gases do not exceed: (1) 25 percent of the lower explosive limit for gases in facility structures and (2) the lower explosive limit for gases at the property boundary.

As an additional measure, gas monitoring should be conducted when the landfill encroaches within 1,000 feet of any enclosed structures.

2. The intermediate and final cover should be designed in accordance with State minimum standards to preclude percolation of rainfall both from large storms and during wet years. Irrigation of the cover landscaping should be avoided entirely if possible.

3. A properly designed and conducted groundwater monitoring program should be established.

4. Based upon the presently contemplated general location of the waste-to-energy plant in south Fresno, Jensen Avenue should be given primary consideration as the haul route between the plant and the landfill.

5. To preclude future land use conflicts, the County should consider the acquisition of the residences near the landfill over time as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the residences are located and the application of zoning which will prevent further residential development in the landfill vicinity.

E. SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Research and evaluation conducted for this EIR has not identified any significant unavoidable adverse impacts to on- or off-site areas associated with the project.

F. ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives section addresses the "no project" alternative, alternative site locations and alternative design configurations for the landfill. Under the no project alternative, the existing 30-acre American Avenue landfill could continue to operate until it reaches capacity in 1985. The agency that would be most affected by the no project alternative would be the City of Fresno which must find a means of disposing of 550 tons per day of refuse before its existing landfill reaches capacity in the latter part of 1985.

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Solid Waste Commission studied a number of possible locations for the landfill before selecting the American Avenue site. The alternative sites that were given in-depth consideration are described in Section VI.

Three design alternatives were considered for the American Avenue Expansion project. These alternatives are described in Section VI and involve differences in fill capacity and visual characteristics.

G. CUMULATIVE AND IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

The proposed project would have minor cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, agricultural land, and vegetation and wildlife.

II

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION

This section and Section III describe the location, setting, design and operational characteristics of the proposed American Avenue Landfill Expansion project. The general format in which the information is presented is designed to comply with a project description checklist prepared by the California Waste Management Board (CWMB).

Information on the proposed project presented in this section and Section III was taken primarily from four sources: Preliminary Design, Construction and Operations Report for American Avenue Landfill, prepared by EMCON Associates, April, 1984; Project Draft Management Report--American Avenue Landfill Expansion, Fresno, California, prepared by EMCON Associates, August, 1983; Fresno County Solid Waste Management Plan (Revised Draft), prepared by the County of Fresno Resources and Development Department, May, 1984. Copies of these documents are available for review at the Resources and Development Department.

B. PROJECT LOCATION

The locational relationship of the project site within the State of California, County of Fresno and its immediate environs is shown on Figures 1-3. The 440 acre site is in a rural setting in northwestern Fresno County. It is located on the north side of American Avenue, four miles west of State Highway 145 (Madera Avenue) at Lake Avenue. The nearest concentrations of population are in the City of San Joaquin, five miles southwest (population 2,111); City of Kerman, five miles northeast (population 6,043); and the unincorporated community of Tranquillity, six miles west-southwest (population 705). The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (population 341,542) is about twenty-two miles northeast of the site.

The project site is within portions of Sections 32 and 33, Township 14 South, Range 17 East, M.D.B.&M. and is shown on the Jameson, California and Kerman, California 7.5 Minute U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Maps.

C. NEED FOR PROJECT

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Solid Waste Commission (FCM/SWC) is currently implementing a comprehensive solid waste management plan on which the revised Fresno County Solid Waste Management Plan (CoSWMP) is based. The plan addresses the needs

2. Potential Impacts

If a sufficient amount of water is allowed to contact the refuse, then landfill leachate may be created, which could degrade the quality of groundwater in the area. If this occurs, several domestic and irrigation wells in the vicinity could be impacted. Potential sources of water that could contact the refuse include: 1) infiltration of rainfall from intense storms, 2) infiltration of storm runoff or irrigation tailwater, 3) infiltration of water used for landscape irrigation, 4) wastewater disposed to the landfill, 5) rising groundwater, 6) horizontal movement of deep percolation from irrigation on adjacent lands, and 7) horizontal movement of recharged storm runoff from the proposed pond.

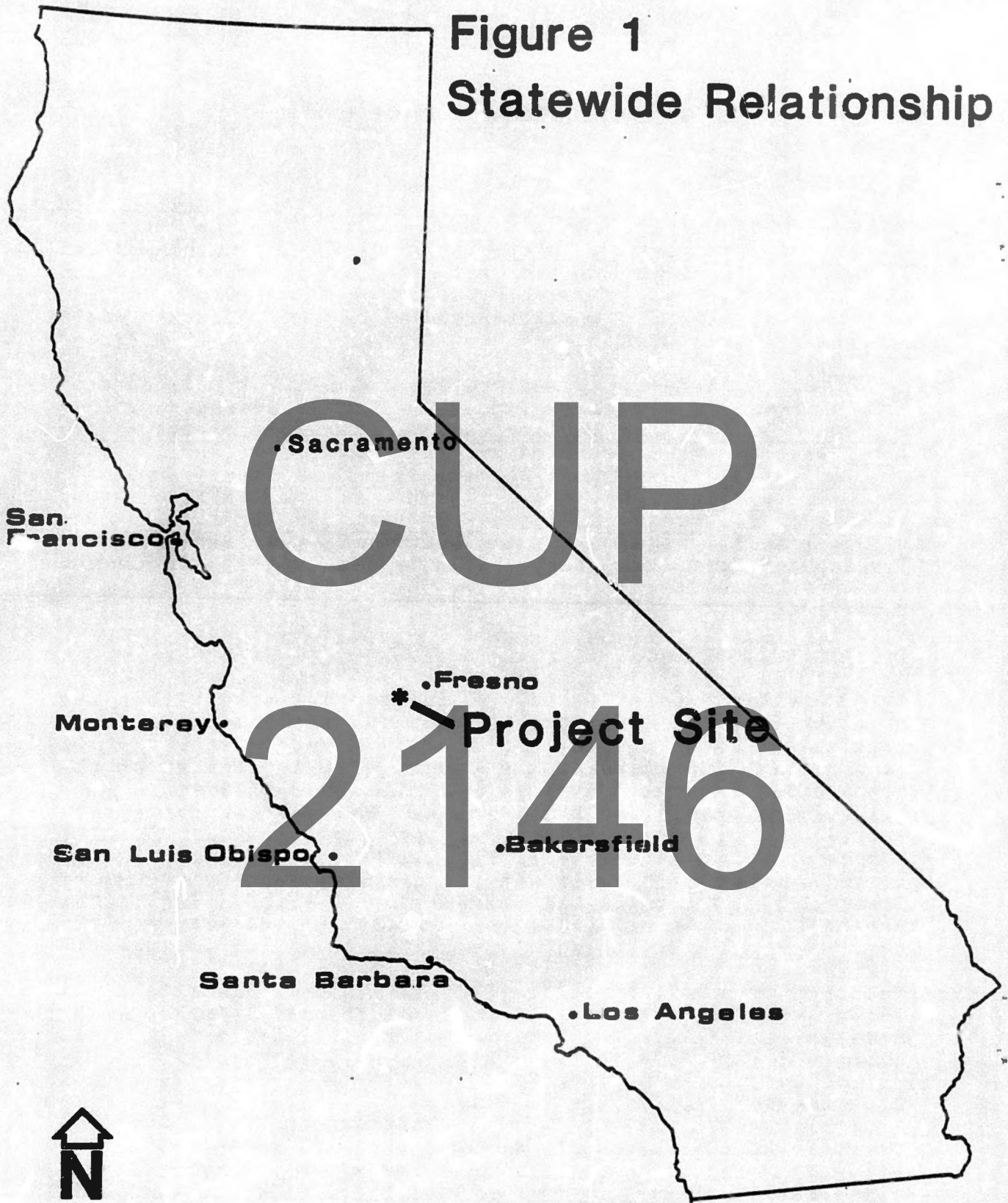
For Scenarios I and III, where no ash is disposed at the site, leachate would be expected to contain significant levels of the following constituents that could degrade groundwater quality: iron, manganese, alkalinity, hardness, organic nitrogen, ammonia, total organic carbon, boron, fluoride, chloride, and TDS. Affected water could also have an objectionable taste and odor. The main parameters that could impact the use of water for domestic purposes would be taste and odor. The main constituents that could impact irrigation wells would be TDS, boron, and chloride. Trace organic chemical constituents would generally not be expected at significant levels, unless there was illegal disposal of industrial wastes at the site.

For Scenario II, where ash is disposed at the site, numerous trace metals could also be of concern, such as lead, chromium, cadmium, selenium, barium and silver. Many of the trace metals that could be present are listed in the Primary Drinking Water Standards. Thus groundwater for domestic use could be adversely impacted.

In terms of leachate formation, infiltration of rainfall can be controlled by using suitable material for daily, intermediate, and final cover. The finer-grained materials (silt) at the site appear to be adequate for intermediate cover. EMCON Associates (1984a) has indicated that this material is also adequate for final cover, if a thickness of four feet is used. Infiltration of storm runoff should be minimal if the proposed design is followed. Water used for landscape irrigation has a significant potential to create leachate, unless it is carefully controlled to minimize deep percolation. Wastewater also has potential to create leachate, if disposed to the landfill.

Rising groundwater is very unlikely to contact the buried refuse. New lands have been developed in the vicinity in recent years and pumpage has likely increased. As long as irrigation is practiced in the area and groundwater continues to be the major source of water, groundwater should not contact buried refuse, if the maximum depth of excavation is no greater than 30 feet as planned.

Figure 1
Statewide Relationship



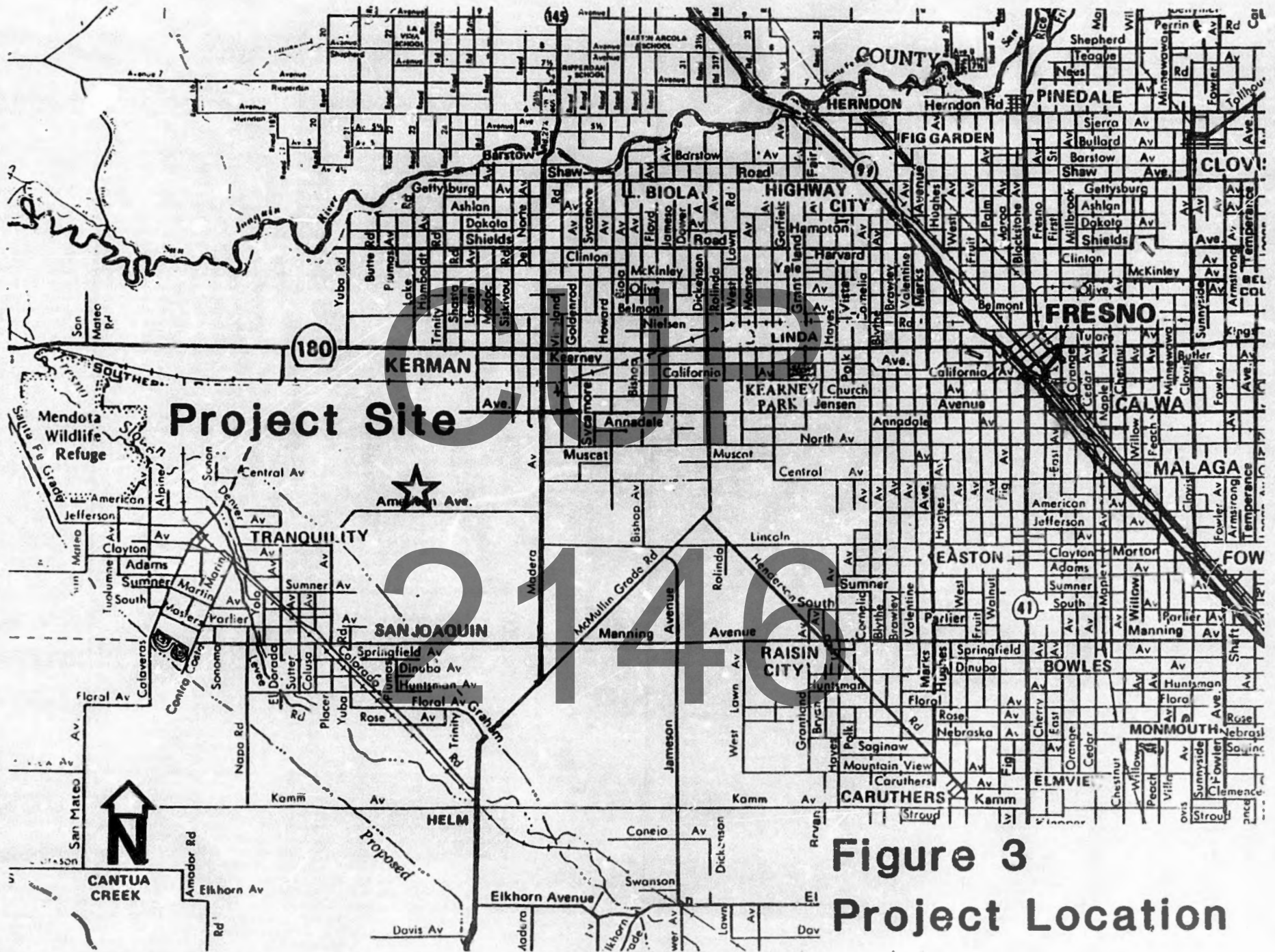


Figure 3
Project Location

of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area by including the following: (1) a waste-to-energy plant, (2) a materials recycling facility, and (3) a regional sanitary landfill for disposal of both residuals from the waste-to-energy recovery plant and nonprocessibles that must bypass the plant.

The project site has been proposed as the location for the regional landfill. It would also serve as the site of a recycling facility.

The existing landfill presently receives less than 50 tons of solid waste per day. The waste stream would increase to approximately 600 tons per day after closure of the City of Fresno Landfill in mid 1985. Total daily site tonnage could further increase up to 1,200 tons per day if other sites serving the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area close in the same period. The waste-to-energy plant with a capacity of 750 tons per day is scheduled for completion in 1987. Ash and nonprocessible waste from the plant, as well as wastes that bypass the plant, would be transported to the expanded landfill site for disposal. With the waste-to-energy plant in operation, the landfill would receive 225 tons per day of ash and nonprocessibles.

D. AREA SERVED

The proposed project is planned to provide a minimum of twenty-five years disposal capability for the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. It would also provide disposal capability for the West County Solid Waste Planning Area and can also provide an interim backup site if the Southeast Regional Facility is unable to serve the regional need. Further, the site is surrounded by agricultural uses and could be expanded to provide for other county-wide long-term needs. The boundaries of the referenced service areas are shown on Figure 4.

E. POPULATION SERVED AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS

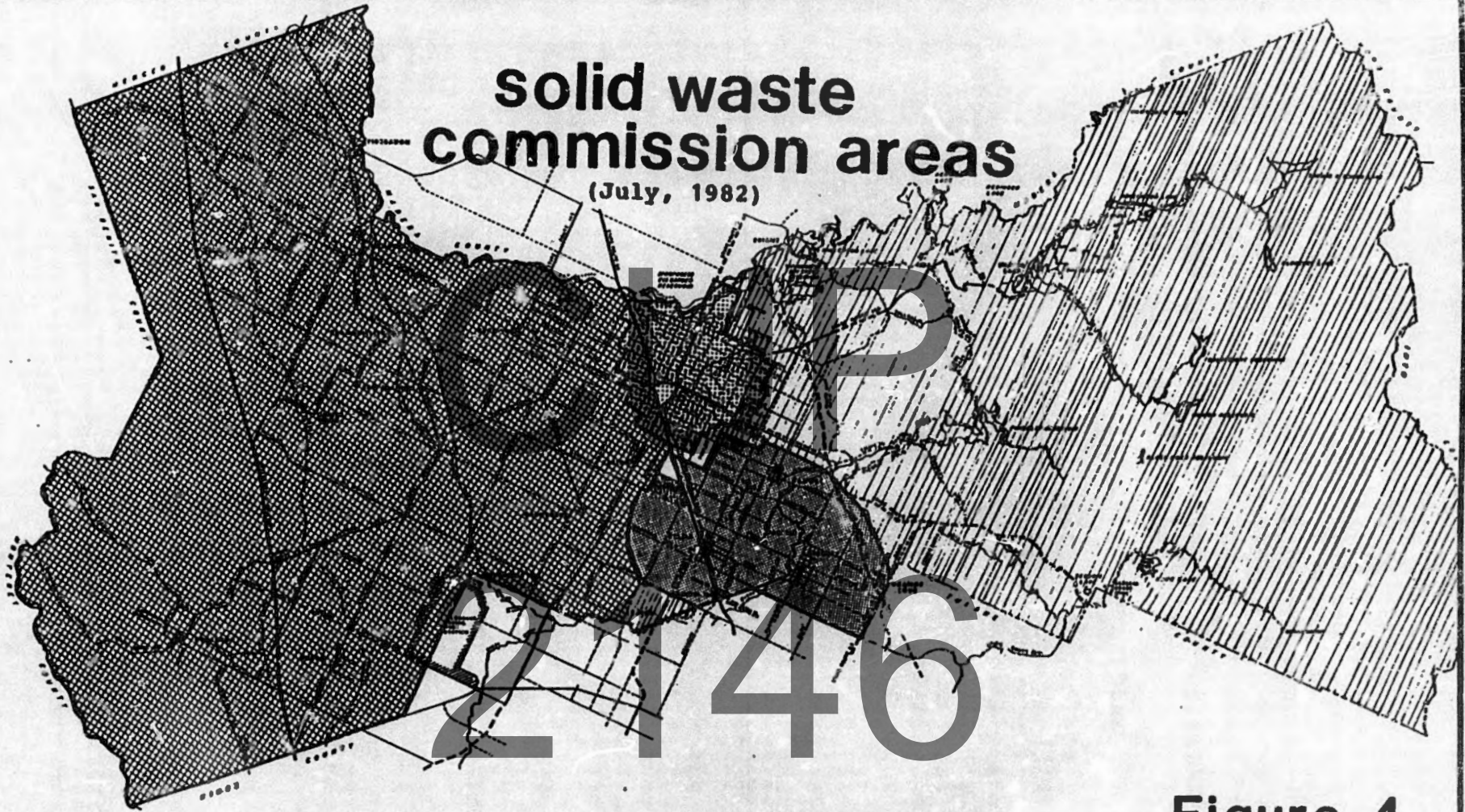
The existing and projected populations for the service areas of the American Avenue Landfill are presented in Table 1. The table indicates that the population of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area, the primary service area for the landfill, was 341,542 in 1980 and is projected to reach 533,000 by the year 2000. The table also indicates that the West County Solid Waste Planning Area had a 1980 population of 69,167 and that this population is expected to increase to 107,900 by the year 2000. The population of the two primary service areas accounted for 80.8 percent of Fresno County's population in 1980. This percentage is expected to remain fairly constant through the year 2000.

F. EXISTING FACILITIES

The County of Fresno approved a conditional use permit to allow

solid waste commission areas

(July, 1982)



NOTE: The boundaries shown are subject to change on an annual basis.

Figure 4







	 WEST COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLANNING COMMITTEE	 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SOLID WASTE COMMISSION	 WASTE FLOW DIRECTED TO SANGER ENERGY FACILITY UPON COMPLETION
	 FRESNO CLOVIS METROPOLITAN SOLID WASTE COMMISSION	 SIERRAS AND UNINCORPORATED METRO	

TABLE 1

POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICE AREA*

Commission Service Area	Population				
	1980**	(%)	1985	1990	2000
Fresno Clovis Metro- politan	341,542	(67.4)	381,700	426,700	533,000
Southeast Regional	78,088	(15.2)	87,300	97,500	121,900
Westside	69,167	(13.4)	77,300	86,400	107,900
Sierra Region	<u>25,824</u>	<u>(5.0)</u>	<u>28,900</u>	<u>32,300</u>	<u>40,300</u>
COUNTY TOTAL	514,621	(100.0)	575,200	642,900	803,100

*Using a 2.25 percent annual increase

**Based on 1980 U.S. Census, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, released April 1, 1980

solid waste disposal operations on the original 20-acre American Avenue Landfill site in 1971. An additional 10 acres were added to the site in 1979.

The existing landfill is owned and operated by the County of Fresno. It is a Class II-2 facility and currently receives less than 50 tons per day of municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris and agricultural waste and tires.

The remaining capacity of the existing American Avenue Landfill is estimated at 145,200 cubic yards. The estimated closure date is in 1985. The proposed post closure use for the landfill is agricultural open space.

Information on other landfills in Fresno County is available in the Revised CoSWMP. This includes the location of permitted solid waste disposal sites, current disposal site operations and remaining capacities and proposed final uses of the sites. The principal landfill that the expansion of the American Avenue site would replace is the City of Fresno's municipal landfill located at the extreme southwest corner of the City. The 135 acre site has been in operation since 1935 and is planned to reach capacity in the latter half of 1985. It is a Class II-2 facility and receives about 550 tons of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris daily.

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III

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Size

The existing 30-acre American Avenue Landfill is proposed to be expanded into a regional disposal site encompassing up to approximately 440 acres. The project involves enlarging the existing facility in two phases: first, to 160 acres on land currently owned by Fresno County and, ultimately, up to a 440 acre site on adjoining land that would be acquired by the County (see Figure 5).

2. Topography

The existing topography on the project site is shown on Figure 6. Most of the site is generally flat and without significant landforms, with the exception of the portion that is being used for the existing landfill. The site slopes toward the southwest, from an elevation of about 186 feet MSL at the northeast corner, to an elevation of 178 feet at the southwest corner.

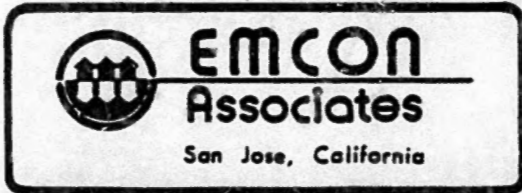
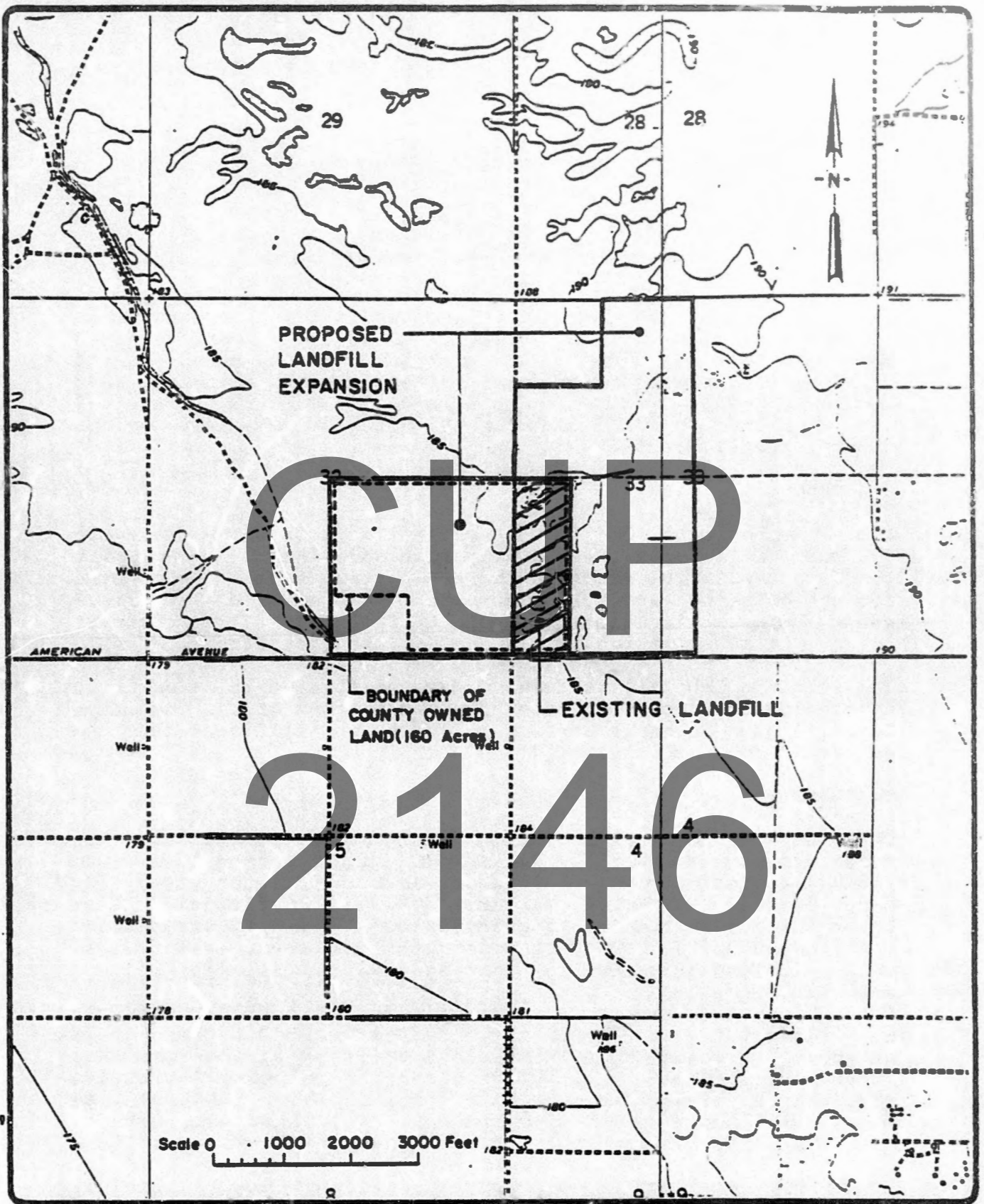
The existing landfill has been excavated to a depth of about 20 feet below the ground surface at the north end of the facility. The fill has reached a maximum height of about 10 feet near the center of the facility.

3. Land Use

The land uses on and in the vicinity of the project site are rural and agricultural in character. Land uses on the site include approximately 170 acres of uncultivated open space, 200 acres planted in cotton, 40 acres planted in alfalfa and 30 acres in use as the existing landfill. Of the 160 acres presently owned by the County of Fresno, 130 acres are undeveloped open space and 30 acres are the landfill.

Lake Avenue, an unimproved County road, extends through the site along the west edge of the existing landfill. There are a gatehouse, a scale and a maintenance building at the existing landfill. The only other buildings or structures on the entire site are one single family dwelling and adjoining farm-related buildings located east of the existing landfill and north of American Avenue on land that is now privately owned.

There are uncultivated open space, a vineyard, land planted in cotton and three single family dwelling units north of the site. The land to the east and south of the site is planted in



FRESNO - CLOVIS METROPOLITAN SOLID WASTE COMMISSION
AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
PROPOSED LANDFILL EXPANSION

FIGURE
5

cotton, vineyards and alfalfa. The land to the west is primarily uncultivated open space. There are several single family dwellings located in this area, along the west edge of the site. Five dwellings are located along the north side of American Avenue near the southwest corner of the site and there is a small enclave of mobile homes situated between 1,500 to 1,900 feet north of American Avenue near the west boundary of the site.

A map and additional information on land uses in the area are presented in Section V.A.

4. Public Land Use Policy and Zoning

The project site is designated as a disposal site under the Solid Waste Facility Policy of the Fresno County General Plan (County of Fresno, 1983). The relationship of the site to the general plan is further discussed in Section V.A.

The project site and surrounding land are zoned AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture, 20 acre minimum). Landfills are permitted in the AE-20 District subject to first securing a conditional use permit. Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 955 was approved by the County of Fresno in 1971 for the original 20-acre American Avenue Landfill. Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 1655 was approved in 1979 to allow the expansion of the site to the present 30 acres.

5. Ownership and Operational Responsibility

The American Avenue Landfill would be owned and operated by the County of Fresno. The Resources and Development Department would have direct responsibility for the management of the facility.

6. Public and Private Use

The landfill primarily would be used by the public sector but would be open to private haulers and to the general public. It would be mainly served by large solid waste transfer trucks from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. Ultimately, a large portion of the material hauled would be ash from the proposed waste-to-energy plant.

7. Classification of Landfill and Wastes Received

a. Current Regulations

The American Avenue Landfill expansion site qualifies for a Class II-2 classification under the current requirements of Subchapter 15, Chapter 3, Title 23 of the California Administrative Code as administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Under that classification, the site could accept for disposal nonhazardous municipal solid waste

(Group 2 wastes) produced in the proposed site service area. Once the site starts receiving waste-to-energy plant ash, current regulations would require that areas in which the ash is landfilled must meet Class II-1 standards. Results of chemical testing of the ash per Department of Health Services (DHS) procedures would indicate whether or not a low-permeability liner and leachate collection system would be needed in the areas designated for ash disposal.

b. Pending Revisions to Site Classifications

Proposed revisions to Subchapter 15, which have been approved by the SWRCB, would, among other things, change the disposal site classification system and introduce various prescriptive design standards. Disposal site classifications would change as follows:

Current Classification	Proposed New Classification
Class I	Class I
Class II-1	Class II
Class II-2	Class III
Class III	Unclassified

The revised regulations would allow disposal of the incinerator ash with refuse in a Class III (new) landfill provided 1) the Department of Health Services determines the waste to be non-hazardous, and 2) solids-to-liquids ratio for the total waste in the landfill is not less than 5:1 by weight.

If laboratory testing per Department of Health Services procedures indicates that ash, or any component thereof, from the waste-to-energy facility meets the hazardous waste definition, the site construction features would need to comply with the pending standards. Design standards under consideration would require that ash disposal areas be constructed with a 2-foot clay liner having a permeability of 1×10^{-6} centimeters per second or less, overlain with a minimum 1-foot permeable blanket and leachate collection system.

Pending new regulations are subject to modification through the regulatory review process. Adoption of the revised Subchapter 15 regulations is expected no sooner than Fall of 1984. In any event, ash received at the site would be disposed of in compliance with the designated landfill standards. If a liner is required, details would be presented in the final plans for the landfill.

8. Landfill Design (Site Layout, Height of Fill, Ultimate Use)

The Preliminary Grading and Drainage Plan, Fill Sequence Plan

and Sections, Details, and Conceptual Site Closure and Landscape Plan are presented on Figures 7-10. The figures show the proposed configuration of the completed landfill and construction details of the project. Some adjustments and changes to these drawings would be made when a more detailed final engineering design is completed.

The Grading and Drainage Plan (Figure 7) shows proposed final grades to be reached for site closure. Development of the landfill to the indicated (closure plan) grades would create a series of knolls that rise above intervening saddles; the slopes of the perimeter would be mild. An all-weather access road would remain as a permanent feature to facilitate future uses and maintenance of the area. Lake Avenue, which bisects the site, would be realigned along the western property boundary.

The series of knolls would rise about 100 feet above the existing ground surface. Perimeter slopes would be no steeper than 5:1 (horizontal:vertical) and the top surface of the fill would be sloped at 3 to 5 percent. These surface slopes are sufficient to ensure runoff of surface water after anticipated settlement of the underlying waste fill. As the landfill is brought to final grade, a total of 4 feet of cover soil would be placed over the wastes.

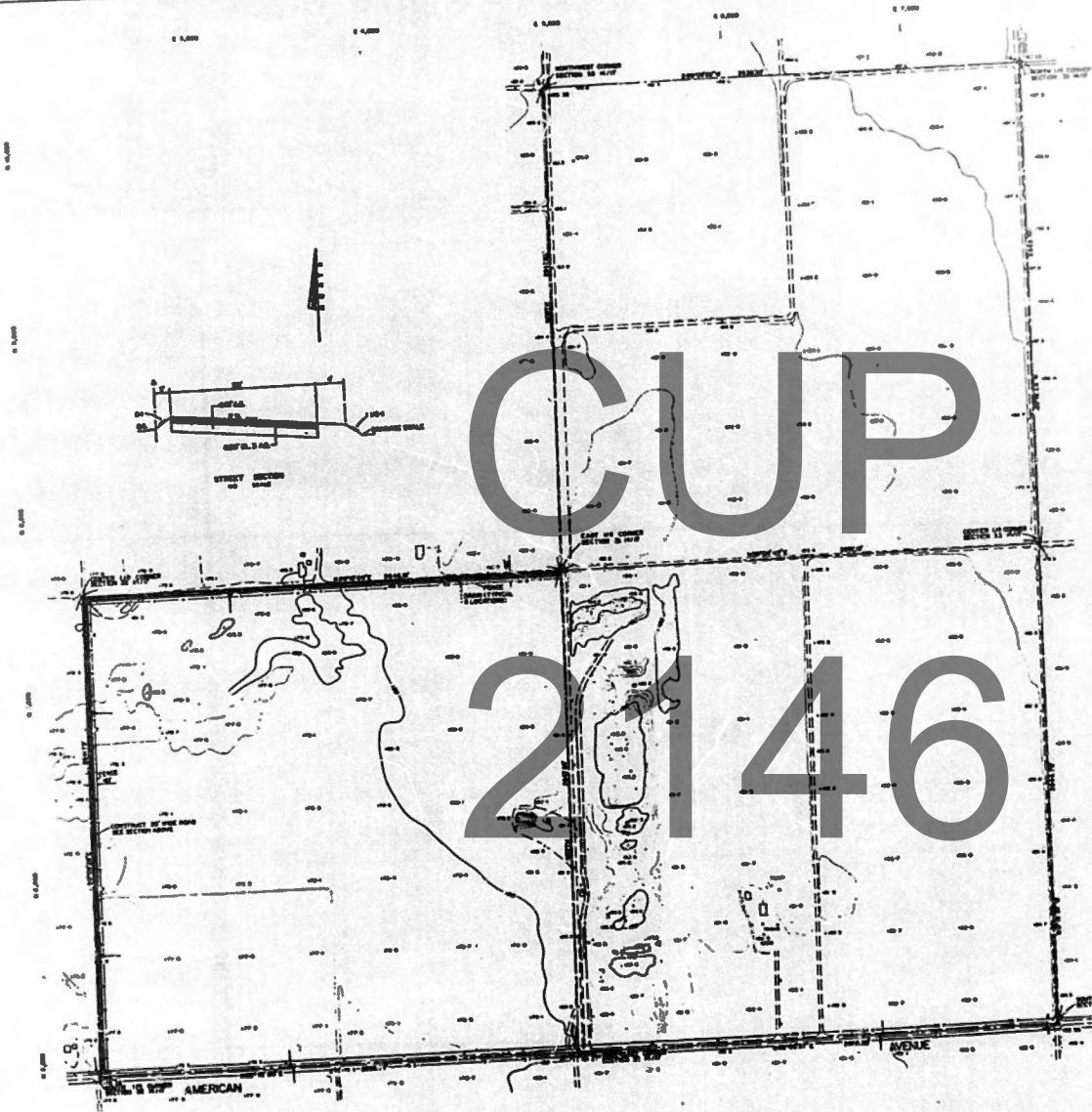
The site is not located in a 100-year flood plain, and there is no history of inundation at the site. Drainage ditches would be used to direct runoff around the site and to control on-site surface water runoff. A storm water retention basin would be provided in the southwest corner of the site to collect all runoff from the site.

The Fill Sequence Plan and Sections (Figure 8) show the proposed manner and sequence of filling. The Fill Sequence Plan divides the landfill into modules numbered to indicate the order of excavation and filling. This sequence has been designed to facilitate access, efficient excavation and handling of earth materials and controlled placement of refuse fill. Three selected sections show in cross-section the existing ground surface, excavation subgrade, final landfill surface profiles, as well as the direction of fill advancement within a typical module. A four-working-face detail highlights the method of refuse placement and lift construction.




The plan also shows a typical module excavation plan. The excavation is sloped to drain to the perimeter, where a maximum excavation depth of 30 feet is proposed.

A recycling center is planned at the location shown adjacent to the site entrance on American Avenue. At a minimum, facilities would be provided to recover paper, mixed glass and aluminum cans. The area designated for the recycling center allows for future expansion if needed.

Figure 6
Existing
Topography




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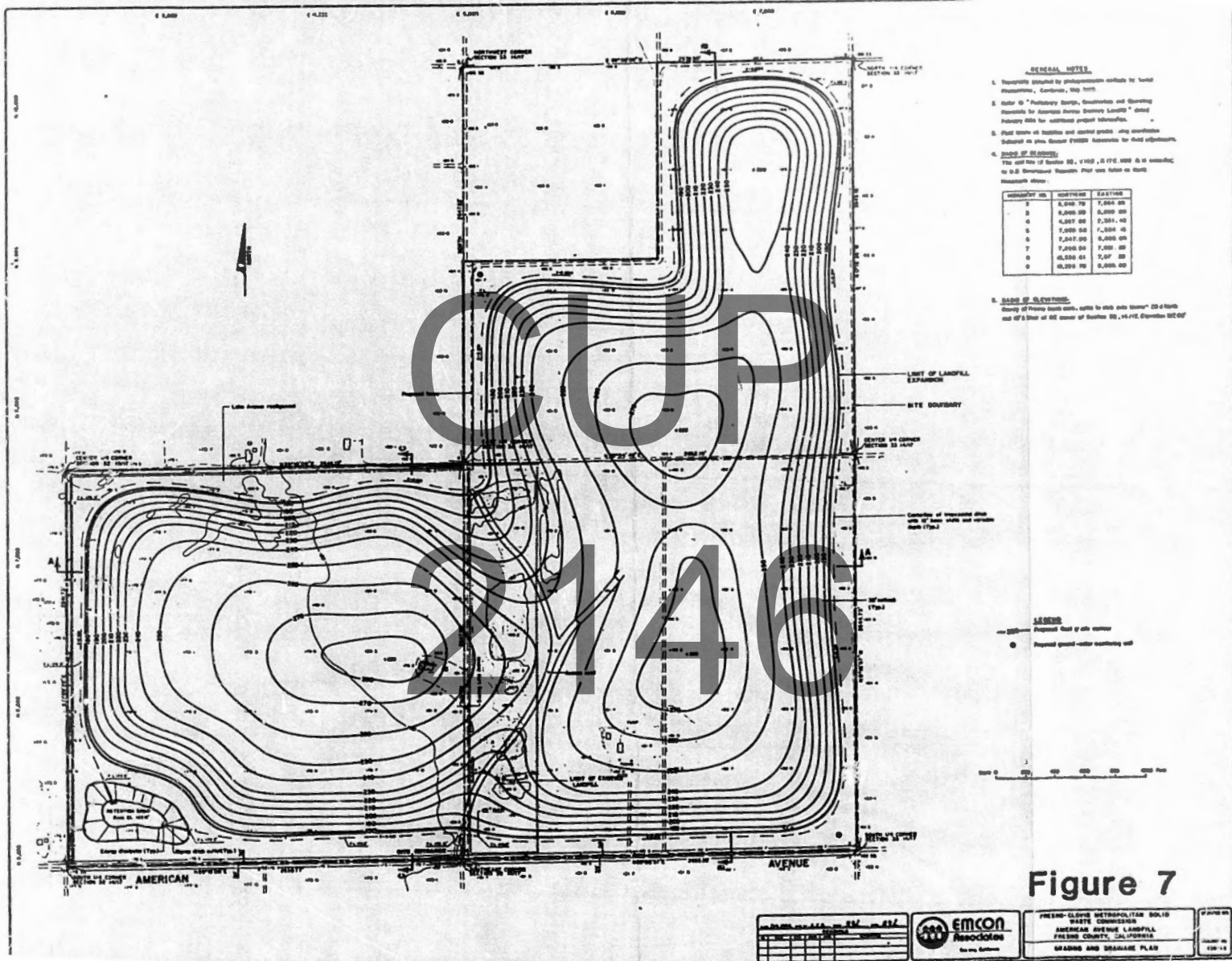
 EXISTING POWER OR TELEPHONE POLES
 EXISTING DRAINAGE
 EXISTING ROADS

PROVISIONS
 PROVISIONS FOR UTILITIES: EXISTING POWER POLES AND DRAINAGE
 SHALL BE MAINTAINED OR REPLACED AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN
 THE PROVISIONS OF THE CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE. THE CITY ENGINEER
 SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY CHANGES TO THE UTILITIES.

THE ENGINEER
 SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION
 CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING.

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 ENGINEERING
 CONSULTING
 COMPANY
 1000 N. GATEWAY BLVD., FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93727
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Fred N. Robe Engineering Inc.
 CIVIL ENGINEERS-LAND SURVEYORS
 808 N. GATEWAY BLVD., FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93727
 TELEPHONE (209) 486-7533



- GENERAL NOTES**
- Topography obtained by photogrammetric method by Tenth Productions, Concord, May 1978.
 - Refer to "Preliminary Grading, Drainage and Operating Plans" for American Avenue Landfill "Final" Project 200 for additional project information.
 - Plot shown on this plan and related plans are accurate. Refer to the Survey FIELD BOOKS for field observations.
 - SCALE OF ELEVATION**
This scale for Section 22, T4S, R1E, S1W is applicable to U.S. Standard Topographic Map area shown on sheet Mountain view.

ELEVATION IN FEET	HORIZONTAL DISTANCE	EASTING
2	2,000 TO	7,000 TO
3	2,000 TO	6,000 TO
4	4,000 TO	7,000 TO
5	7,000 TO	7,000 TO
6	7,000 TO	6,000 TO
7	7,000 TO	7,000 TO
8	6,000 TO	7,000 TO
9	6,000 TO	6,000 TO

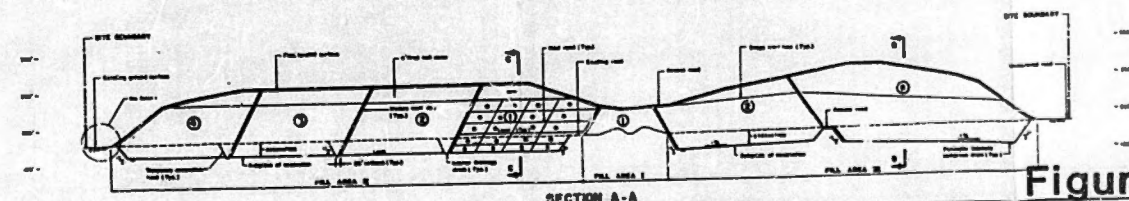
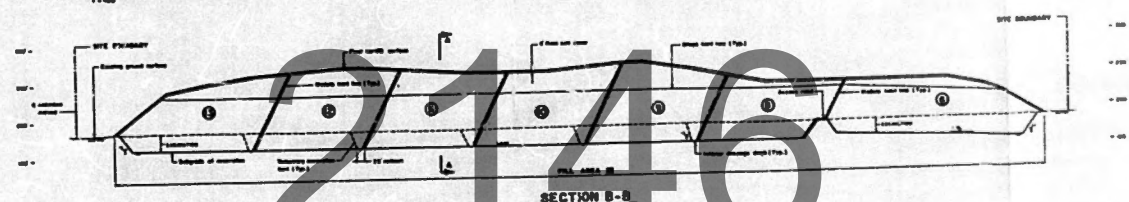
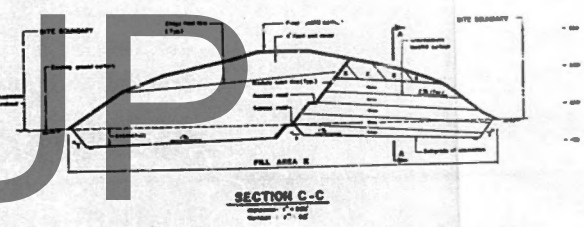
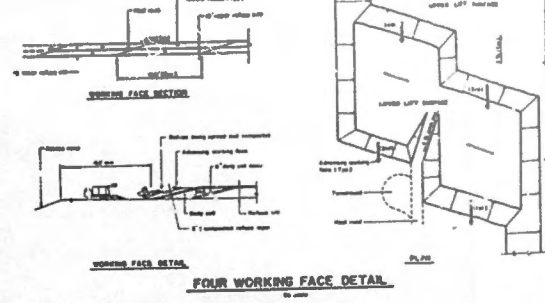
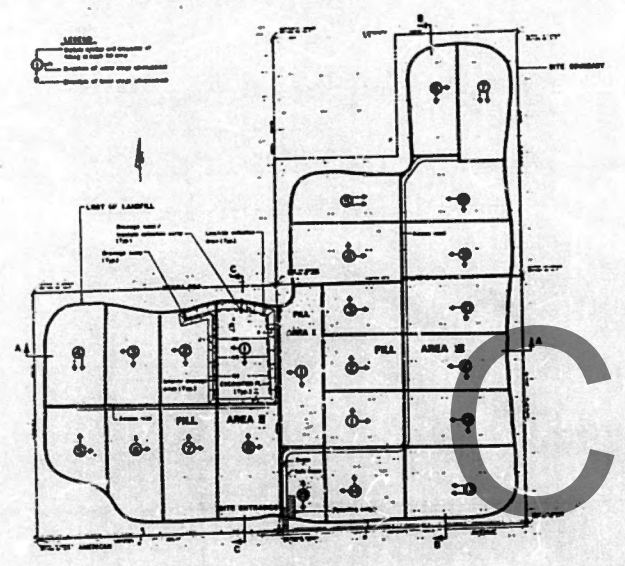
SCALE OF HORIZONTAL DISTANCE
County of Fresno North zone, scale to show area shown on 4 feet and 1/2" scale of 60 corner of Section 22, T4S, R1E, S1W.

LEGEND
 - - - - - Proposed floor of site surface
 ● Proposed ground-water monitoring well



Figure 7

NOTES:
 1. Section numbers are indicated on drawing or listed on page 2 of this drawing.
 2. Section numbers of other sheets are indicated on drawing or listed on page 2 of this drawing.



SECTION LEGEND:
 1. Working face of existing or being placed fill area
 2. Proposed fill area
 3. Proposed road right-of-way
 4. Proposed utility right-of-way

NOTES:
 1. Section numbers are indicated on drawing or listed on page 2 of this drawing.
 2. Section numbers of other sheets are indicated on drawing or listed on page 2 of this drawing.

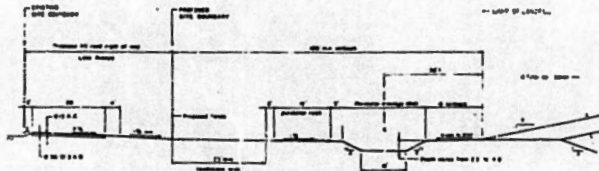
Figure 8

PROJECT NO.	DATE	BY	CHKD.

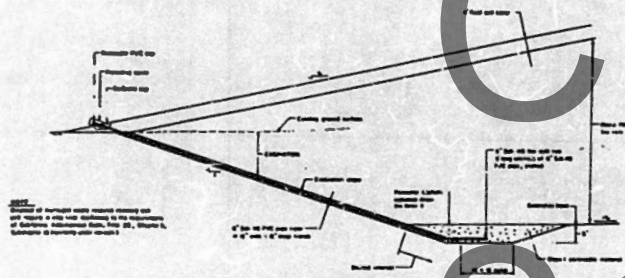


FREMONT-GILMAN METROPOLITAN TOLID
 WASTE COMMISSION
 40000 AVENUE LAMPFILL
 FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

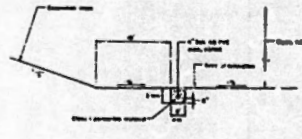
2
 PLAN 14
 SHEET 14



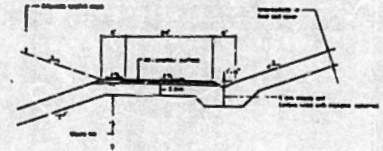
PERIMETER DETAIL WITH LINE AND GRADE ALIGNMENT
DETAIL 1



ELEVATION DETAIL WITH LEADED GLASS COLLECTION RAMP AND CURB
DETAIL 2



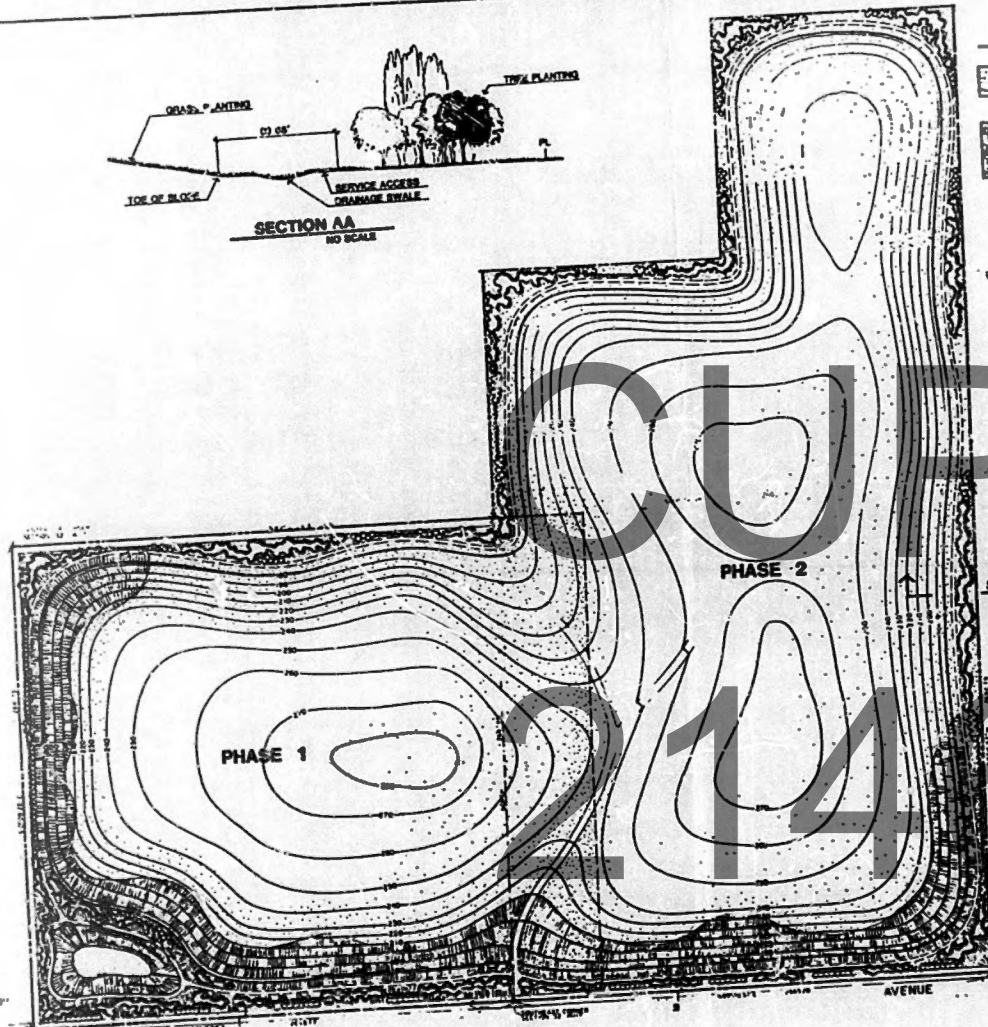
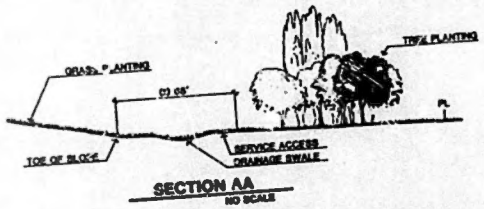
PERIMETER LEADED GLASS
DETAIL 3



ACCESS ROAD
DETAIL 4

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Figure 9



LEGEND

- BLANDO BROME (*BROMUS MOLLIS*) AND TRIFOLIUM INCARNATUM (CRIMSON CLOVER)
- BLANDO BROME AND TRIFOLIUM INCARNATUM WITH ESCHSCHOLZIA CALIFORNICA (CALIFORNIA POPPY), LUPINUS SUCCULENTUS (BLUE LUPINE) AND LUPINUS DENIFLORUS (YELLOW LUPINE)
- POPULUS NIGRA* 'ITALICA' (LOMBARDY POPLAR) AND ACACIA MELANOXYLON (BLACK ACACIA)
- PINUS HALEPENSIS* (ALEPPO PINE) MIXED WITH ACACIA BAILEYANA (BAILEY ACACIA)
- NERIUM OLEANDER* (OLEANDER - SINGLE RED, WHITE)
- FRESNO KANGAROO RAT HABITAT**
 - ATRIPLIX POLYCARPA*
 - ALLENROEPEA OCCIDENTALIS*
 - SUAEDA NONMEXICANA*

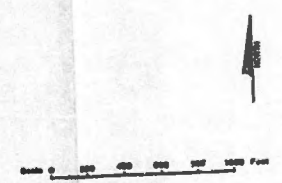


Figure 10

Prepared by: Checked by: Date:	11/15/11		FRESNO COUNTY METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT AMERICAN AVENUE CORRIDOR FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA CONCEPT SITE PLAN AND LANDSCAPE PLAN	SHEET NO. 4 OF 14
	11/15/11			

The Details (Figure 9) show typical dimensions and preliminary construction details for critical facilities, including (1) access roads, (2) drainage and leachate collection systems, and (3) a landscaping corridor designed to enhance the site's appearance.

The Conceptual Site Closure and Landscape Plan (Figure 10) illustrates the landfill at time of closure. A description of the closure plan and landscaping is presented in Section III,C.

9. Site Capacity and Service Life

Estimates of waste capacity, landfill service life and earthwork requirements based on the design shown on Figures 7-10 are summarized on Table 2. The service life is presented under three scenarios that encompass the range of operating conditions that could occur:

a. Scenario I

The energy recovery plan (waste-to-energy plant) that is proposed in the revised CoSWMP is not implemented and the site receives 600 tons per day of primarily municipal solid wastes from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area commencing in late 1985. The service life of the landfill under this scenario would be 48 years.

b. Scenario II

The landfill receives 600 tons per day of primarily municipal solid wastes from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area commencing in late 1985. Implementation of the energy recovery plan as contemplated in the revised CoSWMP reduces the waste stream in 1987 to 225 tons per day of ash and nonprocessibles. The service life under this scenario is estimated at 93 years.

c. Scenario III

The energy recovery plan is not implemented and other disposal sites throughout Fresno County are closed. The site receives 600 tons per day commencing in late 1985 and increases 60 tons per day each year until 1995 as a result of other landfill closures. The service life with this scenario would be about 23 years.

All scenarios assume a waste tonnage growth rate of 2.5 percent per year and a waste capacity for the expanded facility of 32.7 million cubic yards.

As previously indicated, the energy recovery plan upon which Scenario II is based reflects the intent of the revised CoSWMP. This EIR will therefore focus on evaluating impacts associated

TABLE 2

AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL EXPANSION
SITE CAPACITY AND SERVICE LIFE

Service Life, years

Scenario I - Unprocessed Refuse from Minimum Service Area	48
Scenario II - Incinerator Ash and Unprocessed Refuse Landfill	93
Scenario III - Unprocessed Refuse from Maximum Service Area	23

Refuse Capacity, Cu. yds. 32,700,000

Earthwork, cu. yds.

Daily and Intermediate Cover	8,200,000
Final Cover	1,200,000
Total	9,400,000

Excavation, cu. yds. 9,400,000

Notes:

1. All numbers rounded.
2. Fill scenarios are described in the text.
3. Capacity estimated is based on the grades shown on the preliminary grading and drainage plan (see Figure 7).
4. In-place density of 1,200 pounds per cubic yard.
5. Ratio of wastes to daily-and-intermediate soil cover of approximately 4:1 by volume. Daily soil cover is 6 inches placed over the working face. Intermediate Soil Cover is 12 inches placed over the top surface of each refuse lift.
6. Final soil cover thickness of 3 feet over 1 foot of intermediate soil cover (4 feet total).

with Scenario II. The other scenarios are considered to reflect backup plans and will be addressed to the extent that impacts associated with them differ significantly from those that may occur under Scenario II.

10. Permits Required for Landfill

Permits that will be required by local and state agencies to implement the American Avenue Landfill expansion project are as follows:

a. Fresno County Planning Commission--Conditional Use Permit

The Fresno County Planning Commission is responsible for issuing conditional use permits. Actual review of a permit application submitted by a developer is conducted by the Resources and Development Department, which makes recommendations to the Commission for permit issuance or denial. The Commission's approval or denial of a permit may be appealed to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

b. California Water Resources Control Board--Waste Discharge Requirements

The California Water Resources Control Board, through the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), administers regulations for the disposal of wastes to land to preserve the quality of the State's surface waters and ground waters. These regulations (California Administrative Code, Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 15, Waste Disposal to Land) categorize wastes according to the potential hazard they present to water quality, and also classify disposal sites with respect to the protection they provide to waters of the State.

The site classification is designated by the CVRWQCB through its issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements which set forth prohibitions, specifications, and provisions to be met in the operation of the disposal site.

c. California Waste Management Board--Solid Waste Facilities Permit

In conjunction with the County of Fresno Health Department, its designated Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), the CWMB administers regulations pertaining to the design, operation and closure of disposal sites in Fresno County.

The primary regulation of the State of California Administrative Code enforced by the CWMB is Title 14, Chapter 3, "Minimum Standards for Solid Waste Handling and Disposal." Under Article 7 of this chapter, disposal site operators must submit a "Solid Waste Facility Permit Application" (also called a "Notice of Operation") and a "Report of Disposal Site Information" to the Local Enforcement Agency in order to receive a

facilities permit. After the County of Fresno Health Department has prepared the proposed permit, the CWMB is given a copy to review. If the CWMB concurs with the Health Department's decision, the permit is issued.

d. California Waste Management Board--Facility Conformance with County Solid Waste Management Plan

In addition to Chapter 3 of Title 14, the CWMB also administers regulations under Chapter 4, "Conformance of Solid Waste Facilities to County Solid Waste Management Plans." This regulation requires the developer of a proposed site to notify the CWMB and plan liaison maintaining the CoSWMP. The CoSWMP is maintained by the County of Fresno Resources and Development Department staff working for the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan, Southeast and Westside Solid Waste Commissions. In Fresno County, the plan liaison prepares a conformance statement and submits it to the LEA. The conformance finding and facilities permit are submitted by the LEA to the CWMB. The CWMB then makes a determination of the facility's conformance or nonconformance with the plan.

B. OPERATIONS DESCRIPTION

1. Compliance with California Waste Management Board Standards

The American Avenue Landfill Expansion Project would be designed and operated in accordance with applicable standards of the CWMB and other regulatory and permitting agencies. The proposed classification of the landfill is described in Section III,A,7 and the permits that would be required before the expansion project could be implemented are listed in Section III,A,10.

2. Method of Disposal and Cover

(The following description of the proposed method of disposal and cover is conceptual in nature. The methods described are subject to modification in the future based upon actual operating experience and/or changes in state regulations.)

a. Landfill Procedures

The landfill would be constructed by the ramp-area method. Refuse fill would be placed in lifts up to 20 feet in thickness (the refuse lift), with perimeter slopes of 3:1 (horizontal:vertical) or flatter. Refuse would be spread and compacted in layers approximately 2 feet in thickness on a sloped working face. With the exception of the initial lift in each landfill module, wastes would be deposited at the base of the working face, spread up the face and compacted. The compaction equipment would traverse the entire length of the working face and make several passes over each layer of refuse to ensure

that all waste is adequately compacted. Large or bulky wastes would be separated to prevent bridging of the surrounding refuse, placed in the lower portion of the advancing lift, and thoroughly crushed by compacting equipment. The advancing face would be covered daily with a minimum 6-inch thickness of soil cover. When additional waste materials will not be placed over the surface within approximately 180 days, the tip and side slopes of the advancing lift would be covered with a 6-inch thickness of intermediate soil cover.

A four-working-face, two-lift placement method, shown on Figure 8, would normally be used to place refuse fill at the site. This method maximizes the service life of haul roads. It involves constructing an all-weather haul road from the access road across the surface of the existing refuse fill to the active working area. An initial working face of refuse is then advanced on one side of the all-weather haul road toward the access road. A second working face of refuse is advanced adjacent to the first over the all-weather access road. During the dry months, a ramp is constructed from the haul road to the surface of the lower lift. Refuse vehicles are routed over the soil cover, and an upper lift is filled by advancing the third and fourth working faces. A minimum distance of 150 feet is maintained between the toe of the upper lift and the top of the ramp to provide a truck maneuvering area for the advancement of the third and fourth working faces.

Temporary berms would be constructed where needed to intercept and deflect surface runoff away from the active working face area.

b. Fill Sequence

A preliminary evaluation of excavation/landfilling logistics and access design elements has been made to determine the major operational constraints. Based on this evaluation, the proposed landfill has been divided into 24 "modules" that would be constructed to the limits and in the sequence numbered on Figure 8. While this analysis provides a basis for project planning, detailed fill sequence plans would be required to provide the operational guidance needed to construct the landfill.

As shown on Figure 8, disposal operations would initially be conducted on the northern portion of the existing landfill and advance to the south filling the area to the final landfill surface in the manner previously described. Soil cover would be hauled from the first module in Fill Area II west of the existing landfill.

Upon completion of the existing landfill area and excavation of the initial module, landfilling would begin in Fill Area II. Soil cover would be excavated from the second module to prepare

that area for future disposal. The centrally located all-weather access road would be used during placement of the initial two lifts in this area. A second access road would be constructed on the landfill slope as shown on Section CC, Figure 8, to provide access for disposal to final grade. Haul roads would advance from these access roads to the working faces. Surplus excavated soils would be stockpiled on modules for later use as cover.

Once Fill Area II has been brought to final grade, disposal operations would begin in Fill Area III. The initial module in Fill Area III would be excavated to generate cover soil needed in Fill Area II. Access for landfilling would be provided in the same manner as in Fill Area II.

3. Drainage and Flood Protection

Various permanent and temporary drainage facilities would be required to control surface water runoff at the site.

Permanent drainage facilities would consist of a perimeter drainage channel and a retention basin in the southwestern corner (topographically low area) of the site to which the drainage channel would discharge. The locations, elevations and details of these facilities are shown on Figures 7 and 10.

During construction of the landfill, temporary berms and "V" ditches would be installed to direct surface water runoff around the active fill area and thereby prevent it from contacting exposed refuse. Any surface waters contaminated by landfill operations would be retained and disposed of by evaporation or absorption into the refuse at the active landfill area. This would be the small amount of water that could come into contact with uncovered waste during the day while the waste is being compacted.

Permanent drainage ditches constructed over refuse fill areas would be underlain with a minimum 5-foot thickness of clayey soil or lined with approximately one inch of asphalt-concrete to minimize surface water infiltration. Temporary drainage ditches would be underlain with at least 3 feet of compacted soil.

The American Avenue Landfill site is outside any 100-year flood plain. To control surface water runoff that would result from a 100-year storm, a perimeter drainage channel would be constructed. For ease of construction, the drainage channel would be constructed with an equipment-width base. The retention basin would be designed to contain the runoff discharged from the perimeter drainage channel from a 100-year storm of 10-day duration. The collected runoff would be allowed to percolate into underlying permeable soils. A subsurface exploration of the retention basin area is planned to produce site-specific data that would be used to establish design criteria and to

determine the precise location and dimensions of the facility. For the preliminary development plans, the basin is set back from the landfill a minimum distance of 100 feet.

4. Traffic and Access

a. On-Site Roadways and Entrance Facilities

Lake Avenue, which bisects the expansion site, would be re-aligned around the western expansion area. The project would involve construction to the County A-15 standard of approximately 1 mile of 20-foot-wide paved roadway within a 40 foot right-of-way.

Access to the expanded landfill operation would be by way of the existing road from American Avenue. The roadway would be improved to a 24-foot pavement width, initially to the existing entrance facility and later to the expansion areas as filling progresses. The paved road would provide all-weather access during site operations and for maintenance and use of the completed landfill. The access roads would be constructed in accordance with the details on Figure 9.

Haul roads leading from the access roads to active waste disposal areas would be graded on intermediate fill surfaces and constructed with a base of imported rock or other suitable material as necessary to ensure trafficability during wet weather. The application of gravel or other base materials on haul roads used for dry-weather operations only should be minimal since the haul roads are short-lived and would generally be covered by the advancing refuse lift. Haul roads for refuse vehicle access to active waste disposal areas would be constructed over refuse fill at maximum grades no steeper than 10 percent. The existing entrance facilities, which consist of a gatehouse and scale, would be used in the expanded landfill operation. The location of the site entrance and related facilities are shown on Figure 8.

b. Regional Access and Traffic

The primary regional access for the landfill would be from the proposed waste-to-energy plant located in the general vicinity of Cedar Avenue, between North and Central Avenues, to the site via potentially Jensen or North Avenues, State Highway 145 (Madera Avenue) and American Avenue. Existing and projected street conditions and traffic volumes for this route are described in Section V,B.

5. Fire Control Provisions

Fire protection of landfill equipment and vehicles would be provided by portable fire extinguishers. The gatehouse and maintenance facility would be equipped with suitable fire extinguishers for suppression of any minor fires and for

personnel safety. Any fire that occurs accidentally on the landfill would be extinguished by landfill personnel using soil cover stockpiled specifically for that purpose and, when necessary, with water applied by a water truck. Water is available from an on-site well.

6. Vector Control Provisions

The primary means of vector control would be the daily cover that is placed over the operating areas of the landfill. Provisions for the cover are described in Section III,B,2. (Vectors are any organism that can transmit a disease-producing micro-organism.)

7. Litter Control Provisions

Litter would be controlled by placement of temporary fencing or a portable litter fence downwind from the working face. The fencing, the operational area, and the site and access areas in general would be policed regularly to pick up any accumulated litter.

8. Unsightliness, Dust and Odor Control Provisions

Unsightliness, dust, and odor would be controlled by: (a) proper maintenance of haul roads (oiling or watering), (b) applying a fine water spray on soil cover work areas when conditions might cause the formation of fugitive dust, (c) planting vegetative cover on intermediate soil cover that will be exposed for long periods when conditions might cause fugitive dust, and (d) planting and maintaining a vegetative cover on final fill surfaces.

9. Noise Control Provisions

Noise levels of on-site equipment would be controlled by proper maintenance of mufflers.

10. Gas Monitoring and Control System and Methane Recovery

a. Gas Monitoring and Control

To evaluate the potential for gas migration, gas probes would be installed at the site boundary whenever the fill advances to within 1,000 feet of an enclosed structure or, conversely, when any building is constructed within 1,000 feet of the landfill. If the gas probes show gas concentrations at the property line exceeding 40 percent of the lower explosibility limit for methane gas, a gas migration control plan would be developed and implemented.

b. Methane Recovery

If the waste-to-energy plant is constructed, it is unlikely

that the small amounts of organics that would be disposed of at the landfill would necessitate or support a methane recovery program. However, if 600 tons per day of municipal solid waste are disposed of at the facility, energy production utilizing landfill gas may be feasible as early as five years after commencement of filling.

Any methane mining operations would probably be conducted by a company under contract with the County. Methane wells would be installed at intervals throughout the landfill. Well configuration may be vertical or horizontal. Many wells may be installed, all connected to collecting pipes through which the gas is pumped to an electrical generation station.

Generation equipment would be installed on permanent foundations or housed in portable enclosures, each fitted with sound attenuation materials. The structures would be surrounded by a fence and screened.

11. Leachate Control and Monitoring

The cover design and drainage system proposed for the project are designed to prevent leachate production. However, as a contingency measure, leachate collection drains and sumps would be installed along the perimeter of the 410-acre expansion area to provide a means of monitoring leachate build up within the fill and removal by pumping, if necessary. These facilities would be installed in segments in advance of refuse filling at locations and according to details shown on Figures 8 and 9.

Depending on State regulations, areas or modules may be lined with barriers to liquid percolation for waste-to-energy ash disposal. Liner requirements depend on the State's classification of ash which is currently under review.

12. Site Recycling Center

A recycling center is part of the proposed American Avenue Landfill Expansion Project. The primary users of the recycling center would be (a) the general public, (b) small waste handlers, such as businesses hauling their own wastes, and (c) gardeners.

It is likely that the tonnage of materials to be recovered at the recycling center would be small because the total tonnage of mixed waste delivered by the general public is small. Estimates of the tonnage to be received at the recycling center are not available. However, availability (i.e. hours of operations, convenience, buy-back capability and advertising) can play a significant role in public participation and, therefore, tonnage received.

The County of Fresno would probably operate the recycling center. Contracts with private recyclers would assure that the

materials were diverted and neatly stockpiled on the site, and removed to the markets on a regular basis. An area between the scale and waste disposal areas would be designated for stockpiling and marked clearly with signs. The site employees or a vendor representative would be responsible for directing customers with recyclable materials to the recycling area in order to minimize non-recyclable contaminants. The hauler would be notified when a marketable load has been obtained.

Large bins would be placed in the recycling area to divert newspaper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum for recycling. Once full, contracted haulers would transport the materials to market. Paper bins would be covered or enclosed to prevent litter.

Portable processing equipment may be brought onto the site periodically by contractors. Prior to hauling, a mobile wood chipper, tire shredder, or paper baler may be temporarily used in order to reduce the volume of recycled materials for more efficient transport.

13. Days and Hours of Operation

It is anticipated that the landfill would operate six days a week, Monday through Saturday except for County of Fresno holidays. The facility would normally open no earlier than 7 a.m. and close no later than 5 p.m. The days and hours of operation may be modified based on actual operational experience.

14. Employees and Equipment

It is presently anticipated that eight employees would be required to operate the landfill. These include a supervisor, four or five equipment operators, a gate keeper and a spotter/litter control person.

Equipment that is anticipated for the landfill includes a landfill compactor, crawler tractor, scraper, water truck, pickup truck and motor grader. The equipment needs for the facility may be modified in the future to reflect the anticipated handling of ash.

15. Security and Law Enforcement Provisions

A fence would be constructed around the landfill. Law enforcement services for the facility and surrounding area would be provided by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

16. Site Improvements

The existing gatehouse, scale and restroom facilities would be utilized for the expansion project. Likewise, an existing well

would continue to be utilized to provide a water supply for the facility.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company currently provides electrical service for the site and Kerman Telephone Company provides telephone service. These utilities would continue to provide services for the expansion project.

C. CLOSURE PROCEDURES

1. Final Cover, Grading and Vegetation

The Conceptual Site Closure and Landscape Plan (Figure 10) illustrates the landfill at the time of closure. The plan shows perimeter planting and revegetation of finished landfill slopes for erosion protection and general beautification. Plant species selected for the soils and climate of the area are specified on the figure.

Open space use is tentatively planned for the completed landfill. As areas of the landfill are completed to the design grades, final cover soil will be placed and revegetated, as shown in the landscaping plan.

The vegetation includes plant species native to the habitat of the Fresno Kangaroo Rat.

2. Responsibility for Maintenance and Monitoring

The County of Fresno, as the owner and operator of the landfill, would be responsible for the long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility. The length of the maintenance and monitoring responsibility would be determined based on actual conditions and experience associated with the facility.

IV

EXISTING CONDITIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS: NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONDITIONS

A. CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY

1. Existing Conditions

a. Climate

The Fresno area experiences a continental climate. Summers are normally hot and dry with temperatures often exceeding 100°F. Winters are mild with temperatures usually ranging between 30° and 55°F. The frost season is from late November until early March.

Rainfall averages 7.5 inches annually, 95 percent of which falls between October and April. At least 40 rainy days can be expected in the Fresno area each year. Low humidity and hot temperatures during the summer months result in a high rate of evaporation. The average annual historical evapotranspiration rate is 75.3 inches.

Conversely, the relative humidity during the winter months is often quite high, causing a shallow layer of ground fog known locally as "tule fog." This fog frequently forms at night and can intensify, sometimes persisting for several weeks.

Prevailing winds are generally along the major axis of the San Joaquin Valley, flowing from northwest to southeast at an annual average of 6.4 miles per hour. The wind direction reverses during winter storms. During periods of light winds the Fresno area is subject to air inversions, which greatly increase the likelihood of air pollution episodes.

b. Air Quality

(1) Regional Air Quality

The American Avenue Landfill is situated in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, as designated by the California Air Resources Board. The basin is subject to significant air quality problems due to its unique meteorological and topographical features. The combination of sunny weather, atmospheric temperature inversions, and mountain barriers frequently produces high air pollutant concentrations in the local area.

The air pollutants of most concern within the Fresno County Air Pollution Control District are carbon monoxide,

photochemical oxidants, and particulates (County of Fresno, 1982). Health standards for these pollutants are regularly exceeded in the Fresno area. A summary of State and Federal ambient air quality standards is presented in Table 3.

The Fresno County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) operates five monitoring stations throughout the county (a sixth, located at Five Points, was discontinued in Fall, 1983). The location of each station relative to the American Avenue site is shown on Figure 11. The Fresno APCD reports data for gaseous pollutants daily; particulates are monitored every 6 days.

Existing air quality in the project vicinity can be closely approximated by the most recent data from the Five Points monitoring station. Five Points is 15 miles south of the landfill. Both sites are "upwind" of urban air influences, in the agriculturally oriented west side of the county.

Table 4 summarizes the ambient concentrations of total suspended particulates (TSP), ozone (O₃) and carbon monoxide (CO) for the years 1977 to 1982 at the Five Points monitoring station. For comparison, data from the Fresno urban area is also included. Shown are the annual peak concentrations and the number of occurrences that the given pollutant exceeded either the Federal or State standards.

In the western portion of the county, the standards for ozone and carbon monoxide have never been exceeded. Ambient levels for particulates, however, are often above the California standard in this area. According to local APCD officials, this is a result of agricultural activity (tractor dust, field burnings, etc.) (Hawkins, 1984). The number of non-attainment occurrences for particulates has been declining in recent years.

(2) Current Landfill Emissions

Air quality in the immediate vicinity of the American Avenue Landfill can be affected by three factors: vehicle emissions, dust, and gas emissions from the landfill itself.

Vehicular emissions generated by landfill equipment, autos and trucks delivering waste to the site include carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons (HC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). HC and NO_x are involved in the photochemical reaction that produces ozone, a secondary air pollutant. Fresno County has been declared a non-attainment area for the contaminant ozone. A summary of the present emissions associated with landfill traffic and equipment is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 3
STATE AND FEDERAL AMBIENT
AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Averaging Time</u>	<u>California Standards</u>	<u>Federal Standards</u>	
			<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
Oxidant	1 hour	0.10 ppm	---	---
Ozone	---	---	0.12 ppm	---
Carbon Monoxide	12 hours	10 ppm	---	---
	3 hours	---	9 ppm	---
	1 hour	40 ppm	35 ppm	---
Suspended Particulate Matter	Annual Geometric Mean	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	24 hours	100 "	260 "	150 "
	30 day average	1.5 "	---	---
	Calendar Quarter	---	1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	---
	Hydrocarbons	3 hours (6-9 a.m.)	---	0.24 ppm
Lead	1 month	1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	---	---
	3 months (quarterly)	---	1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	---

NOTES: ppm = Parts Per Million
 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ Micrograms Per Cubic Meter

**FRESNO COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
Air Quality Monitoring Stations**

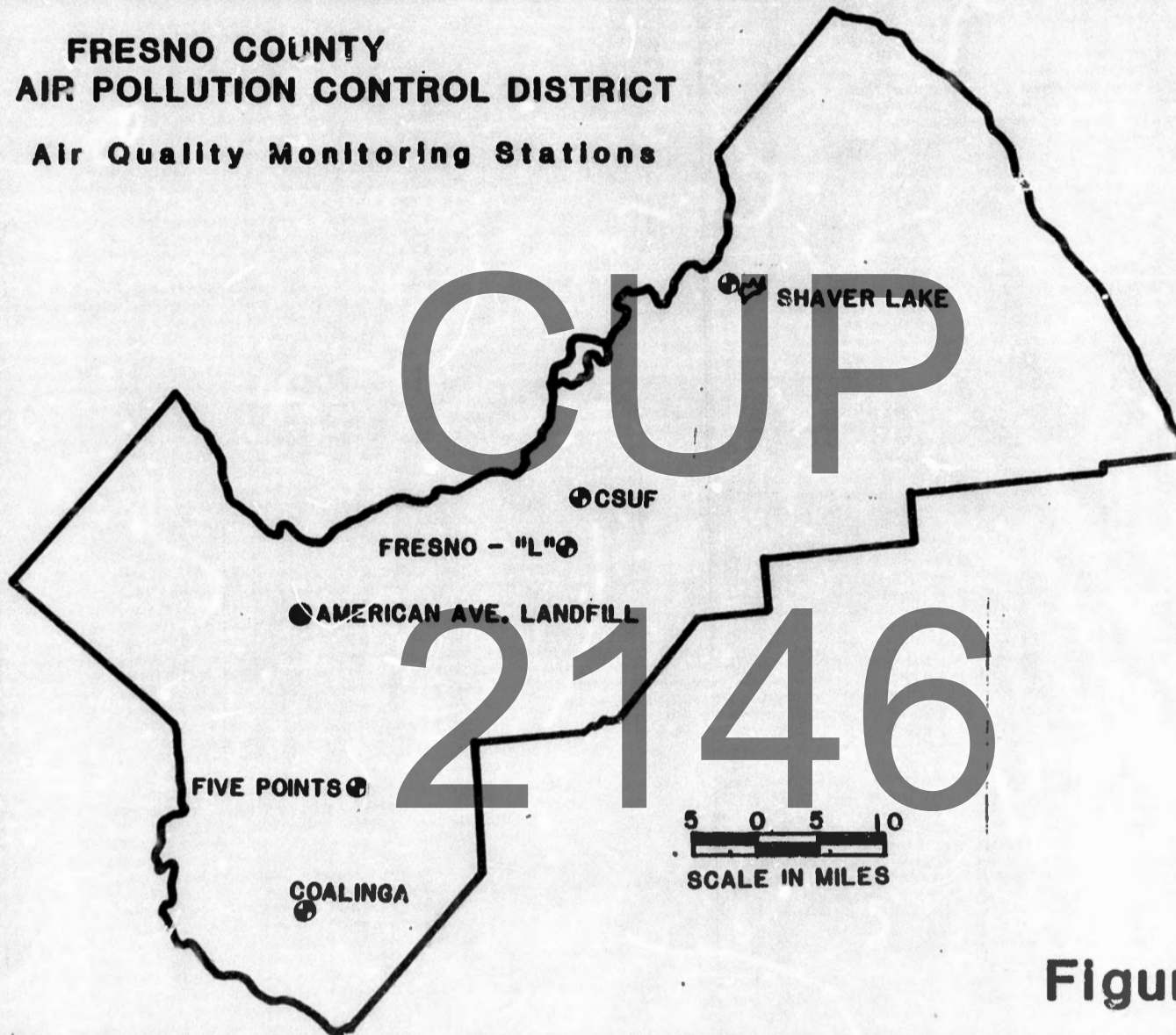


Figure 11

TABLE 4 AMBIENT AIR QUALITY SUMMARY*

Pollutant	Year	Five Points (Nearest Site)		Olive/CSUF		Parlier/L Street	
		Peak ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	# Samples Exceeding 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Peak ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	# Samples Exceeding 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Peak ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	# Samples Exceeding 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Total Suspended Particulates (TSP)	1977	301	32	272	42	256	38
	1978	267	30	538	42	211	8
	1979	555	30	366	44	-	-
	1980	364	22	332	32	-	-
	1981	255	18	190	24	-	-
	1982	172	18	176	38	-	-
Ozone		Peak (ppm)	# Samples Exceeding 0.12 ppm	Peak (ppm)	# Samples Exceeding 0.12 ppm	Peak (ppm)	# Samples Exceeding 0.12 ppm
	1977	0.12	0	0.16	5	0.16	128
	1978	0.09	0	0.18	25	0.21	14
	1979	0.08	0	0.10	32	0.17	7
	1980	0.10	0	0.21	43	0.21	18
	1981	0.09	0	0.18	30	0.14	8
1982	0.09	0	0.13	1	0.14	7	
Carbon Monoxide		Peak (ppm)	# Samples Exceeding 9 ppm	Peak (ppm)	# Samples Exceeding 9 ppm	Peak (ppm)	# Samples Exceeding 9 ppm
	1977	2.8	0	17.8	35	2.8	1
	1978	2.8	0	15.8	6	10	2
	1979	1.9	0	21.9	13	7.3	0
	1980	1.1	0	15.5	26	14.5	5
	1981	1.0	0	6.0	0	11.0	1
1982	2.3	0	14.3	4	8.9	0	

* Source: California Air Resources Board published annual summaries.

Note: $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = micrograms per cubic meter.
ppm = parts per million

TABLE 5 ESTIMATED VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT AIR EMISSIONS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL

Source	Emissions, lb/day			
	HC	CO	NOx	Part.
<u>1984 - Present Status</u>				
Refuse Vehicles	0.23	0.69	2.37	0.22
Landfill Equipment	1.34	5.86	11.84	NA
Light-Duty Trucks	2.45	19.00	2.23	0.28
Light-Duty Cars	<u>1.05</u>	<u>8.30</u>	<u>1.62</u>	<u>0.22</u>
Total	5.07	33.85	18.06	>0.72
<u>1985 - 600 tpd MSW</u>				
Refuse Vehicles	6.60	20.20	69.39	6.37
Landfill Equipment	4.82	23.13	46.99	NA
Light-Duty Trucks	2.81	21.81	2.56	0.32
Light-Duty Cars	<u>1.05</u>	<u>8.30</u>	<u>0.95</u>	<u>0.14</u>
Total	15.28	73.44	119.89	>6.83
<u>1990 - 225 tpd Ash</u>				
Refuse Vehicles	2.46	8.70	23.69	2.79
Landfill Equipment	4.82	23.13	46.99	NA
Light-Duty Trucks	1.86	15.77	1.81	0.29
Light-Duty Cars	<u>0.79</u>	<u>7.38</u>	<u>0.72</u>	<u>0.16</u>
Total	9.93	54.98	73.21	3.24

These amounts (34 lb per day CO, 18 lb per day NO_x, 5 lb per day HC) are negligible when compared to the amounts of air pollutants emitted elsewhere in Fresno County (nearly 600 tons combined of HC, CO, and NO_x are generated within the county each day).

Dust emissions result from routine soil excavation and grading operations and from vehicles traveling over unpaved on-site access routes. Approximately 80 lb of dust per acre worked can be expected on a daily basis (Ultra-systems Inc., 1978). Accordingly, about 40 lb of dust are emitted each day within the landfill at this time.

When municipal waste is buried in a landfill, various microbiological decomposition processes occur, consuming portions of the organic matter. The gaseous products of these decomposition processes are methane (CH₄), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and trace amounts of other compounds. Currently, about 140 cubic feet per minute (cfm) of landfill gas (LFG) is generated at American Avenue. This gas vents harmlessly into the atmosphere and is quickly dissipated.

In summary, due to the small size of the existing American Avenue operation (less than 50 tons per day), none of the current emissions associated with the landfill contribute significantly to the deterioration of local air quality.

2. Potential Impacts

a. Introduction

Calculation of future air quality impacts associated with the project are based upon the elements of Scenario II as described in Section III and the traffic analysis presented in Section V,B. The assumptions used are as follows:

- (1) The transfer station (which may be completed in 1985) and waste-to-energy plant (which may be completed in 1987) would be located in the vicinity of Cedar, North and Central Avenues in Fresno. The solid waste haul route to the landfill would be 25 miles.
- (2) From 1985 to 1987, the landfill would receive 600 tons per day (tpd) of municipal waste over a 6-day week. The majority would be delivered in 20 ton transfer trucks, requiring 58 trips per day (29 full and 29 empty return trips).
- (3) In 1987, implementation of the energy recovery plant would reduce the waste stream to 225 tpd of ash, nonprocessibles, and unprocessed municipal waste from the west county. The number of transfer truck trips would decrease to 24 per day.

- (4) A small-scale recycling center would be located at the landfill. Traffic and tonnage associated with the center is expected to be small, increasing only marginally over the next 20 years.
- (5) Local traffic to the landfill from nearby communities (Kerman, San Joaquin, Tranquillity, etc.) would increase minimally.
- (6) The landfill equipment fleet would be expanded in 1985 to include a compactor, crawler tractor, motor grader, scraper, and 5,000-gallon water truck.

b. Vehicle and Equipment Emissions

Estimates of future vehicle and equipment emissions are shown in Table 5. The data are based on typical emission factors provided by the California Air Resources Board.

In summary, the combined hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, and nitrous oxide emissions would increase by 150 lb per day during the first year of expansion, to a total of 206.98 lb per day. This can be attributed mainly to additional refuse vehicle traffic and landfill equipment use.

After the waste-to-energy plant is in operation, daily traffic to the landfill would decrease. Correspondingly, the amount of pollutants generated would similarly decline, to a total of 141.36 lb per day.

On a countywide basis, the overall effect of landfill operations on air quality would be minimal. Some pollutants would be emitted into the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin regardless of regional site location, since refuse would be hauled for disposal by the same number of vehicle trips. The amount of the pollutants would vary depending upon the distance to an alternate disposal site from the transfer station. A shorter haul distance will result in fewer pollutants; conversely a longer haul will cause increased vehicle emissions.

Under Scenario III, without the waste-to-energy plant, the landfill would receive approximately 600 tpd of refuse, increasing at a rate of 60 tpd per year. This represents a "worst case" air pollution scenario. The landfill related emissions would be expected to be double those amounts shown in Table 5.

c. Dust Generation

The amount of dust generated from soil excavation, grading and vehicle travel over unpaved roads would be less than 80 lb per day. Taken alone, this should not cause any significant changes in the local air quality.

The addition of up to 200 tpd of ash to the landfill may create a potential for dust problems, however. The extent of the problem depends on the physical characteristics of the ash (e.g., moisture content and particle size distribution). Although there are currently little data available on these properties for the ash, it is expected that ash delivered to the landfill would contain varying amounts of moisture (after being quenched at the energy recovery facility). Dust emissions may be transported downwind of the site (southeast normally, northwest during storm conditions) when the ash dries during hot and windy days.

d. Landfill Gas

The introduction of incinerator ash to the landfill would result in relatively low LFG emission rates. Based on an emission rate of 0.08 ft³ LFG per year per lb of municipal solid waste, up to 305 cfm of LFG would be generated by the end of the century. A typical landfill (without ash) can generate up to 3 times as much LFG.

LFG emissions for all three waste disposal scenarios are shown in Table 6, and the relationship of LFG emissions to public health and safety is described in Section V,D.

TABLE 6

PROJECTED LFG EMISSION RATES FOR THE AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL

<u>Year</u>	<u>LFG Emission, cfm*</u>		
	<u>Scenario I</u>	<u>Scenario II</u>	<u>Scenario III</u>
1985	138	138	138
1990	421	263	562
1995	987	283	1,071
2000	1,270	305	1,071

*cfm = Cubic Feet per minute

3. Mitigation Measures

a. A number of steps can be taken to keep dust emissions to a

minimum. They include paving permanent or non-permanent but long-term access routes, frequently wetting dirt roads, and revegetating completed portions of the landfill. All of these measures have been incorporated into the project design and operational plan.

b. Care should be taken by landfill personnel to ensure that ash delivered to the site is not allowed to dry and become windborne. During extremely windy days, it may become necessary for the operators to further dampen the ash and/or cover it immediately.

c. Testing for landfill gas should be conducted in accordance with State and Federal regulations to ensure that migrating gases do not exceed: (1) 25 percent of the lower explosive limit for gases in facility structures and (2) the lower explosive limit for gases at the property boundary.

As an additional measure, gas monitoring should be conducted when the landfill encroaches within 1,000 feet of any enclosed structures.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulates, and hydrocarbons would all increase as a result of additional traffic and landfill equipment use. Ambient air quality is not expected to deteriorate measurably, however, since the sum of the additional air pollutants would be only a fraction of the regional total.

Airborne dust resulting from soil excavation and ash disposal may become noticeable during periods of high winds, even with good control efforts by landfill personnel.

B. SURFACE WATER

1. Existing Conditions

The site is located in an arid area, on relatively porous and flat land which is not within a 100-year floodplain. Consequently, the site is not subject to inundation or to large influxes of off-site runoff. Further, there are no lakes, ponds, or streams near the site other than several intermittent ponds which sometimes form after rainy periods. Runoff on the project site travels in a southwesterly direction.

2. Potential Impacts

Runoff from the landfill could potentially be degraded through contact with the waste materials or with soils disturbed by landfill operations. There are no major bodies of surface water that would be impacted by runoff from the landfill. However, any runoff not appropriately channeled by the designed system would run off-site along the north side of American Avenue, possibly impacting adjacent property to the west.

3. Mitigation Measures

a. In order to divert off-site runoff around the site and to collect on-site runoff, drainage channels are planned to be constructed around the perimeter of the site. The channels would empty into a siltation/retention basin in the southwest corner of the site.

The retention basin would contain the runoff discharged from the perimeter drainage channel from a 100-year storm of 10-day duration. The collected runoff would be allowed to percolate into underlying permeable soils.

b. During construction of the landfill, temporary berms and ditches would be installed to direct surface water runoff around the active fill.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

There are no unavoidable adverse impacts related to surface water.

C. GROUNDWATER

1. Existing Conditions

a. Soils

The predominant soil type on the site is Fresno fine sandy loam. Undeveloped Fresno fine sandy loam soils normally have a hardpan layer at a depth of several feet below the land surface. Other soils include Traver sandy loam, Hesperia sandy loam, and Fresno sandy loam. Small areas of Cajon loamy coarse sand, Calhi loamy sand, and Playa soils are also present (Huntington, 1971).

b. Subsurface Geology

Page and LeBlanc (1969) discussed groundwater conditions in the Fresno area, which includes the project site. Quaternary older alluvium comprises the major aquifer in the vicinity. Alternating layers of sand, silt, and clay comprise the aquifer materials. Driller's logs were collected for wells in the vicinity to provide more information on local conditions. The top of the E-clay, or Corcoran Clay, is at a depth of about 480 to 490 feet beneath the site. The E-clay is a major confining bed beneath the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. The overlying deposits generally contain groundwater that is unconfined, whereas groundwater beneath the clay is under confined or artesian conditions. The E-clay is divided into two layers in this vicinity. The base of the upper layer is at a depth of about 520 to 530 feet. The top of the lower layer is at a depth of about 535 to 540 feet and the base of the lower layer is at a depth of about 550 to 560 feet. The other lacustrine clays mapped by Page and LeBlanc (1969) are not present beneath the site.

A total of twenty-eight test borings have been completed at or near the site since 1982. EMCON Associates (1984a) presented a map showing the locations of these borings. The first set of borings was done during May-June, 1982, by BSK & Associates (1982). Eleven of the total of fourteen borings were located in the southeast quarter of Section 32 and the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 33, which is within the boundaries of the proposed extension site, and the remainder were nearby. Three of the fourteen borings were 100 feet deep, and the remainder were 50 feet deep. Silty sand and sand were generally the most common materials encountered. However, numerous holes encountered some materials that were classified as silt or clay. No evidence of perching layers or perched groundwater was found. In February 1984, EMCON Associates (1984a) completed fourteen additional borings. Most of these borings were completed in two areas: 1) the northwest quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 33, and 2) in the southwest corner of the site, near the proposed storm runoff

pond. Two of these borings were 100 feet deep, two were 25 feet deep, and the remainder were 50 feet deep. Alternating layers of sand and silt were found in all of the borings. There was no evidence of perching layers or perched groundwater. Shallow materials near the proposed storm runoff pond were generally sandy. Finer-grained materials appear to be common within the upper 30 feet beneath most of the site.

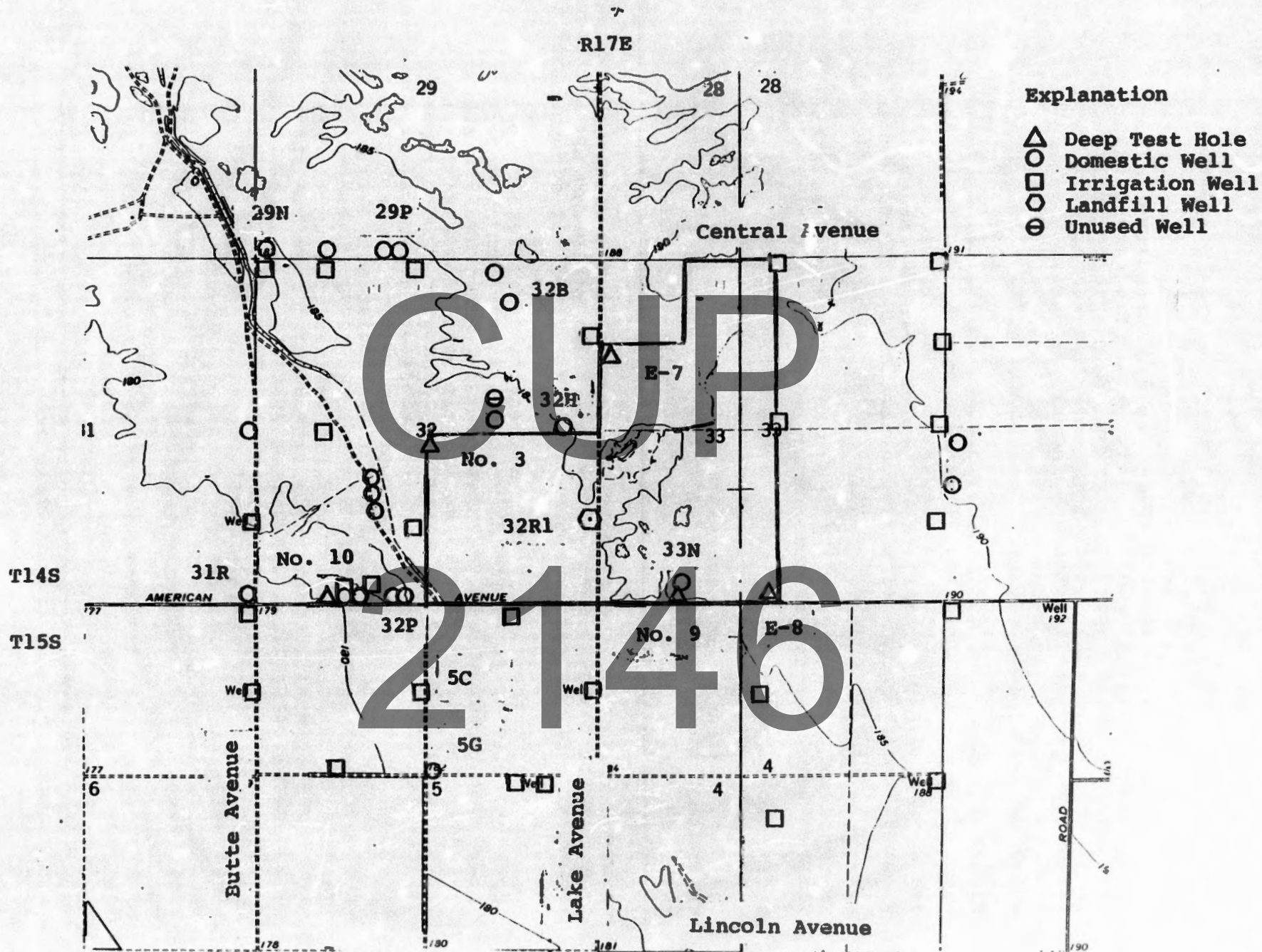
c. Well Construction

Figure 12 shows the location of selected wells and deep test holes at and near the site. Drillers logs for wells in the vicinity indicate that most domestic wells are between about 200 and 250 feet deep, and are perforated over an interval of about 40 to 60 feet. Most irrigation wells are about 400 to 500 feet deep and are usually perforated over an interval of several hundred feet. Almost all wells draw water from exclusively above the E-clay. Only several irrigation wells in the vicinity are known to tap some strata below the E-clay.

d. Water Levels

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (1983) presented a water-level elevation contour map for Spring, 1983. This map is largely based on measurements for irrigation wells. The direction of groundwater flow beneath the site was to the east-northeast at that time. Depth to water ranged from about 95 feet near the southwest corner of the site to 115 feet near the northeast corner in Spring, 1983. Two of the deep holes drilled by BSK & Associates (1982) at or near the site in May-June 1982 encountered groundwater. Hole No. 10, about one-quarter mile west of the southwest corner of the site, encountered groundwater at a depth of about 90 feet. Test Hole No. 3, in the northwest part of the site, encountered groundwater at a depth of 96 feet. Test Hole No. 9, about one-quarter mile west of the southeast corner of the site, did not encounter groundwater above a depth of 100 feet. These test hole observations are thus consistent with previous water-level measurements in nearby wells. Both of the deep test holes drilled by EMCON Associates in February, 1984 encountered groundwater. Test Hole No. E-7, in the northern part of the site, encountered groundwater at a depth of 89 feet. Test Hole No. E-8, at the southeast corner of the site, encountered groundwater at a depth of 92 feet.

As part of this investigation, depth to water was measured in seven wells at and near the project site in January, 1984. In general, shallower wells were selected for measurement, because their water levels are more representative of the shallowest strata. Depth to water beneath the site ranged from about 90 to 95 feet beneath the ground surface in January, 1984. Approximate water-level elevations were determined based on land surface elevations taken from the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Jamesan Quadrangle). Water-level elevation ranged from about 95 feet above mean sea level beneath the



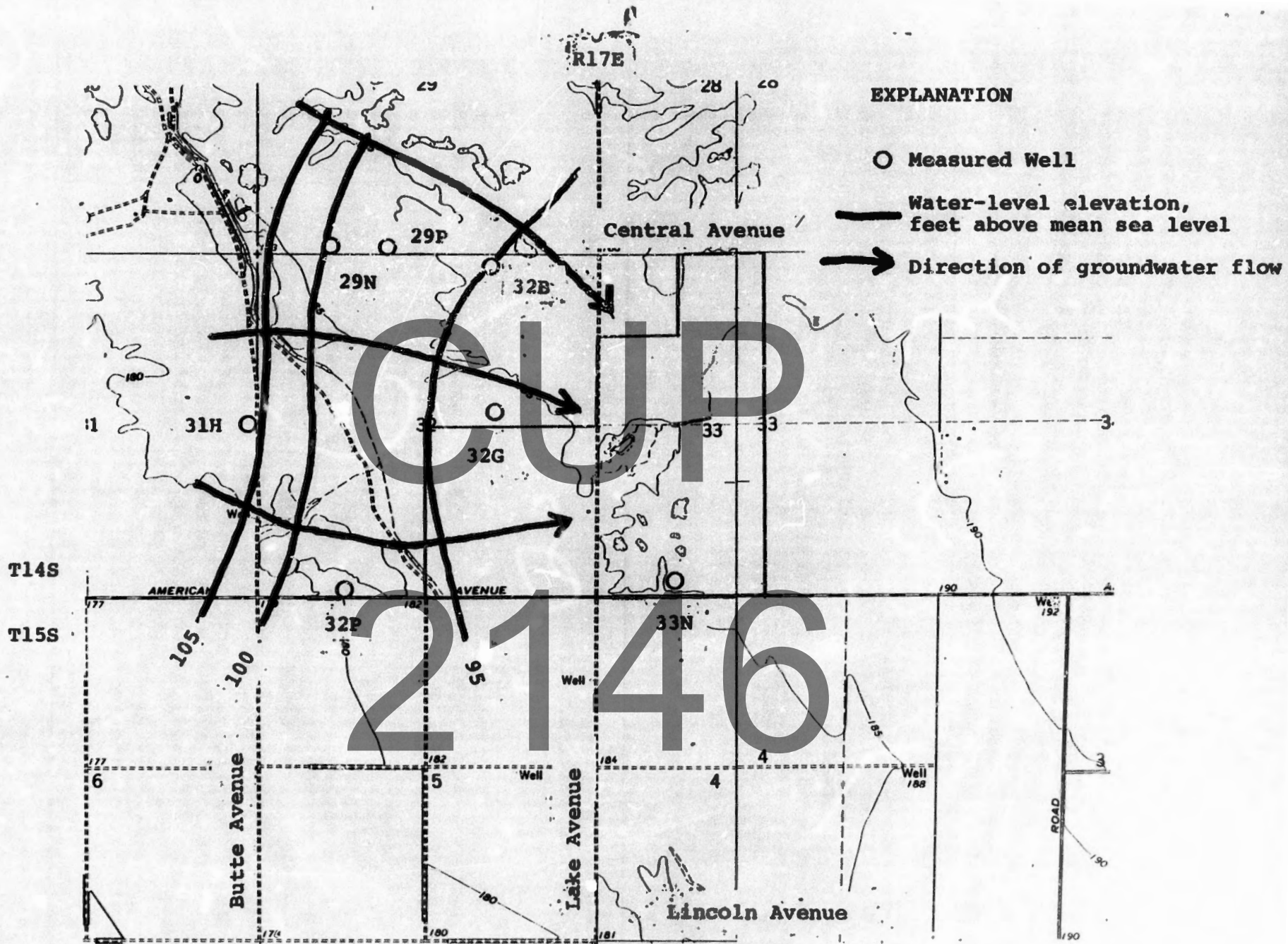
LOCATION OF WELLS IN THE VICINITY
OF THE AMERICAN AVENUE EXPANSION SITE

Figure 12

western part of the site to about 90 feet beneath the eastern part (Figure 13). The direction of groundwater flow beneath the site was to the east in January, 1984. This direction is thus consistent with the regional direction of groundwater flow in recent years as shown by maps of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The slope of the water table was about 5 feet per mile in January, 1984.

Historical measurements of depth to water in wells in the vicinity were collected from the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Water-levels in two wells about one and one-half miles east of the site were measured from 1921 to the late 1960s. Depth to water in these wells generally ranged from about 12 to 20 feet through 1946. Thereafter, the water level began to decline due to increased groundwater pumpage. Records indicate that depth to water near the site was about 45 feet by 1960. Semi-annual water-level measurements by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation indicate that water levels in the vicinity have declined an average of 2.7 feet per year in recent decades. Water levels in Well T14S/R17E-32R1, just west of the existing landfill, have been measured from 1973 to the present. Depth to water in this well was 100 feet in Spring, 1982. Water levels in Well T15S/R17E-5C, immediately south of the site, have been measured from 1963 to the present. Depth to water in Well 5C was 55 feet in Spring, 1963 and 100 feet in Spring, 1982. The site is thus in an area of groundwater overdraft, and deeper water levels can be expected in the future, if groundwater remains the major source of local water supply.

There is a possibility that surface water could be imported to the area through the proposed Mid-Valley Canal, or from other sources. To predict future depth to water, the availability of surface water can be compared to the consumptive use of water by crops grown in the area. Cotton and vineyards are the two major types of crops presently grown in the vicinity. The average consumptive use of crops grown in the vicinity is at least 2.2 acre-feet per acre per year. Under the past condition of no surface water use, this consumptive use has resulted in the observed water-level decline of about 2.7 feet per year. Based on present information, the amount of water thought to be available from the Mid-Valley Canal is about 1.5 acre-feet per acre per year. Water levels can be expected to fall in the future if the consumptive use exceeds the amount of surface water available. Because this consumptive use value exceeds the amount of surface water potentially available, water levels in the vicinity should continue to decline in the future. If all of the irrigated land in the area was served an average of 1.5 acre-feet per acre per year of canal water, the average water-level decline would be about one foot per year. Because a decade or more may elapse before such surface water deliveries commence, depth to water beneath the site would probably exceed 120 to 130 feet by that time.



WATER-LEVEL ELEVATIONS IN JANUARY, 1984

Figure 13

e. Recharge and Discharge

The primary source of recharge to groundwater in the vicinity is groundwater inflow from the west and southwest, from the area between the James Bypass and Fresno Slough. There is some percolation of excess applied irrigation water near the site, but since groundwater supplies the sole source of irrigation water, this is not a net source of recharge. Discharge is primarily by pumping and groundwater outflow to the east and southeast toward a large pumping depression.

f. Groundwater Use

Figure 12 shows the locations of selected wells near the site. There are no known public supply wells downgradient and within several miles of the site. There are two domestic wells immediately west and upgradient of the site. There are two additional domestic wells immediately north of the site. There is one additional domestic well just east of the existing landfill, that is within the proposed expansion site. There are no other downgradient domestic wells within one-half mile of the site. A well formerly used for irrigation is now used by the County of Fresno for water at the existing landfill. There are a number of irrigation wells close to the site.

h. Chemical Quality

Table 7 shows the results of inorganic chemical analyses of water from five wells in the area that have been sampled by the the County of Fresno Health Department in 1980-81. Table 8 shows the results of analyses of water from six wells sampled in August, 1983, as part of this investigation. In general, wells to the north and those tapping deeper strata produce water of the lowest salinity. Total dissolved solids (TDS) contents in water from such wells are often less than 400 mg/l, and the water is of the sodium bicarbonate type. Shallow wells to the south often produce water with TDS contents exceeding 800 mg/l, and this water is often of the sodium chloride type. The low nitrate contents in water from some wells (such as in Wells 29N, 29P, 32P, and 33N) are indicative of reducing conditions in the aquifer. The presence of some iron and manganese in water is also indicative of these conditions, although levels are usually suitable for drinking water. Hydrogen sulfide is present in water from some of the wells in the area, which hinders the use for drinking water. Hardness contents are relatively high in water from most of the shallow wells in the vicinity. No samples have been collected for determination of trace organic constituents. Based on the existing analyses, most of the groundwater in the vicinity is suitable for domestic use and irrigation, except for some of the shallow groundwater to the south.

TABLE 7

**CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER FROM WELLS NEAR
THE AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL (1980-81)**

Constituent (mg/l)	T148/R17E				T158/R17E
	Well No.: <u>28G</u>	<u>29N</u>	<u>29P</u>	<u>32P</u>	<u>5G</u>
Calcium	2	<3	78	36	192
Magnesium	<1	<3	6	17	50
Sodium	266	83	162	122	213
Potassium	5	4	14	6	5
Bicarbonate	133	167	270	275	526
Sulfate	3	11	16	39	126
Chloride	161	61	292	186	365
Nitrate	4	5	<1	5	21
Fluoride	0.4	0.2	-	0.1	0.1
Iron	0.04	3.4	-	0.04	0.06
Manganese	<0.01	0.04	-	0.01	<0.01
pH	8.5	8.4	8.3	7.8	7.5
Electrical Conductivity (micromhos/cm @ 25°C)	530	480	1,150	970	2,000
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	16	21	211	281	774
Well Depth (feet)	480	280	184	195	255
Perforated Interval (feet)	220-390	160-240	145 O.B.	135-195	180-255
Date	9/27/81	6/11/80	2/12/81	1/30/80	1/30/81

Chemical Analyses by County of Fresno, Department of Health, Division of Laboratories

TABLE 8

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER FROM WELLS
NEAR THE AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL (1983)

Constituent (mg/l)	T148/R7E					
	Well No.: <u>29P</u>	<u>31R</u>	<u>32B</u>	<u>32H</u>	<u>32P</u>	<u>33N</u>
Calcium	120	88	13	100	110	7
Magnesium	15	19	1	18	27	1
Sodium	210	170	74	59	145	70
Potassium	19	11	7	13	13	5
Carbonate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bicarbonate	244	263	135	223	303	128
Sulfate	80	68	11	17	65	<5
Chloride	389	268	59	179	263	52
Nitrate	<1	7	<1	9	27	<1
Fluoride	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Boron	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.2
Iron	0.16	<0.05	0.11	<0.05	<0.05	0.24
Manganese	0.60	0.03	0.02	0.02	<0.01	0.03
Arsenic	<0.01	0.01	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
pH	7.9	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.8	8.1
Electrical Conductivity (micromhos/cm @ 25°C)	1,750	1,320	410	940	1,750	350
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000	810	266	573	886	240
Perforated Interval (feet)	140 O.B.	250-448	180-280	166-206	135-195	160-300
Date	8/31/83	8/31/83	8/31/83	8/31/83	8/30/83	8/3C/83

Analyses by BC Laboratories, Inc. of Bakersfield

Horizontal movement of water percolating from nearby irrigated acres is not considered to be a significant problem, based on information derived from the numerous soil borings at the site. There is no evidence of perched water at the site. The main flow path for water percolating above the water table is vertically downward. Horizontal movement of recharged storm runoff from the proposed pond is also not expected to be a problem, primarily because of the presence of sandy materials in the vicinity of the pond. Vertical movement of recharged storm runoff should be predominant, and no perched water is expected. Also, the proposed pond should have no significant impact on water levels in the vicinity.

3. Mitigation Measures

a. A number of features to protect groundwater quality have been proposed in the preliminary design, construction, and operations report (EMCON Associates, 1984b). The following measures are intended to supplement and strengthen those already recommended.

The most meaningful method of avoiding landfill leachate is to keep water out of the landfill. Thus the use of proper cover material is essential. The selection of this material should not be based on average annual rainfall, but on higher precipitation rates which can occasionally be expected. Annual rainfall in some years can be expected to be more than double the average value, or more than 15 inches. In addition, individual storms could contribute several inches or more of rainfall, which happened during the winter of 1982-83. In the case of both the intermediate and final cover, the design should preclude percolation of rainfall, both from large storms and during wet years. The water budget used to design the cover should also include consideration of the effects of landscape irrigation. Plants selected for landscaping should use a minimal amount of water, and irrigation of landscaping should be avoided entirely, if possible. Liquid wastes of any type should not be allowed to be disposed to the landfill. In addition, landfilled refuse should not be placed within 100 feet of nearby irrigated areas, or the pond to be used for disposal of storm runoff.

b. Sufficient control should be established to preclude disposal of volatile organic chemicals or other types of industrial wastes at the landfill.

c. Implementation of a properly conducted groundwater monitoring program is essential. This program should be designed and reviewed annually by an experienced groundwater geologist or hydrologist. Both existing wells at and near the landfill and specially constructed monitor wells should be sampled on a quarterly basis. At least four new monitor wells should be drilled at the site. The new monitor wells should be equipped

with minimum 6-inch diameter Schedule 80 PVC casing, and perforations should extend from about 125 to 150 feet in depth. The six inch diameter casing is advantageous for a number of reasons. First, normal low-cost submersible pumps can be installed to obtain water samples. Second, additional room is provided in the well to allow pump tests, which are required to adequately determine permeability. Lastly, such wells can possibly be used to supplement water for other purposes at the landfill. A gravel envelope should be provided from 120 to 150 feet in depth. Pressure grouted cement annular seals should extend from the land surface to a depth of about 120 feet. After development, the wells should be pump tested for at least four hours to allow determination of aquifer transmissivity and for initial sampling. During routine monitoring, the wells should be sampled by pumping at least 30 gpm for at least one hour prior to sample collection. Static water level should be measured prior to pumping, and the pumping level and well discharge should be measured several times during each sampling period. Comprehensive chemical analyses should be done annually, whereas only indicators of landfill leachate should be routinely determined (quarterly). Elevations of the measuring point of the monitor wells and at least six other nearby wells should be precisely surveyed, to allow preparation of water-level elevation contour maps.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

There are no unavoidable adverse impacts related to groundwater.

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D. GEOLOGY

1. Existing Conditions

a. Subsurface Geology

The project site is situated on the Quaternary alluvium of the San Joaquin Valley. In the vicinity of the site, this alluvium is relatively deep and is comprised of alternating layers of sand, silt, and clay. A major aquaclude or pervasive confining bed recognized in the area is the Corcoran Clay. This bed is about 60 to 68 feet thick, with the top at a depth of about 480 to 490 feet beneath the site, and the base at a depth of about 550 to 560 feet. Other lacustrine clays mapped in the region by Page and LeBlanc (1969) are not present beneath the site.

The site is shallowly underlain (less than 50-foot depth) primarily by inorganic sands and silts which exhibit little or no plasticity. Localized clay layers have been encountered beneath the site; however, their occurrence is infrequent.

A total of 28 test borings have been completed at or near the site since 1982. The borings and their results are described at length in Section IV,C, Groundwater. The first set of borings (1982) revealed that silty sand and sand were the most common materials encountered, with some holes also encountering materials that were classified as silt or clay. The second set of borings (1984) revealed alternating layers of sand and silt. Shallow materials near the proposed storm runoff pond in the southwest corner of the project site were generally sandy. Finer-grained materials appeared to be common within the upper 30 feet beneath most of the site.

Table 9 summarizes the laboratory test results for several samples taken from the 1984 EMCON borings. Shown are the Unified Soil Classification, plasticity index, and the percent passing the U.S. #200 Sieve for each sample. Permeability values are also given for three of the samples. The results indicate that silts encountered at the site area are of moderately low permeability (10^{-5} cm/sec).

b. Seismic Conditions

There are no known earthquake faults underlying the American Avenue Landfill site. The project area is not within a Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone as defined by the California Division of Mines and Geology.

Nonetheless, the effects of any major seismic activity along the two nearest fault systems can be expected to be felt within the Fresno County area. These two faults are the San Andres and Owens Valley, located 25 and 120 miles from the project site, respectively.

TABLE 9

SUMMARY OF SOIL SAMPLE LABORATORY TEST RESULTS -
AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL EXPANSION

Boring Number	Sample Depth (ft)	Plasticity Index	Passing U.S. #200 Sieve (% by wgt.)	Unified Soil Classification	Permeability at 20° C (cm/sec)*
E-1	19.5 - 21.0	Non-plastic	3	SP	--
E-1	21 - 25	Non-plastic	27	SM	--
E-2	9.5 - 11.0	Non-plastic	84	ML	--
E-2	10 - 15	Non-plastic	67	ML	2.5 x 10 ⁻⁵
E-3	24.5 - 26.0	Non-plastic	35	SM	--
E-4	4.5 - 6.0	Non-plastic	39	SM	--
E-4	9.5 - 11.0	Non-plastic	93	ML	--
E-4	49.5 - 51.0	Non-plastic	66	ML	--
E-5	16 - 20	Non-plastic	80	ML	5.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
E-5	39.5 - 41.0	Non-plastic	57	ML	--
E-6	44.5 - 46.0	Non-plastic	63	ML	--
E-14	25 - 30	Non-plastic	35	SM	3.0 x 10 ⁻⁴

* Permeability tests were performed on remolded samples compacted at 90 percent of the maximum density as determined by ASTM D1557 at moisture contents of 2 percent above optimum moisture content.

Source: "Preliminary Field and Laboratory Studies, American Avenue Landfill Expansion," EMCON Associates, San Jose, May 1984.

The California Division of Mines and Geology Preliminary Map of the Maximum Expectable Earthquake Intensity shows most of Fresno County in Severity Zone II. This means that the most severe earthquake expected in the area would cause moderate damage and would have a probable maximum intensity of VII or VIII on the Modified Mercalli Scale.

c. Mineral Deposits

According to the County of Fresno Resource and Development Department geologist, there are no known exploitable mineral deposits within the project site (Steel, 1984).

2. Potential Impacts

Landfill operations for the proposed project require that approximately 410 acres would be excavated to a depth of 30 feet. Displacing the underlying sand and silt with a combination of municipal waste and ash is not expected to result in any adverse geological impacts. As such, no mitigation measures are under consideration.

3. Mitigation Measures

The proposed project would not result in any impacts on geology that would require mitigation measures.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

There are no unavoidable adverse impacts related to geology.

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E. LAND

1. Existing Conditions

With the exception of the existing landfill which has a maximum height of 20 feet, the project site is generally flat and without significant landforms. The site slopes toward the southwest from an elevation of about 188 feet MSL at the northeast corner, to a elevation of 178 feet at the southwest corner. Other than the landfill, there are no significant slopes on the site and there are no known problems with slope stability. Site experience indicates that soils will stand at slopes of 2:1 or steeper (EMCON, 1983).

2. Potential Impacts

Development of the proposed project would result in the creation of a series of knolls that rise above intervening saddles with a maximum height of 100 feet. The landfill would become a highly visible landmark in its immediate vicinity. The aesthetic impacts of the project are further described in Section V.A.

In the project design prepared by EMCON, the perimeter slopes of the landfill would be no steeper than 5:1 (horizontal:vertical) and the top surface of the fill would be sloped at 3 to 5 percent.

According to EMCON, the 5:1 slopes provide greater compatibility with the surrounding flat terrain than would the 2:1 slopes which could be developed under State law. In addition to their greater compatibility, these flatter slopes would minimize the potential for erosion.

Landfill slopes become less steep over time as a result of settlement caused by decomposition and consolidation of the refuse. This settlement can either reverse the direction in which inadequately sloped surfaces drain or block drainage altogether. To compensate for the effects of settlement, construction slopes must be oversteepened; State regulations require construction slopes in the interior of the fill to be no flatter than 3 percent. The rapid increase in refuse fill thickness at the landfill perimeter, due to the combined effects of the excavation and fill slopes, create significant differential settlement in this zone. To prevent blockage of runoff from the landfill, the fill slope in the landfill perimeter must be constructed at a slope of not less than 12 percent.

The proposed landfill slopes have been reviewed and have been found acceptable for the project site.

3. Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures related to land are proposed for the project.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

It does not appear that the project would have any unavoidable adverse impacts related to land with the possible exception of visual impacts. Unavoidable visual impacts are described in Section V,A,4.

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F. VEGETATION

1. Existing Conditions

a. Existing Natural Vegetation

Native vegetation on the project site has been almost entirely eliminated by past cultivation or by the present landfill operation. Most of the area shows evidence of having been leveled and disced at some time in the past. The least disturbed area is a 150 feet wide strip east of the present landfill. This strip has not been leveled but shows many effects of human activity. The little remaining natural vegetation is found here and in the section of land along American Avenue, west of the landfill.

The native vegetation which remains on the site consists of typical valley grassland plants including various species of Bromus, Hordeum, and Erodium and of several plants found only in alkali areas including Suaeda torreyana, Frankenia grandifolia and Distichlis spicata. Many weedy plants which follow land disturbances such as Salsola kali (Russian thistle), are also found on the project site.

b. Rare and Endangered Species

Two species of plants classified as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society could occur on the project site: Cordylanthus palmatus and Atriplex vallicola. Cordylanthus palmatus (palmate bracted birds beak) is a small annual plant in the family Scrophulariaceae. In the past it occurred in alkali flats along the west side of the Central Valley from Fresno County north to Colusa County. In Fresno County it has been reported found at a locality approximately seven miles east-southeast of Mendota and at a site near the intersection of Madera and American Avenues. At both of these sites Cordylanthus palmatus has since been eliminated by cultivation. In 1971, a small population of plants was transplanted from one of these sites to the Mendota Wildlife Refuge. This transplanted population and two small populations to the north may be all that remains of this species. Given the type of habitat at the project site and how close the site is to locations where this plant is known to have occurred, it is likely that at one time Cordylanthus palmatus occurred here. A thorough search of the less disturbed areas of the project site in October, 1983 and in June, 1984, however, showed no evidence of the presence of this species. It seems probable, given the disturbed nature of the site, that even if this plant once occurred here, it is no longer present.

The second rare and endangered species which occurs in this general region is Atriplex vallicola. Records indicate that this plant once occurred on alkali flats from Kern County to

Fresno County. The proposed project site, although it has some suitable habitat for Atriplex vallicola, is at the periphery of the range of this species. The October and June surveys of the site did not disclose the presence of Atriplex vallicola.

2. Potential Impacts

Although the alkali sink habitat in the San Joaquin Valley is severely threatened, the portion of the project site which contains alkali sink vegetation is already so disturbed that its preservation would be of little value. In summary, the harmful effects on natural vegetation which the development of the proposed project on this site would have would be minimal.

3. Mitigation Measures

The proposed project would not result in any impacts on vegetation that would require mitigation measures.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The proposed project would result in the loss of approximately 170 acres of highly disturbed native vegetation, some of which would be restored to the site as each module is completed.

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G. WILDLIFE

1. Existing Conditions

The project site, as described in Section V,F, is in a disturbed condition from the natural biotic community termed the "Alkali Sink" by Munz and Keck. During on-site inspections, late summer through mid-winter, 1983, and during four nights of live trapping, utilizing twenty traps during January and February, 1984, the following animals were inventoried:

Mammals:

Coyotes
Jack Rabbits
Pocket Gophers
Beechy Ground Squirrels
Heerman's Kangaroo Rats
White-footed Deer Mouse
Field mice

Reptiles:

Side Blotched Lizards
Rattlesnake

Birds:

White-tailed Kites
Desert Kestrels
Marsh Hawks
Short-eared Owls
Horned Larks
Water Pipits
Western Meadowlarks
Loggerhead Shrike

It is probable that all of the animals inventoried are permanent residents of the site with the exception of the White-tailed Kites and the Kestrels. Due to the small size of the shrubs, the Kites do not nest on the site. An old Kite nest, however, was found off the site in an adjoining orchard. There are no nesting sites for the Kestrels on the project site. The project site is a rather typical nesting habitat for the Short-eared Owl that is gradually disappearing because of loss of habitat.

b. Endangered Species

Originally the project site could have harbored up to five endangered animals: San Joaquin Kit Foxes, Fresno Kangaroo Rats, Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizards, White-tailed Kites and, possibly, the Giant Garter Snake. With the exception of the

White-tailed Kite, none of these endangered species were observed on the project site. Because of special concern for the Fresno Kangaroo Rat, a live trapping program was undertaken on the project site to determine if they were present. Although a total of twenty-one adult rats were captured, all were Heerman's Kangaroo Rats. It appears that human disturbances and possible territorial invasions by Heerman's Kangaroo Rats preclude the possibility of a current Fresno Kangaroo Rat population.

Previous cultivation of the project site is most likely the cause for not finding either the Horned Lizards or Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizards on the site. The lack of standing water or flooding may have removed the Giant Garter Snake from the general project area if it ever occurred here.

2. Potential Impacts

The project should not have a major adverse impact on the wildlife because the project site has previously been cultivated. It could, over a period of time, remove the potential breeding habitat for the animals inventoried during the various transects of the site and during the live trapping program. Project plans, however, call for the landfill to be developed in phases with only a portion of the project site being disturbed at any one time. As each phase is completed, that portion of the landfill would be replanted with native vegetation. The habitat as it presently exists, however, would be destroyed and cannot be replaced.

If the project site should be lost as a potential breeding habitat, it would be a small wedge in the general loss of breeding habitats on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley. The greatest loss of habitat would be to the Short-eared Owls or the Marsh Hawks which require some relatively undisturbed grassy areas to reproduce.

It should be noted that under existing zoning, the site could be developed for agricultural purposes without requiring any entitlements from the County of Fresno. The development of agricultural uses would also likely result in the loss of the site as wildlife habitat.

3. Mitigation Measures

The phasing of the project and the replanting of the site with native vegetation as each phase is completed would mitigate the potential impacts on wildlife to some degree.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The proposed project would result in the loss of approximately 170 acres of potential breeding habitat as it now exists.

Responses to Comments of Alma Furtado, Ida L. Lowe and Albert E. Lowe, Margaret Sandbothe, Joseph E. Perry and Ruth Couto:

The above respondents all appear to live in the general vicinity of Jensen Avenue or the proposed landfill site. The most commonly expressed concern in their comments related to traffic safety along Jensen and Madera Avenues. Other concerns included noise and litter associated with project traffic, that the approval of the project is a foregone conclusion, that the project will adversely impact groundwater in the area, that Fresno and Clovis should take care of their own garbage and that the landfill will adversely impact residences in its immediate vicinity.

The reasons for selecting Jensen and North Avenues for evaluation as potential haul routes for the landfill are explained on pages 81 through 88 of the draft EIR. Three important factors should be noted regarding these routes. First, the County has not made a final determination on the actual haul route that will be used. This determination will be made at some future time if the project is approved, and the information presented in this EIR, including the respondents' comments, will be taken into consideration in making the determination.

Second, the traffic analysis prepared for the EIR does not indicate that the traffic generated by the project would have a significant adverse impact on any of the roads that were considered as possible haul routes. All of the roads would continue to operate at acceptable levels of service without or with the project.

Third, on page 88, mitigation measures are suggested for enhancing traffic safety and convenience along the haul routes.

The potential impacts of the project on noise levels along the two haul routes that were studied are described in Section IV,H, of the draft EIR. It is concluded that noise levels along the haul route would increase as a result of project-related truck traffic. If Jensen Avenue is selected, increased noise levels would not be significant. If North Avenue is selected, noise levels could increase significantly if the waste-to-energy plant is not developed.

The County of Fresno has an ongoing litter control program which is in effect now and is utilized to remove litter from landfill haul routes and other County roads. This program would be extended to the American Avenue haul route if the project is implemented.

The potential impacts of the project upon groundwater are described in Section IV,C, of the draft EIR. The proposed

While the proposed restoration of native vegetation would provide breeding habitat for some of the animals found on the project site, it will not do so for others, including the Fresno Kangaroo Rat. The Fresno Kangaroo Rat requires a highly specialized habitat which can not be restored at the higher elevation.

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project cannot be operated as a dump, due to strict regulations that have been adopted by the State Water Board. Historically, monitor wells were not in place near most landfills where problems developed. At the American Avenue Landfill expansion site, the proposed operation would be carefully monitored. If pollution is observed in water from the monitor wells, corrective actions would be required by the regulatory agencies involved.

The draft EIR notes that the existence of the landfill, including the nature of the use and its operational characteristics and appearance, may be considered undesirable by the few residents who would live near it. The EIR also suggests as a mitigation measure that the County consider acquiring the houses located adjacent to the landfill as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the houses are located. This measure would preclude any possible long-term conflicts with residents in the immediate area.

The need for the project, the area it will serve and the status of the existing American Avenue facility are described in Section II of the draft EIR. Alternative locations that were considered for the landfill are discussed in Section VI.

Finally, any contention that the approval of the project is a foregone conclusion is erroneous. The County of Fresno must consider and approve a conditional use permit application before the project can be implemented. The public will have an opportunity to present testimony for or against the project at the public hearing on the conditional use permit.

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H. NOISE

1. Existing Conditions

The area surrounding the project site is dominated by agricultural uses with a few rural residential uses located within approximately 500 feet of the outermost limits of the expanded landfill site. Existing sources of environmental noise in the vicinity of the project site include present operations at the American Avenue Landfill, traffic on American Avenue and intermittent farming operations on surrounding agricultural properties. Noise level measurements conducted on June 1, 1984, ranged from 35-45 dBA, L_{eq}^1 , during the day depending upon proximity to traffic on American Avenue. It is anticipated that background levels fall to 30-35 dBA during the late night and early morning hours.

Noise levels from existing landfill operations at the site were evaluated by conducting noise measurements at the Southeast Regional Solid Waste Disposal Site located near Parlier in Fresno County. Measurements were conducted at the Southeast site because equipment was not in operation at the American Avenue site on the measurement day. According to employees at both sites, equipment used at the Southeast site is comparable to that which is used at the American Avenue site. Also, it is anticipated that if the American Avenue Expansion Project is approved, equipment presently in use at the Southeast site would be relocated to American Avenue.

Measurements were conducted at the Southeast site during the morning of May 15, 1984, of noise levels generated by a John Deere 11-yard scraper and a Caterpillar 826C Compactor. Measurements of noise levels generated by a Klein 4000-gallon capacity water truck were conducted during the morning of June 1, 1984.

Sound level measurements were conducted at a reference distance of approximately 300 feet while equipment was in normal use at the landfill site. The measurement site was a large open area on the face of the landfill without berms or intervening topography. The results of the measurements are summarized in Table 10.

Noise level data summarized in Table 10 were mathematically combined with hours of operation as reported by the County of Fresno to provide an estimate of existing noise exposure as defined by L_{dn} and L_{max} . Assuming that operating hours are normally from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and that all equipment is in simultaneous operation within the same area, calculated levels at 300 feet from the source are L_{dn} 64.5 dB and L_{max}

¹ For an explanation of the terminology used in this report, refer to Appendix A: "Acoustical Terminology."

73.6 dBA. Assuming a flat surface and geometric spreading for a point source, the distances from the center of the noise source to the L_{dn} 60 dB and L_{max} 70 dBA contours are 504 feet and 454 feet, respectively. The approximate locations of these contours have been illustrated in Figure 14 for existing landfill operations. It should be noted that Figure 14 is representative of a worst-case condition where all equipment is operating at the outermost limit of the landfill. On any one particular day, noise contours would be much smaller than those shown in Figure 14 since equipment would only be operating in one area of the landfill site.

TABLE 10

SUMMARY OF MEASURED NOISE LEVELS*
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

Equipment	Distance	L_{eq}	L_{max} (Typical)
John Deere 11-Yd. Scraper	300'	65 dBA	69 dBA
Caterpillar 826C Compactor	300'	62 dBA	67 dBA
Klein 4000 Gal. Water Truck	300'	64.5 dBA	70 dBA

* Measured during normal landfill activities (May 15, 1984 and June 1, 1984).

Source: Brown-Buntin Associates

Noise levels from existing volumes of traffic on roadways in the vicinity of the project site were evaluated using the FHWA Highway Traffic Noise Prediction Model and traffic data obtained from the County of Fresno and TJKTM Transportation Consultants. The FHWA Model is the analytical method presently favored by most state and local agencies, including CalTrans and the County of Fresno, for the prediction of traffic noise levels. The model was developed to predict hourly L_{eq} values for free-flowing traffic conditions with an accuracy of +1.5 dB, but may be used to predict L_{dn} values based upon an equivalent hourly traffic volume determined from the hourly distribution of traffic for a typical day.

Roadways of concern in the project area include American Avenue and the two primary alternative solid waste haul routes between the proposed waste-to-energy plant near the intersection of Cedar and North Avenues and the landfill. Haul Route "A" would generally follow Jensen Avenue from the waste-to-energy plant

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF
NOISE EXPOSURE CONTOURS
(EXISTING LANDFILL OPERATIONS)

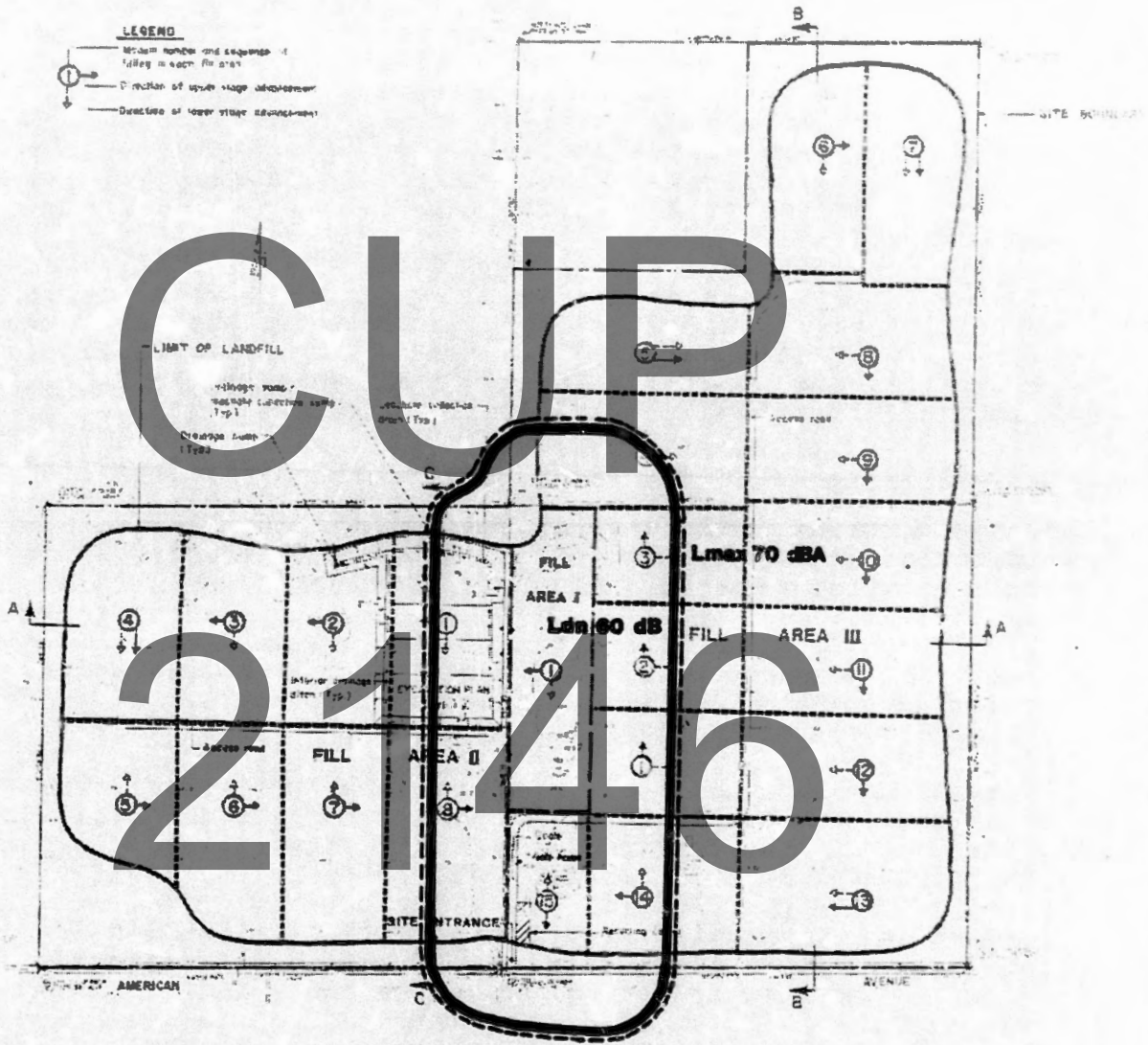


Figure 14

BBA

to Madera Avenue; Haul Route "B" would generally follow North Avenue.

Traffic counts conducted by the County of Fresno for Jensen Avenue west of Cornelia Avenue in February, 1984, showed that the percentage of medium and heavy trucks for this section of roadway was 11.1 percent and 12.6 percent of the Average Daily Traffic (ADT), respectively. Hourly traffic counts for the same sample period showed that approximately 91 percent of the traffic over a 24-hour period occurs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Since specific information regarding truck mix and day/night distribution was not available, the Jensen Avenue data were applied to American Avenue and to other sections of the proposed alternative haul routes in order to calculate existing noise exposure along these roadways. Calculated noise exposures, as defined by L_{dn} at 100 feet from the center of the roadway, are summarized in Table 11. Distances from the center of the roadway to the L_{dn} 60 dB contour are summarized in Table 12.

Farming operations in the vicinity of the existing landfill operation result in intermittent noise levels when tractors or other heavy equipment are in use. Noise levels from such activities are relatively insignificant when compared to vehicular traffic and existing landfill activities.

2. Potential Impacts

Noise impacts from the proposed project would result from the operation of heavy equipment in the expanded landfill area, and from project-related increases in truck traffic along the proposed alternative haul routes between the waste-to-energy plant and the landfill site. Noise impacts may also result from the operation of pumping and electrical generation stations associated with a methane gas recovery system which may be developed for the landfill operation.

Normal landfill operations at the American Avenue site would consist of the simultaneous excavation of fill material from a future fill area and spreading of that material over refuse in the fill area in use. Normal hours of operation would be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. unless emergency conditions warrant later operations. Equipment used during these activities includes scrapers to move soil from the excavation area to the fill area, a compactor to spread and reduce the volume of the refuse material, and a water truck to control dust in the excavation and fill areas and on haul roads throughout the site. A bulldozer is occasionally used to spread and compact refuse material when the compactor is out of service. Such procedures are generally being followed at the existing landfill operation. In order to mitigate visual impacts and provide sound attenuation, berms will be constructed around the landfill area in use at any one given time.

TABLE 11

**SUMMARY OF CALCULATED DAY/NIGHT AVERAGE
LEVELS (L_{dn}) AT 100 FEET FROM CENTER OF ROADWAY**

<u>Roadway Description</u>	1984		1985		1995	
	<u>Existing Conditions)</u>	<u>Scenario II</u>	<u>Scenario III</u>	<u>Scenario II</u>	<u>Scenario III</u>	
Jensen Avenue (Route "A")						
West of Golden State Avenue	71.3 dB	71.4 dB	71.4 dB	71.3 dB	71.5 dB	
East of Cherry Avenue	71.0 dB	71.1 dB	71.1 dB	71.0 dB	71.2 dB	
West of Marks Avenue	65.5 dB	65.8 dB	65.8 dB	65.7 dB	66.1 dB	
West of Cornelia Avenue	63.1 dB	63.7 dB	63.7 dB	63.4 dB	64.2 dB	
East of Dickenson Avenue	63.2 dB	63.8 dB	63.8 dB	63.5 dB	64.2 dB	
North Avenue (Route "B")						
West of Orange Avenue	64.4 dB	64.8 dB	64.8 dB	64.6 dB	65.2 dB	
West of Walnut Avenue	61.3 dB	62.1 dB	62.1 dB	61.8 dB	63.0 dB	
West of West Avenue	57.5 dB	59.2 dB	59.2 dB	58.5 dB	60.5 dB	
Madera Avenue						
North of American Avenue	64.6 dB	65.0 dB	65.0 dB	64.8 dB	65.3 dB	
American Avenue						
West of Madera Avenue	59.5 dB	60.8 dB	60.8 dB	60.1 dB	61.4 dB	

NOTE: Calculations based upon traffic data obtained from TJKH Transportation Consultants and the Fresno County Department of Public Works.

Source: Brown-Buntin Associates

TABLE 12

DISTANCE (FEET) FROM CENTER OF ROADWAY TO DAY/NIGHT
AVERAGE LEVEL (L_{dn}) 60 dB CONTOUR

Roadway Description	1984	1985		1995	
	(Existing Conditions)	Scenario II	Scenario III	Scenario II	Scenario III
Jensen Avenue (Route "A")					
West of Golden State Avenue	564	573	573	569	580
East of Cherry Avenue	540	549	549	544	556
West of Marks Avenue	232	245	245	239	256
West of Cornelia Avenue	161	177	177	168	189
East of Dickenson Avenue	163	179	179	171	191
North Avenue (Route "B")					
West of Orange Avenue	195	208	208	202	221
West of Walnut Avenue	122	178	138	131	157
West of West Avenue	68	88	88	79	108
Madera Avenue					
North of American Avenue	201	216	216	208	227
American Avenue					
West of Madera Avenue	92	113	113	102	124

NOTE: Calculations based upon traffic data obtained from TJKM Transportation Consultants and the Fresno County Department of Public Works.

Source: Brown-Buntin Associates

Figure 15 has been prepared to illustrate the extent of noise exposure as defined by L_{dn} and L_{max} for the expanded landfill operation. Contours in Figure 15 are based upon noise level measurements described in Table 10 and the assumption that normal hours of operation would be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. As in Figure 14, contours are representative of a worst-case condition where the scraper, compactor and the water truck are in simultaneous operation in the same area at the outermost limit of the expanded landfill area. On any one particular day, noise contours would be much smaller in size since activities would be confined to only the excavation and fill area in use at that time. If proposed berms are effective in interrupting line-of-sight between the landfill operation and nearby receiving land uses, noise levels would be reduced by 5-10 dB at such locations. Occasional landfill operations later than 5:00 p.m. would cause noise exposure as defined by L_{dn} to be greater on that particular day, but would not significantly affect annual average noise exposure. Noise exposure as defined by L_{max} would not be affected by evening operations.

Based upon the project plan, the daily number of trips by 20-ton trucks between Fresno and the American Avenue Landfill would be 56 in 1985 and 58 in 1986. If the proposed waste-to-energy plant becomes operational by 1987, the daily number of truck trips drops to 24. By the year 1995, the daily number of truck trips with the waste-to-energy plant in operation (Scenario II) would be 30; the daily number of truck trips without the plant (Scenario III) would be 116 by 1995.

In order to evaluate noise impacts from project-related increases in truck traffic, the numbers of truck trips per day described above were added to existing traffic volumes along the proposed alternative haul routes. Calculated noise exposure as defined by L_{dn} at 100 feet from the center of the roadway are summarized in Table 11. Distances from the center of the roadway to the L_{dn} 60 dB contour are summarized in Table 12.

The determination of whether or not a particular noise impact is significant is generally based upon comparisons with applicable State and local standards and to recognized public health criteria. The adopted policies of the Fresno County Noise Element state that in order to maintain an acceptable noise environment, noise levels should not exceed L_{dn} 60 dB in areas containing noise-sensitive land uses. The Noise Element recommends that proposed developments minimize adverse noise impacts on surrounding sensitive land uses by incorporating effective mitigation measures into project design. The Fresno County Noise Ordinance contains exterior noise level standards for noise sources not preempted by State or Federal regulations which are based upon the statistical distribution of noise over time. The maximum levels permitted by the County ordinance are 70 dBA during the daytime hours (7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.) and 65 dBA during the nighttime hours (10:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.), when

measured at an existing sensitive receiver location. As defined by the ordinance, sensitive receivers include churches, hospitals, schools, libraries and residential uses.

By comparing Figures 14 and 15 it is readily apparent that the total area impacted by noise levels exceeding L_{dn} 60 dB or L_{max} 70 dBA is greatly increased with the expanded landfill operation. However, noise levels resulting from landfill operations on any one day would be similar to the present operation since the same general procedures and equipment would be employed. When landfill operations occur within approximately 500 feet of an existing noise-sensitive receiver, noise levels may exceed County of Fresno standards while the equipment is being operated in that location. At greater distances, or if landfill operations are effectively shielded by berms, noise levels would not be expected to exceed applicable standards.

Project-related increases in noise exposure from truck traffic on American Avenue and on other sections of the proposed alternative solid waste haul routes may be evaluated by comparing the 1985 and 1995 columns to the 1984 (existing conditions) columns of Tables 11 and 12. It is apparent from such comparisons that the greatest increases in traffic noise levels would occur on roadways which presently carry relatively small traffic volumes. For Route "A" (Jensen Avenue), the largest increase would occur west of Cornelia Avenue where noise levels would increase by approximately 1.1 dB, L_{dn} by 1995 assuming that the waste-to-energy plant would not be constructed (Scenario III). In the residential areas located along Jensen Avenue in the vicinity of the waste water treatment plant and between Elm Avenue and Fig Avenue, noise levels would increase by approximately 0.2 dB by 1995 without the waste-to-energy plant. For Route "B" (North Avenue), the largest increase would occur west of West Avenue where noise levels would increase by approximately 3 dB, L_{dn} by 1995 without the waste-to-energy plant. On American Avenue (Routes "A" and "B"), noise levels would increase by approximately 1.9 dB, L_{dn} by 1995 without the waste-to-energy plant.

Project-related increases in noise levels from truck traffic on either of the alternative haul routes would be substantially mitigated by the construction of the waste-to-energy plant which would reduce the number of daily truck trips from 116 to 30 by the year 1995. Resulting maximum increases in noise levels by 1995 would be 0.3 dB, L_{dn} along Route "A" and 1 dB, L_{dn} along Route "B." Project related increases along Madera and American Avenues by 1995 would be 0.2 and 0.6 dB, L_{dn} respectively. Such increases would not be considered significant.

Although the type and location of pumping and electrical generation equipment associated with a methane gas recovery system which may be installed at the expanded landfill operation are

unknown, it may be assumed that noise levels exceeding applicable standards could occur.

3. Mitigation Measures

a. All equipment in use at the landfill site should be fitted with residential type mufflers. It was noted during field measurements at the Southeast site that noise levels generated by the water truck could be noticeably reduced in this manner.

b. Hours of landfill operation and truck travel between the proposed waste-to-energy plant and the landfill site should be limited to between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (emergency operations excepted). This measure would prevent noise levels from project-related activities from disturbing residential uses during the more sensitive times of the day.

c. The berms that would be constructed around landfill operations should be designed so that line-of-sight is interrupted between noise generating equipment and nearby noise-sensitive land uses.

d. The development of the waste-to-energy plant would substantially reduce the number of daily truck trips between Fresno and the landfill site and thus reduce potential noise impacts.

e. Consideration should be given to selecting Route "A" (Jensen Avenue) as described in Section V,B as the haul route between the waste-to-energy plant and the landfill because project-related increases in the truck traffic would result in smaller increases in noise levels than would occur along Route "B" (North Avenue).

f. Any pumping and electrical generation equipment associated with a methane gas recovery system should be selected for quiet operation and should be located in areas removed from existing or potential residential uses. An alternative would be to place equipment in properly-designed enclosures to reduce noise to acceptable levels at nearby sensitive receivers.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Noise levels generated by the proposed landfill expansion would result in an increase in the area exposed to noise exceeding applicable County of Fresno standards. Existing sensitive receivers would only be affected by such levels when landfill operations are occurring within approximately 500 feet of their location. Such exposures would be temporary, and would be mitigated as landfill activities move to other areas of the site.

Noise levels along the solid waste haul route would increase as the result of project-related increases in truck traffic. If

Route "A" is selected, there would be no significant increase in noise levels. If Route "B" is selected, noise levels could increase significantly if the waste-to-energy plant is not developed.

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**EXISTING CONDITIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS,
MITIGATION MEASURES, UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS:
HUMAN RESOURCES AND CONDITIONS**

A. SOCIAL

1. Existing Conditions

a. Land Use

Land use on the project site and surrounding area is shown on Figure 16. The existing American Avenue Landfill is located on 30 acres of the project site, 40 acres are planted in alfalfa, 170 acres are undeveloped and 200 acres are planted in cotton. One single family residence and related farm buildings are located on the acreage planted with alfalfa.

Surrounding land use to the east and south consists of agriculture, primarily in the form of orchards, vineyards and cotton production. Land use to the north is partially agriculture and partially vacant. There are three single family residences to the north within 1,000 feet of the project site. Land use to the west is a mixture of five single family residences on or near the American Avenue frontage, a small enclave of mobile homes 1,400 to 1,900 feet north of the American Avenue frontage, vacant land and a small orchard.

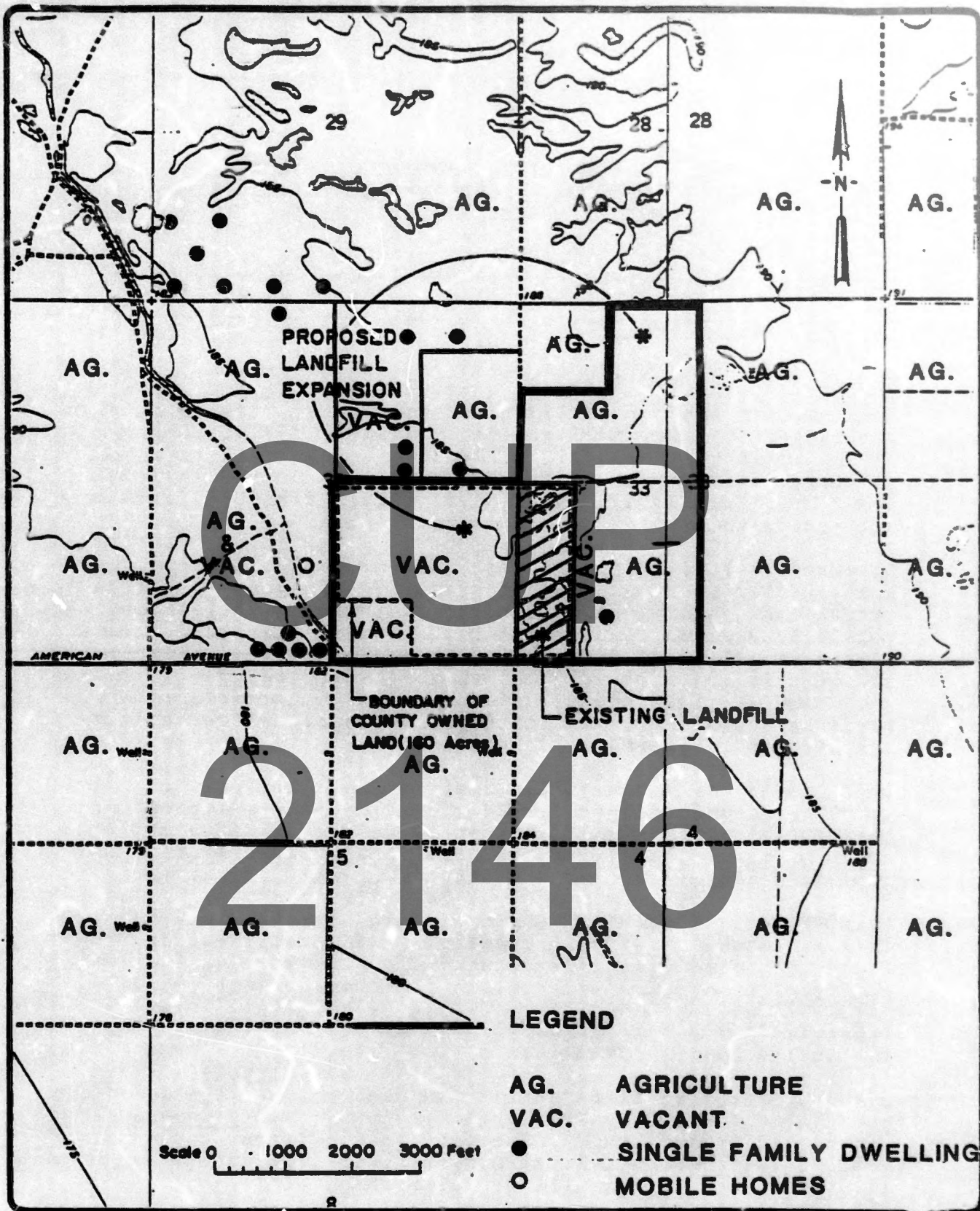
Land use in the broader area consists almost entirely of agriculture or undeveloped land. There is some scattered rural residential development northwest of the project site and what appears to be a small mobile home park for farm workers about one mile east and one and one-half miles south of the site.

The nearest urban settlements in the area are the City of Kerman, about five miles northeast of the site, the City of San Joaquin, about five miles southwest of the site, and the community of Tranquillity, about six miles west-southwest of the site.

b. Public Land Use Policy

The project site is designated as a disposal site under the Solid Waste Facility Policy of the Fresno County General Plan (County of Fresno, 1983). The policy was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in December, 1983 to serve on an interim basis until the revised CoSWMP is adopted.

When the CoSWMP is approved by the Board of Supervisors, it will be incorporated into the Fresno County General Plan as



LEGEND

- AG. AGRICULTURE
- VAC. VACANT
- SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
- MOBILE HOMES

FIGURE 16

EXISTING LAND USE

part of its Public Facilities Element (Anthony, 1984). The CoSWMP designates the project site as a regional landfill.

All property surrounding the project site is designated for agricultural use by the Fresno County General Plan.

c. Zoning

The project site and all surrounding land are designated as AE-20, Exclusive Agriculture, 20-acre minimum size. Landfills are permitted in the AE-20 District subject to a conditional use permit.

2. Potential Impacts

a. Land Use

The development of the project would result in the removal of 240 acres from agricultural use. The soils on the site are predominantly Class II and III soils, with some Class IV soils mixed in. Class II soils are considered to be prime agricultural soils. Class III and IV soils have severe limitations for agricultural use and require special handling and/or conservation practices.

The proposed project appears to be generally compatible with the surrounding agricultural uses with one possible exception. Landfill gas moving through soil to adjacent property can affect the growth and vitality of some types of vegetation. Studies have shown that woody, deep rooting plant species are especially susceptible to damage from migrating LFG (Flower, 1977). Gas related vegetative stresses result from: (1) lack of oxygen in the root zone; (2) high carbon dioxide concentrations; (3) higher soil temperatures; and (4) trace concentrations of gases toxic to plants inherent in LFG, e.g. hydrogen sulfide and ethylene.

The potential for the landfill to produce landfill gas is described in Sections IV,A and V,D. It does not appear that there would be any significant production of landfill gas under Scenario II. Landfill gas could be produced in greater volumes under either Scenario I or III. As described in Section III,B,10, the project plans include provisions for controlling landfill gas migration through the soil.

The extent to which the proposed landfill would be considered compatible with the residential uses located in its immediate vicinity is largely a subjective determination. Although the landfill can be operated in an efficient and sanitary manner that would mitigate most potential impacts, the very nature of the use would probably make it undesirable as a neighbor in most cases. It is doubtful that many people would want to live adjacent to a landfill.

Furthermore, a 100 foot high landfill over 440 acres would be a large formation in the midst of the surrounding flat land. The project plans call for perimeter landscaping and landscaping of the final landfill surfaces. The landfill would still, however, visually dominate the immediately surrounding properties. The reactions of the surrounding residents may vary from finding the landfill height and configuration acceptable to considering it a blight on the area.

It is unlikely that the project would have any other significant impacts on land uses which are not adjacent to the project site with the possible exceptions of litter, odors and traffic noise conditions. Although measures to control litter are included in the project design, occasional litter problems may arise along the haul route and in the vicinity of the project site. These problems could be caused by improper loading and/or covering of haul vehicles, wind conditions in the area, and the occasional dumping of solid waste near the landfill during hours when it is closed. Such litter would be aesthetically displeasing to affected property owners and, depending on the nature of the litter, could also be unsanitary. The generation of odors by the project is not expected to be a problem as discussed in Section V,D. Should any significant odors develop, however, they might affect the migrant workers mobile home park southeast of the project site or the residences northwest of the project site during wind reversal periods in the winter. Residential and commercial uses located along the haul route of the solid waste transfer trucks could be affected by noise impacts generated by project traffic. The potential for such impacts is described in Section IV,H.

b. Public Land Use Policy

The proposed landfill expansion is consistent with the Solid Waste Facility Policy of the Fresno County General Plan and with the revised CoSWMP.

c. Zoning

The expansion of the landfill is consistent with the agricultural zoning of the project site in that landfills are permitted subject to a conditional use permit. The expansion of the landfill cannot proceed until the County of Fresno approves a conditional use permit for the project.

d. Growth Inducement

The expansion of the American Avenue Landfill to a regional facility should have little, if any, growth inducing impacts. While it would accommodate the solid waste which would be generated by a growth in population, it would not induce such growth. Because the City of Fresno Landfill will reach capacity in 1985 and other landfills in the County will also close prior to 1990, it was determined that a regional landfill was

urgently needed. The size and design configuration of the landfill were based upon the need for a long term solution to the County's solid waste disposal requirements, rather than to serve as a new facility designed exclusively to accommodate growth.

3. Mitigation Measures

a. The project plans include provisions for landscaping, vector control, litter control, unsightliness, dust and odor control, noise control and landfill control which will enhance the compatibility of the project with surrounding land uses. These measures are described in Section III,B.

b. Consideration should be given to acquiring the residences located adjacent to the landfill over time as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the residences are located. This measure would preclude any possible long-term conflicts with residences in the immediate area.

c. The County of Fresno should apply zoning to property in the immediate project vicinity which will preclude any further residential development in the area.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The visual impacts described in this section would be an unavoidable impact of the project. Whether or not these impacts would be considered adverse would be largely a subjective judgement. There are relatively few residents in the immediate area who would be affected by the visual presence of the project. There would also be an unavoidable loss of 240 acres of agricultural land.

B. TRANSPORTATION

1. Existing Conditions

a. Study Area

The transportation study area included a 10-mile wide transportation corridor (with Whitesbridge Road on the north and Manning Avenue on the south) between the general location of the proposed waste-to-energy plant and the American Avenue Landfill site. Most of the major east-west streets and highways within this corridor were reviewed as potential routes for transporting solid waste materials and by-products between the waste-to-energy plant and the project site.

The following listed east-west roadways were initially studied for this EIR as potential haul routes but were dropped from further consideration for the reasons noted:

- (1) Whitesbridge Road (Highway 180) and Madera Avenue (Highway 145). The length of this haul route (9+ miles longer per round trip than the Jensen Avenue route) would increase air pollution, noise pollution, and operation costs. This route includes travel on about 3 miles of major streets within the City of Kerman. A majority of the properties fronting on these major streets contain commercial developments. The intrusion of project haul trucks into the traffic flow on some of Kerman's major streets would probably be perceived to have a negative impact on the commercial activities of the adjacent properties and on the City's aesthetics.

The numerous driveways and street intersections along this 3-mile section of the Whitesbridge-Madera Avenue route would generate traffic conflicts with associated delays and hazards that would be avoided if the selected route did not pass through this urbanized community.

If CalTrans should--in the future--improve Whitesbridge Road (State Highway 180) west of Freeway 99 to a freeway, a multiple lane highway, or a combination of these two, then the utilization of all or a portion of the Whitesbridge haul route could be reconsidered. The timing and extent of future Whitesbridge Road improvements are speculative and, therefore, beyond the scope of this report.

- (2) Central Avenue. This would be the shortest distance haul route; however, the numerous stop sign controls would cause increases in air pollution, noise pollution and operating costs. Narrowness of the existing pavement, jogs in the alignment, and appearance of roadway base failures, which would be seriously aggravated by repetitive heavy loads, were additional justifications for

dropping this route from consideration.

- (3) Manning Avenue. Each round trip utilizing a Manning Avenue route would be 9.5 miles longer than a round trip on the Jensen Avenue route. This additional travel would increase air pollution, noise pollution, and operating costs.

b. Potential Solid Waste Haul Routes

Of the routes considered, the remaining two potential routes are Route "A" (Jensen Avenue) and Route "B" (North Avenue) as shown on Figure 17 and described in greater detail below.

(1) Route "A"

Route "A" (Jensen Avenue) begins at the waste-to-energy site on Cedar Avenue, a two-lane arterial street, and proceeds north to Golden State Boulevard. This portion of Cedar Avenue passes through a partially developed industrial area. The roadway width is adequate; the structural section is adequate but may need some surface maintenance in the near future; and, the alignment is straight except for the curvilinear section which provides a bulb type "T" intersection with Golden State Boulevard. The Golden State Boulevard median island area includes an acceleration lane to accommodate northbound Cedar Avenue left turns. Northbound Cedar Avenue traffic is controlled by a stop sign at Golden State Boulevard.

Route "A" follows Golden State Boulevard, a four-lane divided expressway, to a signalized intersection with Jensen Avenue and then proceeds along Jensen Avenue, an expressway from Golden State Boulevard to East Avenue and an arterial from East Avenue to Madera Avenue, a distance of approximately 16.25 miles.

Jensen Avenue between Golden State Boulevard and Fig Avenue is a fully developed, urban type, four-lane divided through street with traffic signal control at all major cross streets, specifically, Golden State Boulevard, East Avenue, Cherry Avenue, Elm Avenue and Fig Avenue. An overpass has been constructed in Jensen Avenue over the future Freeway 41 right-of-way. The adjacent properties are developed with commercial, industrial and residential land uses with most of the residential uses located west of Elm Avenue.

West of Fig Avenue the cross section of Jensen Avenue transitions to a two-lane roadway defined by yellow center line markings and edge lines and continues this pattern to Madera Avenue. Paved shoulder areas are in place east of Dickenson Avenue. The roadway is structurally sound and geometrically good with a straight alignment and a minimum

pavement width of 27 feet. Jensen Avenue traffic has a 55 mph speed limit except where reduced to 45 mph at a small urban area in the vicinity of Valentine Avenue and the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area east of West Avenue. West of Fig Avenue, the adjacent land use begins transitioning from urban to rural.

Route "A" from Cornelia Avenue to the American Avenue Landfill site passes through rural agricultural areas which include only a few rural residences. Traffic on this portion of Jensen Avenue is controlled by the following: a four-way-stop intersection with flashing mast arm mounted red lights at Dickenson Avenue; a two-way-stop at Madera Avenue.

Route "A" turns south on Madera Avenue (State Highway 145), a high quality two-lane expressway with lanes delineated with yellow center line markings (including reflectorized buttons) and edge line striping.

Route "A" then follows American Avenue, an adequate two-lane arterial roadway, in a westerly direction for about four miles to the project site. This two lane roadway is in good condition except for a small area of apparent base failure just west of the landfill entrance. Eastbound American Avenue traffic is controlled by a stop sign at Madera Avenue.

Travel time on Route "A" (by automobile) was two minutes less per round trip than on Route "B." Route "A" is approximately 25.25 miles in length.

(2) Route "B"

Route "B" (North Avenue) follows the same path as Route "A" except that North Avenue, rather than Golden State Boulevard and Jensen Avenue, is utilized as the east-west link between Cedar Avenue and Madera Avenue.

North Avenue is a straight two-lane roadway classified as an arterial from Cedar Avenue to Marks Avenue and unclassified from Marks Avenue to Madera Avenue. The pavement width is adequate with a minimum width of 22 feet. The roadway does not have paved shoulders. There appears to be roadway base failure in the vicinity of Hughes Avenue, west of Cornelia Avenue, and between Dickenson Avenue and Madera Avenue. Maintenance of this roadway has been fair.

North Avenue traffic is controlled by two-way stop signs at Cedar, Elm, Valentine, Cornelia, Dickenson and Madera Avenues and by a four-way stop sign at Fruit Avenue. There are no existing traffic signal controls on this route.

The adjacent land use from Cedar Avenue to Valentine

Avenue is a mixture of urban and rural uses. The adjacent land use is rural agricultural from Valentine Avenue to Madera Avenue.

Route "B" is approximately 23.75 miles in length. Although Route "B" is 1.5 miles shorter than Route "A," the round trip travel time (by automobile) for Route "B" took two minutes longer than that for Route "A."

c. Existing Traffic Volume and Capacities

The existing traffic volumes and capacities for Routes A and B are shown on Figure 17. The traffic volumes were obtained from the state and local sources listed in Section IX. The existing capacities are standard rule-of-thumb general volumes used in the traffic engineering profession.

2. Potential Impacts

The existing ADT volumes include the trips generated by present activity of the American Avenue Landfill site (approximately 50 tons per day). The existing landfill activity is primarily locally generated by individual use and by commercial waste collection agencies. An increase in the local population would most likely increase the tonnage of waste material locally generated; however the trips to the American Avenue Landfill may not increase with an increase in the local population, particularly in light of the present trend toward higher density land use which increases the potential for collection of waste materials by private enterprises utilizing large trucks and thus reducing the number of trips to the landfill site by individuals.

In response to the uncertainty of an increase or a decrease in local trips to the landfill site, this report assumes no significant change in local trip volumes to the proposed project site.

The increase in daily volume of truck traffic that would be generated by the proposed project under Scenarios II and III are listed on Table 13. The project would generate 58 daily trips on the selected haul route in 1986 under Scenario II. This number would drop to 12 trips per day in 1987 when the waste-to-energy plant begins operation. The 58 daily trip level would not again be reached until the year 2024.

The maximum increase of truck trips that would be generated on the haul route under Scenario III would be 116 trips per day. This represents the "worst case" project traffic generation.

Regardless of the scenario that is selected, the project would not have a significant impact on traffic conditions. The maximum volume of traffic that would be generated under worst case circumstances (Scenario III) would represent less than

TABLE 13

PROJECTED INCREASE IN DAILY TRUCK TRIP GENERATION FOR THE
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FRESNO COUNTY'S AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL

Year	Increase in Solid Waste Flow to the Landfill Tons/Day (1)		20 Ton Truck Loads		Haul Route Truck Trips(3)	
	Scenario II/Scenario III	Scenario II	With Waste-to-Energy Plant	Without Waste-to-Energy Plant	With Waste-to-Energy Plant	Without Waste-to-Energy-Plant
1985	550	550	28	28	56	56
1986	564	610	29	31	58	62
1987	225	670	12	34	24	68
1988	236	730	12	37	24	74
1989	242	790	13	40	26	80
1990	248	850	13	43	26	86
1991	255	910	13	46	26	92
1992	261	970	14	49	28	98
1993	267	1030	14	52	28	104
1994	274	1090	14	55	28	110
1995(2)	281	1150	15	58	30	116

- (1) Does not include the existing 50 ton/day flow
- (2) Year of maximum solid waste flow (EMCOM Report 1984)
- (3) Does not include local haul trips

1 percent of the capacity of any of the roadways on Route A or Route B. As shown in Figure 17, all of the roads are presently operating well below their existing capacities, with most operating at less than 30 percent of capacity. Thus, there is ample capacity for the project generated traffic and considerable additional traffic growth on the streets.

3. Mitigation Measures

a. It is recommended that Route "A" (Jensen Avenue) be given primary consideration as the solid waste haul route between the waste-to-energy plant and the landfill site. This recommendation is based upon the assumption that the waste-to-energy plant will be developed at the general location described in this EIR and the following:

- (1) Route "A" is classified as an expressway or arterial throughout its length; Route "B" is unclassified from Marks Avenue to Madera Avenue.
- (2) Route "A" is structurally sound throughout its length and can accept repeated truck loading without anticipation of above normal roadway maintenance; Route "B" has several sections of roadway with apparent base failure that would most likely be aggravated by repeated truck loading and result in substantial roadway rehabilitation costs.
- (3) The average pavement width of Route "A" is wider than that of Route "B."
- (4) The existing roadway surface condition of Route "A" is better than of Route "B."
- (5) Route "B" is shorter in length, but longer in travel time than Route "A."
- (6) Stop sign control on Route "B" is more frequent than on Route "A," which would mean a relative increase in air pollution, noise pollution and operating costs if route "B" were selected.
- (7) Route "B" passes through less urbanized areas than Route "A." It must be pointed out that Route "B" is a two-lane roadway in the urban and semi-urban area, while Route "A" is a four-lane roadway with raised median islands, curbs and gutters and is signalized at major intersections for most of its urbanized length. The General Plan Update proposed by the City of Fresno provides for residential development westerly along North Avenue to Walnut Avenue and westerly along Jensen Avenue to West Avenue, which is one mile west of Walnut Avenue.

A roadway classified as an arterial in the City of Fresno's General Plan anticipates traffic volumes in the

range of 24,000 ADT, including a significant percentage of trucks, and a variety of adjacent land uses, including but not limited to residential, commercial, and industrial. The arterial classification also carries with it the requirements: to provide adequate rights-of-way to accommodate the anticipated traffic volumes; to provide raised and landscaped median islands; to provide street trees; and, to assure installation of traffic control features sufficient to minimize any adverse traffic impact on the adjacent land uses. These requirements have either been implemented or are planned for the urbanized portion of Jensen Avenue.

b. From a safety and convenience viewpoint, the installation of separate right-turn lanes should be considered at the following locations: (1) southbound on Madera Avenue at American Avenue, (2) northbound on Madera Avenue at Jensen Avenue, and (3) westbound on American Avenue at the entrance to the landfill.

c. To minimize the traffic safety hazards associated with foggy driving conditions during the winter months, the waste-to-energy plant should be required to provide on-site temporary storage of one winter day's delivery of solid waste to permit cessation of hauling operations for one full day if necessary due to weather conditions. The volume of solid waste generated per day during the winter months is substantially less than during the summer months; therefore, the materials can be hauled during the less foggy hours of the day without requiring additional equipment.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

There are no unavoidable adverse impacts related to traffic.

C. HISTORICAL RESOURCES

1. Existing Conditions

An archaeological investigation was conducted for the project site. The investigation consisted of a review of available literature and archaeological records for the project site and surrounding area and a field reconnaissance of the entire site.

The literature and record search revealed that no historic or pre-historic sites have been previously identified on the project site or within a 1-mile radius. No historical resources were discovered on the project site during the field reconnaissance.

2. Potential Impacts

Based on the above, it has been concluded that development of the project site is not expected to result in any impacts on historical resources.

3. Mitigation Measure

In the event that historical resources are discovered during project development, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately so that appropriate mitigative action can be taken.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The proposed project would not result in any unavoidable adverse impacts relating to historical resources.

D. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Existing Conditions

a. Introduction

Existing and projected health and safety considerations for the American Avenue Landfill project covered in this section include odors, vectors, landfill gas and fire control. Other concerns related to public health such as litter, dust control and leachate production are presented in other sections.

b. Odors

The bacterial decomposition of the organic components in refuse produce ripe, unpleasant odors. These short-term, periodic odors are common to all landfills. They may occur when refuse is delivered to the site, before the material is covered, or after a period of time as decomposition proceeds underground.

Odors can be largely eliminated by proper landfill management and operating procedures.

To date, there have been few complaints from the public regarding odors emanating from the American Avenue Landfill (Gaylord, 1984). This may be attributed to the relatively small amount of municipal refuse received and the frequent application of adequately thick soil cover.

c. Landfill Gas

LFG, a product of the decomposition of solid waste, may contain up to 50 percent methane by volume. If exposed to an ignition source, methane gas can be explosive at concentrations between 5 and 15 percent in air. It is flammable at higher concentrations. Normally, LFG moving through soil does not pose a safety threat unless it is allowed to infiltrate into an enclosed space and a heat source or spark is available.

As noted in Section IV,A, most if not all gas generated on-site at the American Avenue Landfill (approximately 140 cfm) presently vents into the atmosphere.

d. Vectors

Vectors are defined as any agents capable of carrying and transmitting disease pathogens. They include rats, flies, mosquitoes and some birds. The availability of food scraps, shelter and breeding areas can entice such animals to inhabit landfill sites. However, a well-run landfill where waste is compacted and daily cover is provided does not normally promote vector harborage.

According to staff of the County of Fresno Health Department, there have been a limited number of complaints regarding insect pests, rodents, or the like at the American Avenue site (Carozza, 1984).

e. **Fire Hazard**

Fire hazards can result from a variety of conditions at a landfill. Fires can start due to delivery of hot or burning waste loads, sparks from refuse vehicles and equipment, or from heat generated by biochemical reactions during waste decomposition.

There have not been any serious fire related incidences affecting the safety of either the operators or the public at the American Avenue Landfill.

2. **Potential Impacts**

The long-term impact of the operation of the landfill under Scenario II upon public health and safety is not expected to be significant. Beginning in 1987, 80 percent of the waste delivered to the site would be residual ash, which is primarily inorganic. This reduces the possibility of LFG emissions becoming a problem. In addition, insects, birds, and rodents would find fewer attractions at a landfill that includes a significant volume of ash.

Incinerator ash, which is noncombustible, does not in itself present a fire hazard. However, the dumping of hot ash loads with unprocessed waste could cause fires in the refuse. Quenching will cool most ash, but pockets of unquenched ash could occur. This problem can be avoided if operators and drivers observe loads and take care not to mix hot ash with combustible refuse.

The remaining portion of the unprocessed refuse stream (600 tpd from 1985 to 1987, 50 tpd thereafter) would be municipal solid waste. Odor, vector, gas, and fire control can be mitigated by the landfill operators acting in accordance with the standard operating procedures as prescribed by the California Waste Management Board. These provisions call for the waste to be compacted upon delivery and then covered with at least 6 inches of soil at day's end.

The health and safety aspects of the landfill expansion would be no different should either Scenario I or III be implemented. The same control strategies would be equally effective, regardless of the daily tonnage delivered to the landfill.

3. **Mitigation Measures**

Regardless of which scenario is used for the proposed project, certain precautions must be taken to prevent the occurrence of

any health or safety hazards. The preliminary design for the project incorporates a number of control strategies, listed below.

a. Shielding of the active working face (filling from the landfill perimeter toward the interior of the site) would screen some of the odors from drifting to off-site locations. Compacting the waste and then covering it with at least 6 inches of soil each day would also help suppress odors. Cracks that develop in the cover soil layer would be filled as necessary in the course of routine site maintenance.

b. Covering and compacting wastes are the most important controls against birds, rodents and insects. These steps prevent vectors from emerging or burrowing into refuse materials. Mosquito control would be achieved by initial and periodic grading to fill in depressions that otherwise might develop into stagnant breeding ponds. If necessary, trapping and poisoning programs which have proven effective elsewhere could be implemented here.

c. Accidental fires in landfill equipment and vehicles would be controlled by portable extinguishers. Fires that occur in the landfilled waste would be extinguished by landfill personnel using soil cover specifically stockpiled for that purpose and/or with water applied by a water truck. In the event that operators are unable to control a fire, the North Central Fire Department could be contacted. The station is located nine miles away, by road, in the town of Kerman.

d. The preliminary design for the expansion of American Avenue calls for gas probes to be installed at the site boundary whenever the fill advances to within 1,000 feet of a structure or, conversely, when any building is constructed within the same distance. Should gas concentrations at the probes exceed 40 percent of the lower explosive limit (LEL) for methane (5 percent by volume in air), a gas migration control plan would be implemented.

Because Federal regulations adopted by the state require that gas concentrations never exceed the LEL at the property boundary, whether or not buildings are located nearby, gas probes should be installed as necessary to ensure that gas migration is not occurring regardless of whether or not structures are present.

Two methods of controlling LFG migration through soil were discussed in the Preliminary Design, Construction and Operations Report for American Avenue and Landfill Expansion, prepared by EMCÓN Associates, April, 1984. They are:

- (1) An impermeable membrane barrier that lines the bottom and side slopes of the landfill, preventing off-site migration.

- (2) A vacuum system that evacuates gas through wells and collection pipes. The gas can be vented to the atmosphere, burned, or used to generate electricity.

A membrane system is both difficult and costly to install after a LFG problem has been detected. The incorporation of a gas extraction system would be more practical. Design parameters for this type of control have been outlined in the plans for the project.

In the event that the waste-to-energy plan is not implemented, LFG is to be recovered and used as fuel to generate electricity on site for sale, according to the project plans.

4. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

The proposed project would not result in any unavoidable adverse impacts relating to public health and safety.

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SECTION VI

ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSED PROJECT

A. INTRODUCTION

This section presents the State mandated "no project alternative", alternative locations for the regional landfill and alternative design configurations for its development.

Information on the alternatives was taken primarily from two sources: Project Management Report American Avenue Landfill Expansion, Fresno County, California, prepared by EMCON Associates, August, 1983; and the Fresno County Solid Waste Management Plan (Revised Draft), prepared by the County of Fresno Resources and Development Department, May, 1984. Copies of these documents are available for review at the Resources and Development Department.

B. NO PROJECT

If the project is not approved, the impacts associated with the expansion of the existing American Avenue Landfill would not occur. The 30-acre existing landfill would continue to operate. In October, 1983 it was estimated that the landfill had a remaining capacity of 145,200 cubic yards and that closure would occur in 1985.

The City of Fresno would be the primary agency affected if the American Avenue Landfill is not expanded as proposed. It would be necessary for the City to find other means of disposing of the 550 tons per day of solid waste which it currently (1984) collects. The possible means of disposing of the solid waste include: (1) take advantage of the limited opportunity and negotiate with Clovis; (2) modify Fresno interim permit; (3) use of a private facility; and (4) purchase a private permitted site having adequate capacity to deal with the problem until American Avenue is ready. If the site is not permitted, a new site would have to be located and permitted in the interim.

Alternative means of disposing of the 30 tons per day of solid waste which is currently collected in the west side of Fresno County and disposed of at the American Avenue Landfill also would have to be found if the proposed project is not approved.

Consideration of any one of these alternatives would result in a need for a detailed analyses of potential impacts. The analysis is needed only if the American Avenue Landfill expansion does not occur and other means of solid waste disposal must be found.

C. ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

In 1979, a Technical Assistance Panel was provided to the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Solid Waste Commission by the Environmental Protection Agency to assist in developing a methodology to properly site landfills. The Commission, using the Request for Proposal process, selected a team of engineers, geologists, chemists and hydrogeologists from the California State University Research Foundation to analyze waste stream characteristics, secondary markets, disposal alternatives, and potential landfill sites. Commission staff and the consultants, through evaluation and public hearings over a period of three years, identified over 30 sites. Six of the sites were eventually analyzed for groundwater flow and soil constituents. Table 14 summarizes the six sites studied.

During the public review process, all of the six sites were eliminated with the exception of the American Avenue site. The reasons for their elimination varied. In the case of the Friant site, there were siting problems and considerable public opposition. The hydrogeologic conditions at the Clovis Extension site made it only a fair landfill site and it was also too small to meet the need for a 20-25 year capacity time span. The Madera County site was opposed by the Madera County Board of Supervisors. There was extensive public opposition to the Henderson Avenue site including opposition from the Fresno County Farm Bureau because the site was in productive agricultural use. The Whitesbridge site was opposed by several groups for different reasons. These included surrounding property owners, the Kerman Chamber of Commerce and the State Department of Fish and Game. The latter agency was concerned because of the presence of an endangered animal species on the site (Anthony, 1984). On August 19, 1982, the American Avenue site was selected to be the regional landfill by the FCM/SWC.

Additional background information on the site selection process and on the individual sites that were considered is available in documents that are available at the Fresno County Resources and Development Department.

D. DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

Three landfill configurations, each with a different disposal capacity and service life and each having varying visual impacts were considered by the FCM/SWC for the American Avenue site. The three alternative configurations were: maximum capacity and visual impacts, minimum capacity and visual impacts and intermediate capacity and visual impacts.

Development of the project site according to the first alternative, maximum capacity and visual impacts, would result in the creation of an elongated mildly sloped plateau about 100 feet above the existing ground surface. This scenario would provide a disposal capacity of 38.7 million cubic yards and an

TABLE 14

PROPOSED REGIONAL LANDFILL SITE ALTERNATIVES

Name	Location	Description	Round Trip Distance From Centroid*	Soils	Groundwater	Geohydrologist Recommendation	Approx. Price Per Acre
Friant	Friant Expressway/ Lost Lake	Rolling Foothills Grazing Land 400+ acres	30 mi.	good	variable, generally below 70'	excellent	\$2,000-6,000
Clovis Extension	Auberry Road/ Dry Creek	Expansion existing site, Rolling foothills Grazing Land 100 acres	35 mi.	fair	variable, generally below 100'	fair	\$2,000-6,000
Madera County	Avenue 9/ Road 35	Slightly rolling hills 482 acres	31 mi.	good	generally below 90'	good	\$2,000-6,000
Henderson Road	Henderson Rd. North of Manning	Ag land, flat 588 acres	42 mi.	good	below 120'	excellent	\$2,000-6,000
Whitesbridge	Whitesbridge/ Yuba	Grazing land flat 640 acres	44 mi.	good	90'-110'	excellent	\$2,000-6,000
American	American Ave./ Yuba	Existing site expansion, flat ag land 440 acres	44 mi.	good	90'-110'	excellent	\$2,000-6,000

estimated 36 to 94 year service life depending on the fill scenario.

Development according to the second alternative, minimum capacity and visual impacts, would result in the creation of several elevated ridges rising to a maximum height of 50 feet above gently rolling terrain. The configuration would provide a disposal capacity of 12.4 million cubic yards and have an estimated service life of 16 to 52 years depending on the fill scenario.

Development of the project site according to the third scenario, intermediate capacity and visual impacts, would create a series of grassy knolls, intervening saddles and broad rolling meadows rising to a maximum elevation of 75 feet above the surrounding landscape. This configuration has a disposal capacity of 26.8 million cubic yards and would provide an estimated service life of 29-80 years for the three fill scenarios.

The first alternative, in a slightly modified version, was selected by the FCM/SWC as the proposed design configuration for the American Avenue Landfill because of its greater capacity and, thus, its longer life span. The modifications consist of a reduction of the project site from 480 to 440 acres and a softening of the perimeter slopes of the landfill configuration. This is the design configuration which is evaluated in this EIR.

The proposed landfill would cover the project site regardless of which design configuration is used for its development. Development of the landfill, therefore, under the minimum and intermediate capacity and visual impacts alternatives would result in substantially the same impacts on surface water, groundwater, geology, land, flora, fauna, historic resources, social and public health and safety conditions as those described in this EIR for the maximum capacity and visual impact alternative. The impacts related to air quality, noise, and traffic and circulation would also be substantially the same as those described in the EIR but would be of shorter duration because of the smaller capacities and, thus, the shorter life spans of the landfill. The visual presence of a 50 or 75 foot high landfill which would be developed under the minimum and intermediate visual impact alternatives respectively would be somewhat less than that of a 100 foot high landfill. This is a subjective consideration and would primarily affect only those residents of nearby properties.

VII

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The project involves enlarging the existing American Avenue Landfill in two phases: first, to 160 acres on land currently owned by Fresno County and ultimately, up to a 440-acre site on adjoining land that would be acquired by the County. The EIR evaluated the cumulative impacts which would be generated by development of the landfill on the 440 acres because it represented "worst case" conditions.

Development of the project would result in a minor increase in emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulates and hydrocarbons as a result of additional traffic and landfill equipment use. Although the emissions are insignificant in themselves, they would add cumulatively to the degradation of air quality in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. There would also be an increase in noise levels in the project area from traffic and landfill equipment use. Both emissions and noise would cease upon closure of the landfill.

Development of the project would also result in the loss of approximately 170 acres of disturbed native vegetation. Although the loss is not significant because of the disturbed condition of the project site, it would add cumulatively to the loss of alkali sink habitat in the San Joaquin Valley, and thus, to the breeding habitat of some wildlife. No rare or endangered species of plants or animals appear to live on the site.

Two hundred forty acres of agricultural land would be removed from agricultural use as a result of development of the project. This would add cumulatively to the loss of agricultural land in the San Joaquin Valley.

The use of the project site for a landfill would not have cumulative impacts which could be substantially mitigated through the choice of another site. It appears that the noise and air emissions would occur to some degree regardless of site location. There could potentially be a greater loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat at another location than would occur at the American Avenue site because a large portion of the American Avenue site is no longer in a natural state.

VIII

IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES OR COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

Development of the project could result in an irreversible commitment of 410 acres of agricultural and open space land to use as a landfill. The appearance of the project site would be irreversibly changed from flat land to a 100-foot high series of knolls with intervening saddles. This change is further described in Section V,A.

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APPENDIX A

ACOUSTICAL TERMINOLOGY

- AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL: The composite of noise from all sources near and far. In this context, the ambient noise level constitutes the normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.
- A-WEIGHTED SOUND LEVEL: The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the response of the human ear and gives good correlation with subjective reactions to noise.
- CNEL: Community Noise Equivalent Level. The average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to sound levels in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and after addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night before 7:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m.
- DECIBEL, dB: A unit for describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).
- EQUIVALENT ENERGY LEVEL, L_{eq} : The sound level corresponding to a steady state sound level containing the same total energy as a time varying signal over a given sample period. L_{eq} is typically computed over 1, 8 and 24-hour sample periods.
- L_{dn} : Day/Night Average Level. The average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night before 7:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m.
- NOTE: CNEL and L_{dn} represent daily levels of noise exposure averaged on an annual basis, while L_{eq} represents the equivalent energy noise exposure for a shorter time period, typically one hour.
- L_{max} : The maximum A-weighted noise level recorded during a noise event.
- L_n : The sound level exceeded x percent of the time during a sample interval. L_{10} equals the level exceeded 10 percent of the time (L_{90} , L_{50} , etc.)
- NOISE EXPOSURE CONTOURS: Lines drawn about a noise source indicating constant energy levels of noise exposure. CNEL and L_{dn} are the descriptors utilized herein to describe community exposure to noise.

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AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
OPERATIONAL STATEMENT
(March 24, 1993)

INTRODUCTION

The American Avenue Landfill ("Landfill") is located in rural central Fresno County ("County") and is situated approximately 17 miles southwest of the City of Fresno (see Figure 1). The existing Landfill is owned by the County and operated by the County Public Works & Development Services Department. The Landfill is classified as a Class II-III facility, and only nonhazardous wastes are accepted.

The Landfill consisted of 20 acres when it was opened in 1971. In January, 1980, an adjacent 10-acre area was added to the Landfill. In May, 1985, the County Board of Supervisors approved Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") No. 2146, which provided for the expansion of the Landfill from a 30-acre site to a 440-acre regional facility.

The Landfill is operated according to Waste Discharge Requirements ("WDR") issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Landfill is also operated under a Solid Waste Facilities Permit ("SWFP"), which was issued by the California Integrated Waste Management Board ("CIWMB"). The CIWMB and the County Health Department, serving as the Local Enforcement Agency ("LEA"), have been responsible for administering the SWFP.

During 1985, an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of expanding the Landfill from 30 acres to 440 acres. The County Board of Supervisors certified the Final EIR at the same time CUP No. 2146 was approved. The County Board of Supervisors concluded that the project would not generate any significant unavoidable adverse impacts.

The current SWFP states that up to 1,200 tons of solid waste may be deposited in the Landfill each day. Public Works & Development Services Department staff projects that Landfill tonnage deliveries will increase during the next several years. Therefore, the SWFP will have to be amended to allow for the additional tonnage deliveries. The State is requiring that the County assess the potential environmental impacts of increasing solid waste deliveries at the Landfill. Data and related findings generated through Environmental Assessment No. _____ will be included with the County's SWFP application.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is to increase the average daily load from the current permitted maximum of 1,200 tons to 1,640 tons. Public Work & Development Services Department staff anticipates that this increase could be delivered to the Landfill beginning January, 1994.

Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that, on a limited basis, peak daily loads may be as high as 2,400 tons. These peak daily loads may take place, for example, when there is no solid waste pick up during a holiday period. If this should occur, the associated back log of solid waste would result in a higher than normal delivery of solid waste during the following week.

During February, 1993, approximately 140 tons per day (based on a seven-day week) were deposited in the Landfill. Public Works & Development Services Department staff projects that approximately 450 tons per day will be deposited in the Landfill during April, 1993, 750 tons per day during September, 1993, with a peak of 1,640 tons per day during January, 1994.

Assembly Bill ("AB") 939 requires each city and county in California to divert 25 percent of its solid waste from landfill disposal by 1995, and 50 percent by the year 2000. These diversion goals could be achieved by various methods, including source reduction, recycling, and composting. Due to the AB 939 mandates, Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that the average daily load at the Landfill will decrease to 1,400 tons in 1995 and 940 tons in 2000.

EXISTING CONDITIONS/OPERATIONAL CHANGES

The following section presents information on existing Landfill conditions and projected operational changes associated with the delivery of increased tonnages at the Landfill. This information is presented within the context of several land use topics. Additional environmental information is contained in the referenced EIR, Report of Disposal Site Information, Periodic Site Review, and Preliminary Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan. These documents are on the file in the Public Works & Development Services Department, Resources Division.

A. Land Use

1. Existing Conditions

The Landfill is classified as a Class II-III facility and the WDR authorize the disposal of nonhazardous solid wastes and inert solids. Such materials include household garbage and demolition waste.

The land uses in the vicinity of the Landfill are rural and agricultural in character.

The Landfill is designated in the County General Plan as a regional facility. It consists of three fill areas (I, II, and III), which encompass 440 acres. Solid waste is no longer being deposited in Fill Area I (30 acres). Fill Area II is divided into eight modules, totaling 160 acres. Module 1 (12 acres) has been constructed and solid waste is currently being deposited in this area.

Consistent with Federal and State regulations, Module 1 is lined with one-foot of clay, a geosynthetic liner, and a leachate collection system. Subsequent modules will be constructed according to Federal and State regulations, and this currently includes two feet of clay, a geosynthetic liner, and a leachate collection system.

As required by CUP No. 2146, there is a 10-foot berm around the entire Landfill, and the perimeter of the 160-acre portion of the Landfill is landscaped.

2. Operational Changes

The Landfill will continue to be operated as a regional facility, consistent with local, State, and Federal regulations.

Based on the above tonnage projections, which include AB 939-related decreases in solid waste deliveries, the service life of the Landfill is projected to be approximately 45 years.

CUP No. 2146 describes three scenarios regarding daily solid waste deliveries. Scenario III indicates that the waste-to-energy plant is not constructed and other landfills throughout the County are closed. The service life under this scenario would be approximately 23 years.

B. Operations

1. Existing Conditions

The Landfill is open year-round, seven days a week. The facility is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding legal holidays. Employees normally work until 4:30 p.m.

Seven Landfill employees (three equipment operators, one site supervisor, one gate attendant, and two extra help persons) are currently employed by the County. The employees work standard hours and none of them live on-site. Incoming and outgoing solid waste vehicles are weighed at the Landfill gatehouse.

February, 1993, data indicate that the weekly tonnage loads averaged 140 tons. Approximately 66 percent of the solid waste deposited in the Landfill was delivered by commercial haulers and the remaining portion was delivered by the general public.

Landfill equipment operators use a standard range of heavy equipment (three vehicles) to move and compact the solid waste. Solid waste is spread up and down the working face using compaction equipment. The compaction equipment traverses the entire length of the working face and makes several passes over each two-foot thick layer of solid waste.

A six-inch layer of soil is placed over the working face of the Landfill at the end of each operational day.

No goods are sold on-site nor is scavenging permitted.

There is one gatehouse and one maintenance building located on-site.

2. Operational Changes

To accommodate projected tonnage increases at the Landfill, Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that four additional employees (two equipment operators, one gate attendant, and one load checker) will be hired in early 1994. It is also projected that the existing gatehouse will be expanded during the same time period and the number of scales will be increased to a total of three.

Current operating hours may be expanded to accommodate the increased tonnage deliveries at the Landfill.

C. Transportation

The information in Sections 1 and 2, below, is based on a seven-day week and a 30-day month. Average daily trip ("ADT") is defined as a trip beginning from point "A" to point "B", or from point "B" back to point "A". A trip from point "A" to point "B", and back, equals two ADT. It is assumed that most of the vehicles traveling to and from the Landfill will use Jensen, Madera, and American Avenues, and that most of the vehicular traffic will originate within the urbanized area in and around the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. Traffic projections are based, in part, on a spatial ratio of three packer trucks equaling one transfer rig (with a capacity of 21 tons). Although there is a seasonal variation to the type and amount of solid waste generated within a given population, February, 1993, data were used in preparing the following traffic projections. These data represent the most current, "worst case" situation because the tonnages in February, 1993, were higher than in any month during the past several years.

1. Existing Conditions

During February, 1993, 3,959 tons of solid waste were deposited in the Landfill. This represents an average of approximately four tons per vehicle. The February, 1993, ADT were generated by commercial waste collection companies and by the general public. During February, 1993, 976 trips, or 65 ADT, were generated.

2. Operational Changes

In 1992, the average daily tonnage at the Landfill was 96 tons per day ("TPD"). However, during the first two months of 1993 (January and February), the average daily tonnage increased to 133 TPD. This tonnage increase reflects commercial-based tonnage coming from outside the west side of the County. One example of this situation includes the transfer rigs coming from Browning-Ferris Industries ("BFI") Rice Road transfer station, which is located in the northern part of the City of Fresno.

As landfills close, the tonnage and vehicles from those facilities (such as BFI's Chestnut Avenue and Chateau Fresno facilities) will be coming out to the Landfill. This will include the tonnage and vehicles from the City of Fresno.

The number of vehicle trips to the Chestnut Avenue and Chateau Fresno facilities for the month of February, 1993, was 6,122, or 408 ADT. The trips represent 40,920 tons, averaging approximately seven tons per trip and 1,364 tons per day for both facilities.

Assuming the Chestnut Avenue and Chateau Fresno facilities were to close today and all of the tonnage was delivered to the Landfill, the number of vehicle trips would increase to approximately 7,100, or 473 ADT. These trips would represent approximately 45,000 tons, averaging six tons per trip and 1,500 tons per day. It should be noted, however, that the BFI Chateau Fresno facility is expected to receive solid waste until the spring, 1994.

Within the same context, Western Waste Industries transfer station/materials recovery facility (located southeast of the City of Fresno) is projected to come on line during the fall, 1993. When this facility is operational, it is projected that most of the tonnage being delivered to the BFI landfills would be processed through the transfer station/materials recovery facility. Accordingly, the traffic loads on the primary haul routes leading to and from the Landfill would be reduced. For example, assuming the 40,920 tons, above, were hauled to the Landfill by transfer rigs, this would represent an average 130 ADT. Adding this value to the current 65 ADT represents a total of 195 ADT.

Figure 2 presents 1992 ADT values for the primary haul routes. (These values include Landfill ADT for that year.) For the primary haul routes, the projected 195 ADT represents less than two percent of the capacity of the primary haul routes. For that segment of Jensen Avenue that crosses U.S. Highway 99, the projected 195 ADT represents less than one percent of the road's capacity. For the American Avenue segment of the primary haul routes, the projected 195 ADT represents an approximate 33 percent increase over existing traffic volumes. For Jensen Avenue, the projected 195 ADT represents an approximate, overall eight percent increase over existing traffic volumes. For that segment of Jensen Avenue that crosses U.S. Highway 99, the projected 195 ADT represents less than one percent of that road's capacity.

Once AB 939-related programs go into effect, all of the above tonnage figures and associated traffic projections should be reduced 25 percent by January 1, 1995, and 50 percent by January 1, 2000. This should reduce the ADT from 195 to 146 by January 1, 1995, and to 98 by January 1, 2000.

D. Noise

1. Existing Conditions

The area surrounding the Landfill is predominately agricultural, with a few rural residential uses located within 500 feet of the

outermost boundary of the Landfill. Existing sources of environmental noise within the vicinity of the Landfill include present solid waste-related operations, traffic on American Avenue, and intermittent farming operations on surrounding agricultural properties.

2. Operational Changes

Noise would be generated from the operation of heavy equipment and the excavation of fill material from adjacent areas. It is expected that these noise levels would remain relatively constant.

Noise levels along the primary haul routes would increase as the result of project-related truck traffic.

Based on the projection that most vehicular traffic would generally follow Jensen Avenue from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area, the Landfill EIR concluded that there would be no significant increase in noise levels.

E. Water Resources

1. Existing Conditions

According to the Landfill EIR, depth to groundwater ranges from 95 feet near the southeast corner of the Landfill to 115 feet near the northeast corner.

2. Operational Changes

Module 1 (as well as subsequent modules) will be constructed with clay liners, geosynthetic liners, and leachate collection systems. These features are designed to mitigate potential groundwater degradation impacts.

F. Odor/Vectors/Dust

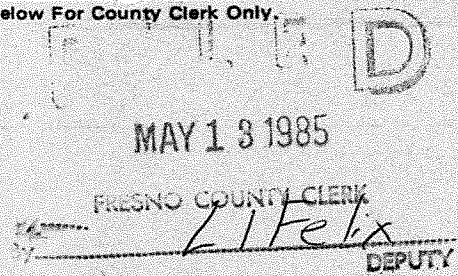
1. Existing Conditions

The decomposition of the organic components in solid waste may produce unpleasant odors. Vectors are defined as any agents capable of carrying and transmitting disease pathogens. They include rats, flies, mosquitoes, and some birds. Dust emissions result from routine soil excavation and grading operations and from vehicles traveling over unpaved roads.

2. Operational Changes

Public Works & Development Services file data indicate that there have been no complaints from the public regarding odors emanating from the Landfill. A six-inch daily cover is placed on the solid waste and this management practice does not normally promote vector harborage. The LEA is responsible for inspecting the Landfill on a monthly basis and this procedure would address any potential management or operational problems. Water is routinely applied to working areas in order to address potential dust generation problems.

RSG/kf
0986F
4/13/93

File original and one copy with: FRESNO COUNTY CLERK Room 401, Courthouse 1100 Van Ness Fresno, California 93721 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1628 Fresno, California 93717	Space Below For County Clerk Only. <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MAY 18 1985</p> <p>FRESNO COUNTY CLERK L. Felix DEPUTY</p> </div> CLK 2047.00 E04-73 R00-00
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Agency File No. EA No. 2554	LOCAL AGENCY NOTICE OF DETERMINATION	County Clerk File No.: (Enter if Negative Declaration has been filed) E- 5050
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Responsible Agency (Name): Fresno County	Address (Street and P.O. Box): 4499 East Kings Canyon Road	City: Fresno	Zip Code: 93702
Agency Contact Person (Name and Title): Edward R. Gaylord, Supervising Civil Engineer	Area Code: (209)	Telephone Number: 453-5059	Extension: --

Applicant (Name): Fresno County Resources and Development	Project Title: CUP No. 2146
--	--------------------------------

Project Description (Omit if Negative Declaration has been filed):

Expansion of the existing 30-acre American Avenue Disposal Site to become a regional non-hazardous sanitary landfill. Eventually, over a period of 20 or more years, the landfill could entail 440 acres and consist of a series of knolls rising about 100 feet above the surrounding area.

Justification for Determination (Omit if EIR Not Required and See Negative Declaration):

Potential impacts of the project were identified as dust, runoff, leachate contamination of ground water, existence of landfill in close proximity to a few residences, increase in the area exposed to excessive noise levels, landfill gas migration, fire hazards. Mitigation measures were adopted which substantially reduced, and in some cases eliminated the potential impacts. It was determined that there were no significant unavoidable adverse impacts.

Negative Declaration Filed: Date: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Notice of Completion Filed with State: Date: August 29, 1985 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Decision: Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	Determination: Impact <input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Significant
Environmental Impact Report: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	Environmental Impact Report: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepared <input type="checkbox"/> Not Prepared
Copy of Environmental Impact Report Available at (Address): Fresno County Resources and Development, 4499 East Kings Canyon Road, Fresno, CA 93702 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

Date: 5/8/85	Type or Print Signature: Katie Bearden, Fresno Co. Planning Dept.	Submitted by (Signature): <i>Katie Bearden</i>
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**LOCAL AGENCY
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
(Not to exceed one page)**

County Clerk File No. E- _____

14 Agenda Item



Date: May 7, 1985
 To: Board of Supervisors
 From: Planning Commission
 Subject: RESOLUTION NO. 9519 - UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 2146

APPLICANT: Fresno County
 REQUEST: Expand the existing 30-acre American Avenue Landfill into a 440-acre regional non-hazardous sanitary landfill in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum lot size) District.
 LOCATION: North side of W. American Avenue, between S. Humboldt and the S. Plumas Avenue alignment, approximately four miles northeast of the city of San Joaquin and five miles southwest of the city of Kerman (18950 W. American Avenue) (SUP. DIST.: 1) (APN 020-052-02S, 04ST, 05ST, 06, 09S, 020-210-26S, 27, 33ST, 34ST, 35ST).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

At its hearing of March 28, 1985, the Commission considered the Staff Report and testimony (summarized on Exhibit "A"). The Commission then adopted a statement indicating that it had reviewed and considered the final Environmental Impact Report, which had been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopted the following findings related to the significant impacts identified in the Environmental Impact Report:

1. Changes have been required in the project to avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects.
2. Another agency has responsibility to require appropriate changes and has or should require such changes.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW _____ Page 1 of 5
 BOARD ACTION: DATE 5/7/85 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED _____ OTHER



Official Action of
 Board of Supervisors
 Deputy

APPROVED EIR PER FINDINGS MADE BY PLANNING COMMISSION.

DENIED APPEAL; UPHELD PLANNING COMMISSION'S DECISION TO APPROVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 2146 WITH CONDITIONS LISTED ON ATTACHMENT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND PER FINDINGS OUTLINED IN STAFF REPORT.

UNANIMOUS _____ ANDREEN Abs CONRAD Aye KOLIGIAN Aye LEVY Aye RAMACHER Aye

14

VOTING: Yes: Causey, Quist, Carr, Cruff, Lingo, McCrummen, Stephens, Rousek

No: Radics

Absent: None

The Commission also adopted the recommended findings of fact for the Conditional Use Permit, as stated in the Staff Report, and approved Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2146, subject to the following conditions:

1. Development and operation of the landfill shall conform to the site plan and operational statement approved by the Commission, except as may be modified by conditions below.
2. A Site Plan Review shall be submitted to and approved by the Director of Resources and Development in accordance with the provisions of Section 874 of the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance.
3. A comprehensive training program shall be developed and provided for each on-site employee. This program shall include, but not be limited to, site rules and regulations, training in procedures and use of special equipment to be utilized in the event of an accident or emergency, and publication of the rules and regulations which are applicable to this facility.
4. All equipment in use at the landfill site shall be fitted with a special muffler.
5. Within six weeks of the approval of this project, a proposal to initiate appropriate zoning for surrounding properties shall be presented to the Planning Commission.
6. Right-turn lanes shall be provided at the following locations:
 - a. Southbound on Madera Avenue at American Avenue.
 - * b. Northbound on Madera Avenue at Jensen Avenue.
 - c. Westbound on American Avenue at the entrance to the landfill.
7. In the event that historical resources are discovered during project development, a qualified archaeologist shall be notified immediately, so that appropriate mitigation measures can be taken.
8. The operation of this site shall comply with all appropriate State regulations.
9. If the residences on the north side of the landfill are not acquired by the County, then the proposed landscaping shall be planted prior to excavation.

- 10. All storage areas for recycling shall be screened so as to not be visible from adjoining properties.
- 11. Litter shall be collected from the site, adjacent properties, and access roads on a weekly basis, or more frequently as required by the Health Department.
- 12. A six-foot high wire mesh fence with openings not exceeding two inches shall be located on the perimeter of the active portion of the landfill.
- 13. The Conditional Use Permit shall expire on any portion of this project site if such land has not been acquired within ten years of the approval of this permit.
- 14. A sign shall be installed near the entrance gate, visible from American Avenue, providing a phone number to call for complaints or inquiries.
- 15. The County is encouraged to acquire residences adjacent to the landfill at fair market value, if the owners wish to sell.
- 16. A traffic study shall be conducted to determine appropriate traffic control measures necessary to mitigate any traffic safety problems. Recommendations of the study shall be implemented in a timely manner.
- 17. A traffic control light shall be provided at the intersection of Madera and Jensen Avenues, subject to the approval of CALTRANS.
- 18. The proposed perimeter landscaping shall be planted at the same time that perimeter fencing is installed.

VOTING: Yes: Cruff, Causey, Carr, Lingo, McCrummen, Quist, Stephens, Rousek

No: Radics

Absent: None



GERALD SWAN, Director
 Resources and Development Department
 Secretary-Fresno County Planning Commission

- NOTES:
- 1. The Planning Commission action is final unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the Commission's action.
 - 2. The approval of this project will expire two years from the date of approval unless substantial development has occurred.

14

RESOLUTION NO. 9519

EXHIBIT "A"

- Staff:** The Resources and Development Department presented its Staff Report dated March 28, 1985, and responded to questions from the Commission.
- Applicant:** The applicant's representatives, Ed Gaylord and Walter Clark, provided a historical overview of the site selection process and responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners and those opposed to the project.
- The applicant's consultant, Michael Paoli, summarized the Environmental Impact Report, which he had prepared for the project.
- Others:** John Armis, a Kerman Councilman, requested that a stop light be located at the intersection of Madera and Jensen Avenues and that Jensen Avenue be improved, between Dickenson and Madera Avenues.
- Dan Ayala, Kerman City Manager, noted that Kerman does not use the site and suggested a site closer to the source of the refuse would be better.
- Donald Aldredge, a representative of the Kerman School District, said truck traffic associated with the landfill should be prohibited from passing through Kerman.
- Maurice Strantz discussed the issues contained in his letter to the Commission.
- Walt Lambrecht indicated the County should address the impacts which the landfill would have on the Kangaroo Rat and Jackass Clover.
- Property owners adjacent to or within the vicinity of the site, spoke in opposition to the project. Concerns were expressed regarding groundwater contamination, lack of landscaping, blowing dust, ash, and litter, lack of ground squirrel control, conflict with school bus traffic, hazards of household wastes, devaluation of property, attractive nuisance for children, and dumping along the road.

Correspondence: A letter from Maurice K. Strantz, requested additional information regarding groundwater conditions, proposed haul routes, and financial data relating to sizing, capital cost, and operating cost. The letter suggested that the size of the landfill was excessive, because projections of cost would be higher than currently assumed and thus users would seek alternate disposal sites.

A letter from Margaret Sandbothe objected to disposing of metropolitan area refuse in this area and raised concerns regarding gases, traffic, and dust.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 2146

1. Development and operation of the landfill shall conform to the site plan and operational statement approved by the Board, except as may be modified by conditions below.
2. A Site Plan Review shall be submitted to and approved by the Director of Resources and Development in accordance with the provisions of Section 874 of the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance.
3. A comprehensive training program shall be developed and provided for each on-site employee. This program shall include, but not be limited to, site rules and regulations, training in procedures and use of special equipment to be utilized in the event of an accident or emergency, and publication of the rules and regulations which are applicable to this facility.
4. All equipment in use at the landfill site shall be fitted with a heavy duty muffler to minimize noise.
5. In the event that historical resources are discovered during project development, a qualified archaeologist shall be notified immediately, so that appropriate mitigation measures can be taken.
6. The operation of this site shall comply with all appropriate State regulations.
7. All storage areas for recycling shall be screened so as to not be visible from adjoining properties.
8. Litter shall be collected from the site, adjacent properties, and access roads on a weekly basis, or more frequently as required by the Health Department.
9. Prior to excavation, a six-foot high chain-link fence shall be located on the perimeter of the active portion of the landfill. A second fence for litter control shall be installed adjacent to the working face, so as to maximize litter control.
10. The proposed perimeter landscaping shall be planted at the same time that perimeter fencing is installed.
11. Prior to disposal activities, a berm shall be required around the perimeter of the active portion of the landfill in order to obscure operations from public view.
12. The Conditional Use Permit shall expire on any portion of this project site if such land has not been acquired within ten years of the approval of this permit.

13. A sign shall be installed near the entrance gate, visible from American Avenue, providing a phone number to call for complaints or inquiries.
14. If the landfill serves other than the West County Area, as designated in the Solid Waste Management Plan, traffic studies shall be conducted to determine appropriate measures, including traffic controls, necessary to mitigate any traffic safety problems resulting from such out-of-area usage. Recommendations of the studies shall be implemented in a timely manner.
15. A traffic control light shall be provided on Madera Avenue at the appropriate intersections, as determined by the Board of Supervisors following periodic traffic studies, subject to the approval of CALTRANS.
16. A landfill use contract approved by the Board of Supervisors shall be required of all commercial operators, including municipal public operators, who request to use the landfill.
17. Commercial haulers of refuse utilizing the American Avenue site shall not travel through the City of Kerman without the consent of the City of Kerman.

NOTE: Judicial review of this decision may be had pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the California Code of Civil Procedure only if the action pursuant to that section is filed within the ninety (90) day time limit prescribed by Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

SUMMARY**A. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The project site consists of 440 acres of primarily undeveloped and agricultural land located on the north side of American Avenue, four miles west of State Highway 145 (Madera Avenue) at Lake Avenue, in Fresno County, California. The site is in a rural setting with agriculture the predominant surrounding land use.

The proposed project would expand the existing 30-acre American Avenue Landfill into a regional disposal site in two phases: first, to 160 acres on land owned by Fresno County and ultimately, up to 440 acres on adjoining land that would be acquired by the County. When completed, the landfill would consist of a series of knolls rising 100 feet above the existing ground surface.

The landfill would have capacity for 32.7 million cubic yards of refuse, most of which would come from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The facility would have a service life ranging from 23 to 93 years, depending upon the fill scenario. The fill scenario that is contemplated in the revised Fresno County Solid Waste Management Plan would provide the 93 year service life. This scenario involves the landfill receiving primarily ash from a waste-to-energy plant that is planned to be operational in 1987 at a site in the south Fresno area.

The landfill qualifies as a Class II-2 facility under current State regulations. With this classification, the site can accept for disposal non-hazardous municipal wastes. If the landfill receives ash from the waste-to-energy plant, its classification and the design standards under which it must operate may change to reflect applicable State regulations.

B. INSIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project would either not adversely impact or would have insignificant adverse impacts on the following natural and human resources and conditions: air quality (except dust), geologic conditions, slope stability, vegetation (no rare or endangered plant species were found on the site), wildlife (no rare or endangered wildlife species appear to inhabit the site), public land use policy and zoning, growth inducement, transportation, historical resources, odors and vectors.

C. POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Development and operation of the landfill may cause the potentially significant impacts presented in the following list. The possibility of any of the listed impacts occurring can be substantially reduced if not in most cases eliminated through proper application of mitigation measures incorporated in the project plans or recommended in this EIR.

1. Airborne dust resulting from soil excavation and ash disposal could become noticeable in downwind areas during periods of high winds.
2. Property located west of the project site, along the north side of American Avenue, could be impacted if contaminated runoff should leave the landfill site.
3. Landfill leachate could be generated which could degrade groundwater quality in the area.
4. The existence of the landfill, including the nature of the use and its operational characteristics and appearance, may be considered undesirable by the few nearby residents.
5. An increase in the area exposed to noise levels exceeding applicable Fresno County standards would occur in the immediate vicinity of the landfill. Noise levels along the haul route would also increase. This impact would only be significant if the waste-to-energy plant was not implemented.
6. Landfill gas could migrate off the project site and adversely affect surrounding agricultural crops.
7. Fires in the landfill could occur if hot ash loads are dumped with loads of unprocessed waste.

D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures designed to reduce or eliminate impacts are included in the project plans. Additional mitigation measures are recommended in the EIR to supplement and strengthen these measures. They include:

1. Testing for landfill gas should be conducted in accordance with State and Federal regulations to ensure that migrating gases do not exceed: (1) 25 percent of the lower explosive limit for gases in facility structures and (2) the lower explosive limit for gases at the property boundary.

As an additional measure, gas monitoring should be conducted when the landfill encroaches within 1,000 feet of any enclosed structures.

2. The intermediate and final cover should be designed in accordance with State minimum standards to preclude percolation of rainfall both from large storms and during wet years. Irrigation of the cover landscaping should be avoided entirely if possible.

3. A properly designed and conducted groundwater monitoring program should be established.

4. Based upon the presently contemplated general location of the waste-to-energy plant in south Fresno, Jensen Avenue should be given primary consideration as the haul route between the plant and the landfill.

5. To preclude future land use conflicts, the County should consider the acquisition of the residences near the landfill over time as the landfill operations approach the boundaries on which the residences are located and the application of zoning which will prevent further residential development in the landfill vicinity.

E. SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Research and evaluation conducted for this EIR has not identified any significant unavoidable adverse impacts to on- or off-site areas associated with the project.

F. ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives section addresses the "no project" alternative, alternative site locations and alternative design configurations for the landfill. Under the no project alternative, the existing 30-acre American Avenue landfill could continue to operate until it reaches capacity in 1985. The agency that would be most affected by the no project alternative would be the City of Fresno which must find a means of disposing of 550 tons per day of refuse before its existing landfill reaches capacity in the latter part of 1985.

The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Solid Waste Commission studied a number of possible locations for the landfill before selecting the American Avenue site. The alternative sites that were given in-depth consideration are described in Section VI.

Three design alternatives were considered for the American Avenue Expansion project. These alternatives are described in Section VI and involve differences in fill capacity and visual characteristics.

G. CUMULATIVE AND IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

The proposed project would have minor cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, agricultural land, and vegetation and wildlife.

File original and one copy with:

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
Room 401, Courthouse
1100 Van Ness
Fresno, California 93721
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1628
Fresno, California 93717

Space Below For County Clerk Only.

FILED

JAN 31 1994

By Maria J. Saldares
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
-DEPUTY

CLK 2047.00 E04-73 R00-00

Agency File No.

EA 3986

LOCAL AGENCY
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

County Clerk File No.:

(Enter if Negative Declaration has been filed)

E-9310000329 AMENDED

Responsible Agency (Name):

Fresno County

Address (Street and P.O. Box):

2220 Tulare St., Sixth Floor

City:

Fresno

Zip Code:

93721

Agency Contact Person (Name and Title):

Richard Perkins, Staff Analyst

Area Code:

209

Telephone Number:

453-5055

Extension:

-0-

Applicant (Name):

Fresno County

Project Title:

CU 2623

Project Description (Omit if Negative Declaration has been filed):

CUP

NOTE: Document is being re-recorded to amend legal description on Negative Declaration. Original was recorded on 10/1/93

Justification for Determination (Omit if EIR Not Required and See Negative Declaration):

2623

Negative Declaration ~~XXXX~~ published

Date: 8/20/93 Not Applicable

Notice of Completion Filed with State:

Date: Not Applicable

Decision: PC 9/9/93 Approved Disapproved

Determination: Impact Significant Not Significant

Environmental Impact Report: Required Not Required

Environmental Impact Report: Prepared Not Prepared

Copy of Environmental Impact Report Available at (Address):

Not Applicable

Date: 1/14/94

Type or Print Signature: Peter J. Harkins, Senior Staff Analyst

Submitted By (Signature): Peter J. Harkins

LOCAL AGENCY
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
(Not to exceed one page)

County Clerk File No. E-

File original and one copy with: Fresno County Clerk Room 401, Courthouse 1100 Van Ness Fresno, California 93721 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1628 Fresno, California 93717	Space Below For County Clerk Only. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">FILED</div> <div style="text-align: center;">JAN 31 1994</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> FRESNO COUNTY CLERK By <u>Maria J. Balderas</u> -DEPUTY </div>
CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00	

Agency File No.: EA 3986	LOCAL AGENCY NEGATIVE DECLARATION	County Clerk File No.: E-931000329 Amended
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Responsible Agency (Name): Fresno County	Address (Street and P.O. Box): 2220 Tulare St., Sixth Floor	City: Fresno	Zip Code: 93721
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Agency Contact Person (Name and Title): Richard Perkins, Staff Analyst	Area Code: 209	Telephone Number: 453-5055	Extension: -0-
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Applicant (Name): Fresno County	Project Title: CU 2623
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Project Description:

Modify a previously approved Conditional Use Permit to allow an increase in tonnage from 1,200 to 1,640 tons per day, with a peak daily load of 2,400 tons per day, on a 440-acre site located on the northwest corner of W. American Avenue and S. Humboldt Avenue Alignment in Fresno County

NOTE: Document is being re-recorded to amend project description. Original was recorded on 10/1/93

Justification for Negative Declaration:

Environmental Assessment No. 3986 indicates that dust impacts are addressed by application of water. There is no substantial evidence in the record to demonstrate that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration is recommended, subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Environmental Assessment is available for review at: 2220 Tulare Street, Ste. "A", Fresno, CA

FINDING:

The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Newspaper and Date of Publication: Fresno Business Journal - 8/20/93	Review Date Deadline: PC 9/9/93
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Date: 1/14/94	Type or Print Signature: Peter J. Harkins, Senior Staff Analyst	Submitted by (Signature): <u>Peter J. Harkins</u>
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
CERTIFICATE OF FEE EXEMPTION

FILED

De Minimis Impact Finding

JAN 28 1994

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK

Maria J. Balderas
Fresno County
DEPUTY

Project Title/Location (include county): EA 3986; CB 2623 Fresno County

Located at the northwest corner of W. American Avenue and S. Humboldt Avenue Alignment in Sections 32 & 33, Township 14 South, Range 17 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian, in Fresno County.

Project Description:

Modify existing CUP to allow an increase in the daily tonnage deliveries from 1,200 to 1,640 tons per day, with a peak daily load of 2,400 tons per day, at the American Landfill.

CUP

Findings of Exemption (attach as necessary):

An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study was conducted for this project. Project is limited to an increase in daily tonnage deliveries, no expansion of the existing facility boundary is proposed. Given the limited scope of the project, there will be no impact to wildlife resources.

2623

NOTE: Document is being re-recorded to reflect amendment to project description on Negative Declaration. Original was recorded on 10/1/93.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the public agency has made the above finding and that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

[Signature]

Title: Development Services Manager

Lead Agency: Fresno County

Date: 1/18/94

ATTACHMENT "A"
AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
OPERATIONAL STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The American Avenue Landfill ("Landfill") is located in rural central Fresno County ("County") and is situated approximately 17 miles southwest of the City of Fresno (see Figure 1). The existing Landfill is owned by the County and operated by the County Public Works & Development Services Department. The Landfill is classified as a Class II-III facility, and only nonhazardous wastes are accepted.

The Landfill consisted of 20 acres when it was opened in 1971. In January, 1980, an adjacent 10-acre area was added to the Landfill. In May, 1985, the County Board of Supervisors approved Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") No. 2146, which provided for the expansion of the Landfill from a 30-acre site to a 440-acre regional facility.

The Landfill is operated according to Waste Discharge Requirements ("WDR") issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Landfill is also operated under a Solid Waste Facilities Permit ("SWFP"), which was issued by the California Integrated Waste Management Board ("CIWMB"). The CIWMB and the County Health Department, serving as the Local Enforcement Agency ("LEA"), have been responsible for administering the SWFP.

During 1985, an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of expanding the Landfill from 30 acres to 440 acres. The County Board of Supervisors certified the Final EIR at the same time CUP No. 2146 was approved. The County Board of Supervisors concluded that the project would not generate any significant unavoidable adverse impacts.

The current SWFP states that up to 1,200 tons of solid waste may be deposited in the Landfill each day. Public Works & Development Services Department staff projects that Landfill tonnage deliveries will increase during the next several years. Therefore, the SWFP will have to be amended to allow for the additional tonnage deliveries. The State is requiring that the County assess the potential environmental impacts of increasing solid waste deliveries at the Landfill. Data and related findings generated through Environmental Assessment No. _____ will be included with the County's SWFP application.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is to increase the average daily load from the current permitted maximum of 1,200 tons to 1,640 tons. Public Work & Development Services Department staff anticipates that this increase could be delivered to the Landfill beginning January, 1994.

Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that, on a limited basis, peak daily loads may be as high as 2,400 tons. These peak daily loads may take place, for example, when there is no solid waste pick up during a holiday period. If this should occur, the associated back log of solid waste would result in a higher than normal delivery of solid waste during the following week.

During February, 1993, approximately 140 tons per day (based on a seven-day week) were deposited in the Landfill. Public Works & Development Services Department staff projects that approximately 450 tons per day will be deposited in the Landfill during April, 1993, 750 tons per day during September, 1993, with a peak of 1,640 tons per day during January, 1994.

Assembly Bill ("AB") 939 requires each city and county in California to divert 25 percent of its solid waste from landfill disposal by 1995, and 50 percent by the year 2000. These diversion goals could be achieved by various methods, including source reduction, recycling, and composting. Due to the AB 939 mandates, Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that the average daily load at the Landfill will decrease to 1,400 tons in 1995 and 940 tons in 2000.

EXISTING CONDITIONS/OPERATIONAL CHANGES

The following section presents information on existing Landfill conditions and projected operational changes associated with the delivery of increased tonnages at the Landfill. This information is presented within the context of several land use topics. Additional environmental information is contained in the referenced EIR, Report of Disposal Site Information, Periodic Site Review, and Preliminary Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan. These documents are on the file in the Public Works & Development Services Department, Resources Division.

A. Land Use

1. Existing Conditions

The Landfill is classified as a Class II-III facility and the WDR authorize the disposal of nonhazardous solid wastes and inert solids. Such materials include household garbage and demolition waste.

The land uses in the vicinity of the Landfill are rural and agricultural in character.

The Landfill is designated in the County General Plan as a regional facility. It consists of three fill areas (I, II, and III), which encompass 440 acres. Solid waste is no longer being deposited in Fill Area I (30 acres). Fill Area II is divided into eight modules, totaling 160 acres. Module 1 (12 acres) has been constructed and solid waste is currently being deposited in this area.

Consistent with Federal and State regulations, Module 1 is lined with one-foot of clay, a geosynthetic liner, and a leachate collection system. Subsequent modules will be constructed according to Federal and State regulations, and this currently includes two feet of clay, a geosynthetic liner, and a leachate collection system.

As required by CUP No. 2146, there is a 10-foot berm around the entire Landfill, and the perimeter of the 160-acre portion of the Landfill is landscaped.

2. Operational Changes

The Landfill will continue to be operated as a regional facility, consistent with local, State, and Federal regulations.

Based on the above tonnage projections, which include AB 939-related decreases in solid waste deliveries, the service life of the Landfill is projected to be approximately 45 years.

Previously approved CUP No. 2146 describes three scenarios regarding daily solid waste deliveries. Scenario III indicates that the waste-to-energy plant is not constructed and other landfills throughout the County are closed. The service life under this scenario would be approximately 23 years.

B. Operations

1. Existing Conditions

The Landfill is open year-round, seven days a week, excluding legal holidays. The facility's maximum working hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Employees must complete refuse placement and daily cover during that period.

Seven Landfill employees (three equipment operators, one site supervisor, one gate attendant, and two extra help persons) are currently employed by the County. The

employees work standard hours and none of them live on-site. Incoming and outgoing solid waste vehicles are weighed at the Landfill gatehouse.

February, 1993, data indicate that the weekly tonnage loads averaged 140 tons. Approximately 66 percent of the solid waste deposited in the Landfill was delivered by commercial haulers and the remaining portion was delivered by the general public.

Landfill equipment operators use a standard range of heavy equipment (three vehicles) to move and compact the solid waste.

Solid waste is spread up and down the working face using compaction equipment. The compaction equipment traverses the entire length of the working face and makes several passes over each two-foot thick layer of solid waste.

A six-inch layer of soil is placed over the working face of the Landfill at the end of each operational day.

No goods are sold on-site nor is scavenging permitted.

There is one gatehouse and one maintenance building located on-site.

2. Operational Changes

To accommodate projected tonnage increases at the Landfill, Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that four additional employees (two equipment operators, one gate attendant, and one load checker) will be hired in early 1994. It is also projected that the existing gatehouse will be expanded during the same time period and the number of scales will be increased to a total of three.

Current operating hours may be expanded to accommodate the increased tonnage deliveries at the Landfill.

C. Transportation

The information in Sections 1 and 2, below, is based on a seven-day week and a 30-day month. Average daily trip ("ADT") is defined as a trip beginning from point "A" to point "B", or from point "B" back to point "A". A trip from point "A" to point "B", and back, equals two ADT. It is assumed that most of the vehicles traveling to and from the Landfill will use Jensen, Madera, and American Avenues, and that most of the vehicular traffic will originate within the urbanized area in and around the

Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. Traffic projections are based, in part, on a spatial ratio of three packer trucks equaling one transfer rig (with a capacity of 21 tons). Although there is a seasonal variation to the type and amount of solid waste generated within a given population, February, 1993, data were used in preparing the following traffic projections. These data represent the most current, "worst case" situation because the tonnages in February, 1993, were higher than in any month during the past several years.

1. Existing Conditions

During February, 1993, 3,959 tons of solid waste were deposited in the Landfill. This represents an average of approximately four tons per vehicle. The February, 1993, ADT were generated by commercial waste collection companies and by the general public. During February, 1993, 976 trips, or 65 ADT, were generated.

2. Operational Changes

In 1992, the average daily tonnage at the Landfill was 96 tons per day ("TPD"). However, during the first two months of 1993 (January and February), the average daily tonnage increased to 133 TPD. This tonnage increase reflects commercial-based tonnage coming from outside the west side of the County. One example of this situation includes the transfer rigs coming from Browning-Ferris Industries ("BFI") Rice Road transfer station, which is located in the northern part of the City of Fresno.

As landfills close, the tonnage and vehicles from those facilities (such as BFI's Chestnut Avenue and Chateau Fresno facilities) will be coming out to the Landfill. This will include the tonnage and vehicles from the City of Fresno.

The number of vehicle trips to the Chestnut Avenue and Chateau Fresno facilities for the month of February, 1993, was 6,122, or 408 ADT. The trips represent 40,920 tons, averaging approximately seven tons per trip and 1,364 tons per day for both facilities.

Assuming the Chestnut Avenue and Chateau Fresno facilities were to close today and all of the tonnage was delivered to the Landfill, the number of vehicle trips would increase to approximately 7,100, or 473 ADT. These trips would represent approximately 45,000 tons, averaging six tons per trip and 1,500 tons per day. It should be noted, however, that the BFI Chateau Fresno facility is expected to receive solid waste until the spring, 1994.

Within the same context, Western Waste Industries transfer station/materials recovery facility (located southeast of the City of Fresno) is projected to come on line during the fall, 1993. When this facility is operational, it is projected that most of the tonnage being delivered to the BFI landfills would be processed through the transfer station/materials recovery facility. Accordingly, the traffic loads on the primary haul routes leading to and from the Landfill would be reduced. For example, assuming the 40,920 tons, above, were hauled to the Landfill by transfer rigs, this would represent an average 130 ADT. Adding this value to the current 65 ADT represents a total of 195 ADT.

Figure 2 presents 1992 ADT values for the primary haul routes. (These values include Landfill ADT for that year.) For the primary haul routes, the projected 195 ADT represents less than two percent of the capacity of the primary haul routes. For that segment of Jensen Avenue that crosses U.S. Highway 99, the projected 195 ADT represents less than one percent of the road's capacity. For the American Avenue segment of the primary haul routes, the projected 195 ADT represents an approximate 33 percent increase over existing traffic volumes. For Jensen Avenue, the projected 195 ADT represents an approximate, overall eight percent increase over existing traffic volumes. For that segment of Jensen Avenue that crosses U.S. Highway 99, the projected 195 ADT represents less than one percent of that road's capacity.

Once AB 939-related programs go into effect, all of the above tonnage figures and associated traffic projections should be reduced 25 percent by January 1, 1995, and 50 percent by January 1, 2000. This should reduce the ADT from 195 to 146 by January 1, 1995, and to 98 by January 1, 2000.

D. Noise

1. Existing Conditions

The area surrounding the Landfill is predominately agricultural, with a few rural residential uses located within 500 feet of the outermost boundary of the Landfill. Existing sources of environmental noise within the vicinity of the Landfill include present solid waste-related operations, traffic on American Avenue, and intermittent farming operations on surrounding agricultural properties.

2. Operational Changes

Noise is currently, and will be in the future, generated from the operation of heavy equipment and the excavation of fill material from adjacent areas. It is expected that these noise levels would remain relatively constant.

In reference to the increased tonnage deliveries, noise levels along the primary haul routes would increase as the result of project-related truck traffic.

Based on the projection that most vehicular traffic would generally follow Jensen Avenue from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area, the Landfill EIR concluded that there would be no significant increase in noise levels.

E. Water Resources

1. Existing Conditions

According to the Landfill EIR, depth to groundwater ranges from 95 feet near the southeast corner of the Landfill to 115 feet near the northeast corner.

2. Operational Changes

Module 1 as well as previously approved Modules 2-23 has been constructed with clay liners, geosynthetic liners, and leachate collection systems. These features are designed to mitigate potential groundwater degradation impacts.

F. Odor/Vectors/Dust

1. Existing Conditions

The decomposition of the organic components in solid waste may produce unpleasant odors. Vectors are defined as any agents capable of carrying and transmitting disease pathogens. They include rats, flies, mosquitoes, and some birds. Dust emissions result from routine soil excavation and grading operations and from vehicles traveling over unpaved roads.

2. Operational Changes

Public Works & Development Services file data indicate that there have been no complaints from the public regarding odors emanating from the Landfill. A six-inch daily cover is placed on the solid waste and this management practice does not normally promote vector

harborage. The LEA is responsible for inspecting the Landfill on a monthly basis and this procedure would address any potential management or operational problems. Water is routinely applied to working areas in order to address potential dust generation problems.

RSG/kf
0986F
8/27/93

CUP

2623

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CERTIFICATE OF FEE EXEMPTION

De Minimis Impact Finding

E9310000329

Project Title/Location (include county): EA 3986; CU 2623 - Fresno County

Located at the northwest corner of W. American Avenue and S. Humboldt Avenue alignment in Sections 32 & 33, Township 14 South, Range 17 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, in Fresno County.

FILED

OCT 01 1993

Project Description:

Modify existing CUP to allow an increase in the daily tonnage deliveries from 1,200 to 1,640 tons at the American Avenue Landfill.

Anthony L. Chavez
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY

CUP

Findings of Exemption (attach as necessary):

An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study was conducted for this project.

Project is limited to an increase in daily tonnage deliveries, no expansion of existing facility boundary is proposed. Given the limited scope of the project, there will be no impact to wildlife resources.

2623

Certification:

I hereby certify that the public agency has made the above finding and that the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

[Signature]

Title: Development Services Manager

Lead Agency: Fresno County

Date: 9/1/93

FRESNO COUNTY DE MINIMIS WORKSHEET

EA No. 3986 Project No(s). CUP 2623

Applicant: FRESNO COUNTY

Previous Payment of Fish and Game Fees? NO

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Habitat types present on the project site: NONE - EXISTING LANDFILL

Habitat types adjacent to the project site: AGRICULTURAL PROPS

Cumulative effects of this and similar projects: NONE

Project effects to the natural and biological resources of the community:

NONE - PROJECTS LIMITED TO AN INCREASE IN DAILY TONNAGE DELIVERIES
(attach additional sheets as needed)

1. Does the Initial Study indicate that the project may or will result in changes to the following resources (explain "no" answers, attach additional Exhibit(s), as needed):

YES NO

1.A. Riparian land, rivers, streams, watercourses, and wetlands under state and federal jurisdiction? PROJECT IS LIMITED TO AN INCREASE IN DAILY TONNAGE DELIVERIES TO AN EXISTING LANDFILL.

1.B. Native and non-native plant life and the soil required to sustain habitat for fish and wildlife?

SEE 1.A

1.C. Rare and unique plant life and ecological communities dependent on plant life? SEE 1.A

1.D. Listed threatened and endangered plant and animals and the habitat in which they are believed to reside?

SEE 1.A

1.E. Species of plant or animals listed as protected or identified for special management in the Fish and Game Code, the PRC, the Water Code or regulations adopted thereunder?

SEE 1.A

1.F. Marine and terrestrial species subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game and the ecological communities in which they reside?

SEE 1.A

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DATE: August 9, 1993
TO: Richard Perkins, Public Works & Development Services *STR*
FROM: Steven Rhodes, Environmental Health System
SUBJECT: EA 3986, CUP 2623, Fresno County Public Works (American Avenue Landfill, 18950 W. American Ave.)

1. Is there sufficient information for you to evaluate the probable environmental impacts of this project?

Yes No, the following information is needed:

2. What potential adverse impacts will the project have on the vicinity or inhabitants of the project itself?

3. Are the potential impacts, identified in Question 2, significant enough to warrant the preparation of an EIR?

Yes No

- 4a. If the project is approved, what conditions of approval are necessary to implement County plans and policies or to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare?

- 4b. Please identify specific existing regulations, standards, or routine processing procedures which would mitigate the potential impacts identified in Question 2, or to implement the conditions identified in Question 4a.

5. Additional Comments:

This Conditional Use Permit application for an increase in the daily tonnage will require a revision of the current Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP). A SWFP application for the revision must be submitted 120 days prior to the facility accepting over the current permitted daily tonnage. Contact the Fresno County Community Health Department, Environmental Health System, Solid Waste Program at (209) 445-3380 for information to be included in the complete application package.

STR:str

cc: Peggy Wilkinson, Environmental Health System

a:\land\ea3986

DATE: December 22, 1999

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning Commission

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 11472 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NO. 4341, UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 2804

APPLICANT: Fresno County

REQUEST: Modify Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 2623 to allow an increase in the average daily deliveries from 1,640 tons to 2,200 tons and the peak daily tonnage to 3,600 tons for the American Avenue Landfill on a 440-acre parcel of land in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture, 20-acre minimum parcel size) District.

LOCATION: On the north side of American Avenue between the S. Plumas and S. Humboldt Avenue alignments. (18950 W. American Avenue) (APN 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 09ST, 013ST, 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 34ST and 35ST) (Sup. Dist. 1).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

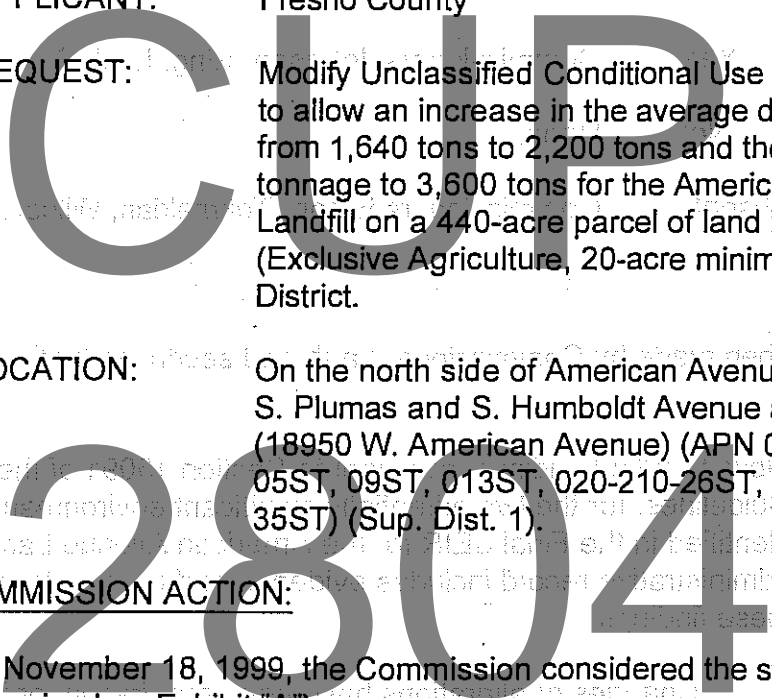
At its hearing of November 18, 1999, the Commission considered the staff report and testimony (summarized on Exhibit "A").

Five separate motions were then made by the Commission regarding Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report No. 4341 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2804 as follows:

Motion 1:

A motion was made by Commissioner Laub and seconded by Commissioner Peters to:

1. Certify the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and adopt findings and statements pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act as stated below:



The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the American Avenue Landfill Project has been completed in compliance with CEQA pursuant to Section 15090 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

- The Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final SEIR prior to approving the project.
- The Final SEIR reflects the County's independent analysis and sets forth an adequate range of alternatives to this project.

This motion passed on the following vote:

VOTING: **Yes:** Commissioners Johnson, King, Laub, Moore, Molen, Peters.
 No: None.
 Absent: Commissioners Eaton, Tokmakian, Wilcox.

Motion 2:

A motion was then made by Commissioner Laub and seconded by Commissioner Moore to:

2. Move to adopt findings, pursuant to Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines, for the two potentially significant environmental effects identified in the Final SEIR for the American Avenue Landfill Project. The administrative record includes evidence and logical steps used in making these findings.

A. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects as identified in the Final SEIR for the potentially significant impact which has been reduced to a less-than-significant level:

AIR

The proposed project will create PM-10 impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.

B. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the Final SEIR.

AIR

The proposed project will create Nitrous Oxide impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.

This motion passed on the following vote:

VOTING: Yes: Commissioners Johnson, King, Laub, Moore, Molen, Peters.
No: None.
Absent: Commissioners Eaton, Tokmakian, Wilcox.

Motion 3:

A motion was then made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Peters to:

3. Move to adopt a statement of overriding considerations for the one significant and unavoidable impact. The overriding consideration is the financial and beneficial effects of the project for the citizens of Fresno County.

AIR

The project will create Nitrous Oxide impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.

This motion passed on the following vote:

VOTING: Yes: Commissioners Johnson, King, Laub, Moore, Molen, Peters.
No: None.
Absent: Commissioners Eaton, Tokmakian, Wilcox.

Motion 4:

A motion was then made by Commissioner Peters and seconded by Commissioner Moore to:

4. Move to adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the American Avenue Landfill Project as set forth in Exhibit "B".

This motion passed on the following vote:

VOTING: Yes: Commissioners Johnson, King, Laub, Moore, Molen, Peters.

No: None.

Absent: Commissioners Eaton, Tokmakian, Wilcox.

Motion 5:

A motion was then made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Laub to:

5. Move to adopt findings for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 2804 as stated in the Staff Report with conditions of approval (Exhibit "C").

This motion passed on the following vote:

VOTING: Yes: Commissioners Johnson, King, Laub, Moore, Molen, Peters.

No: None.

Absent: Commissioners Eaton, Tokmakian, Wilcox.

CAROLINA JIMENEZ-HOGG, Director
Planning & Resource Management Department
Secretary-Fresno County Planning Commission

By Leona Franke James
Leona Franke James, Division Manager
Development Services Division

NOTES: 1. The Planning Commission action is final unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the Commission's action.

2. The approval of this project will expire two years from the date of approval unless substantial development has occurred. When circumstances beyond the control of the applicant do not permit compliance with this time limit, the Commission may grant an extension not to exceed one additional year. Application for such extension must be filed with the Planning & Resource Management Department prior to the expiration of the conditional use permit.

EXHIBIT "A"

Staff: The Fresno County Planning Commission accepted the Staff Report dated November 18, 1999, including modifications presented by staff.

Applicant: A representative of Fresno County Planning & Resources Management Department, Resources Division, presented testimony in support of the project as summarized below:

- The Coalinga and American Avenue Landfill sites are both regional landfill sites and are operated by Fresno County.
- We agree with staff's findings and the recommendation mitigation measures.
- The current application seeks increases in the allowable daily deliveries.
- There will be no change to the size or height of the American Avenue Landfill site.
- There will not be any change in operations.
- Approximately 87 percent of waste generated within the County comes to this site.
- The landfill operates in compliance with the Solid Waste Facilities Permit, the conditions imposed by earlier Conditional Use Permits and all State and Federal laws governing the operation of solid waste landfills.
- The previous Conditional Use Permit estimated that the landfill had a life expectancy of approximately 30 more years.
- The landfill has received more waste than expected.
- Technology has improved to allow for more efficient use of the landfill, including greater compaction of the waste.
- With the improvements to the technology, the life expectancy of the landfill is still 30 more years.

Resource Recovery Programs will extend the life of the landfill.

- **State Law AB-989 requires a 50 percent diversion of waste by the end of the year 2000. This will further extend the life of the landfill.**
- **Fresno County anticipates that future waste levels will stay constant or decrease with more diversion and recycling of waste.**

CUP

2804

EXHIBIT "B"

American Avenue Landfill
Administrative Final Supplemental
Environmental Impact Report

Mitigation Monitoring Program

CUP

2804

July
1999

TPG
Consulting
CORPORATE

Visalia Office
711 N. COURT STREET, SUITE J
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291
TELEPHONE 559.739.8072
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FINAL
SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
COUNTY OF FRESNO

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 98091036

SUBMITTED
July, 1999

Prepared For:

County of Fresno
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 262-4853
Attn: Joanne Striebich, Staff Analyst

Prepared By:

TPG Consulting, Inc.
8405 N. Fresno Street, Suite 300
Fresno, California 93720
(559) 439-4881
Attn: Charles Clouse, Principal

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

This Mitigation Monitoring Program was developed in response to Assembly Bill (AB) 3180 (Section 21081.6 of the Public resources code), effective January 1, 1989. Its purpose is to ensure that proposed mitigation measures included in environmental documentation will extend beyond the pages of the document, and are implemented to reduce or eliminate significant detrimental project-related impacts to the environment. This program implements the mitigation measures outlined in the Supplemental Draft EIR and the Final EIR for the American Avenue Landfill, State Clearinghouse No. 98091036.

The following mitigation and control measures are identified in the Draft Supplemental EIR prepared for the American Avenue Landfill. The following outlines responsibility for the identified mitigation and control measures. It should be noted that the control measures identified for air quality impacts are not mandatory and are suggested measures which the applicant should comply with.

CUP
2804

American Avenue Landfill - COUNTY OF FRESNO
 MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

RESOURCE	TIMING	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Air Quality	Throughout remaining landfill operation. When on-site equipment purchased.	1. The applicant shall purchase the cleanest diesel engines available for on-site equipment and/or convert all on-site diesel equipment to alternative fuels.	County of Fresno - Public Works & Development Services Department
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	2. The applicant shall effectively stabilize dust emissions using water, chemical stabilizer/ suppressant, or vegetative ground cover on all disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively utilized for landfill purposes.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	3. The applicant shall effectively stabilize dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant on all on-site unpaved roads.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	4. The applicant shall effectively control fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water or by presoaking for all land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, and cut & fill activities.	

*American Avenue Landfill - COUNTY OF FRESNO
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM*

RESOURCE	TIMING	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.		5. The applicant shall limit all operations or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from on-site paved roads and adjacent public streets at least once every 24 hours when operations are occurring. <i>(The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.)</i>	
Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.		6. The applicant shall limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.	
Throughout remaining landfill operation.		7. The applicant shall ensure that landfill roads connected to off-site adjacent paved public roads are paved for a sufficient distance to allow mud and dirt accumulation to drop off.	
Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.		8. The applicant shall install wind breaks at windward side(s) of the Landfill.	
Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.		9. The applicant shall suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 miles per hour (mph).	

*American Avenue Landfill - COUNTY OF FRESNO
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM*

RESOURCE	TIMING	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	10. The applicant shall limit area subject to excavation, grading, and other activities at any one time.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	11. The applicant shall effectively stabilize fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant after the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, or said piles.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	12. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 4642 - Solid Waste Disposal Sites.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	13. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 2201 - New Source Review.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	14. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 2520 - Supplemental Requirements for Federally Mandated Operating Permits.	

CUP
2804

EXHIBIT "C"

Conditions of Approval
Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2804

1. The use shall be operated in substantial conformance with the operational statement approved by the Planning Commission.
2. Conditions of Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Nos. 953, 1665, 2416 and 2623 shall remain in full force and effect.
3. All mitigation measures listed in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be complied with.

CUP

2804

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2
STAFF REPORT
TO
THE FRESNO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Environmental Impact Report No. 4341
Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2804
November 18, 1999**

Applicant: Fresno County

Request: Modify Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 2623 to allow an increase in the average daily deliveries from 1,640 tons to 2,200 tons and the peak daily tonnage to 3,600 tons for the American Avenue Landfill.

Location: The north side of American Avenue between the S. Plumas and S. Humboldt Avenue alignments, approximately five miles southwest of the City of Kerman (18950 W. American Avenue) (APN 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 09ST, 013ST, portion of 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 34ST and 35ST).

Present Zoning: AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture, 20-acre minimum parcel size) District.

A. AREA, EXISTING LAND USE, SURROUNDING ZONING, AND PUBLIC NOTICING

1. Approximate Area: 440 acres
2. Use of Subject Property: American Avenue Landfill.
3. Use of Surrounding Area: Agriculture, Rural Homesites (see Existing Land Use Map, Exhibit 1).
4. Surrounding Zoning: AE-20 (See Existing Zone Map, Exhibit 2)
5. City Limits: The City of Kerman is located approximately five miles northeast of the subject property.
6. Noticing: Notices were sent to 31 property owners within one-quarter mile of the subject property.

B. BACKGROUND

Conditional Use Permit No. 953 was approved in 1971 authorizing a solid waste disposal operation on a 20 acre portion of the project site. The site was expanded an additional ten acres in 1979, through the approval of Conditional Use Permit No. 1665. On March 28, 1985, Conditional Use Permit No. 2416 was approved on the subject parcel which allowed the expansion of the landfill from a 30-acre landfill to a 440 acre regional non-hazardous sanitary landfill. An Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 84050705) was prepared for this expansion. The most recent Conditional Use Permit (CUP 2623) was approved on July 12, 1993, to allow an increase in the average daily deliveries from 1,200 tons to 1,640 tons and peak daily tonnage to 2,400 tons for the American Avenue Landfill.

Although approval of the most recent CUP authorized increases in the average daily deliveries and peak daily tonnage, the existing Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) was not revised to reflect the increase. As a result, the Fresno County Department of Community Health, Environmental Health System, acting as the Local Enforcement Agency, has issued a Notice and Order requiring the Planning & Resource Management Department to submit a revised SWFP application.

Under this request, the applicant is proposing to modify the previously approved Conditional Use Permit to allow an increase in the average daily deliveries from 1,640 tons to 2,200 tons and the peak daily tonnage to 3,600 tons. A supplement to the previous Environmental Impact Report (1985) has been prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of this increase.

C. OPERATIONAL STATEMENT

The Operational Statement submitted by the applicant is included as Exhibit 3.

D. SITE PLAN

The site plan (Exhibit 4) submitted by the applicant shows the subject 440 acre landfill located on the north side of American Avenue, which was previously approved under Conditional Use Permit No. 2623.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

A Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was prepared for this project. The SEIR is a supplement to the EIR certified in 1985 (SCH # 84050705). The SEIR was prepared by a consultant in conformance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and County-adopted policies and procedures.

The SEIR is appended to this staff report by reference. Copies of the Final

SEIR, including the Draft SEIR, Responses to Comments and Draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, were provided to the Commission as Advance Agenda Material on October 21, 1999.

A summary of the project and associated impacts addressed by the SEIR is attached as Exhibit 5. Environmental impacts in the following areas were found to be potentially significant: traffic/circulation, air quality and noise. Although the SEIR determined that the implementation of recommended mitigation measures could reduce a number of potential impacts to a level of insignificance, other impacts could not be mitigated to such a level. Exhibit 5 identifies those impacts that were determined to be Significant Unavoidable Impacts and summarizes the evaluation of three alternatives to the project. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is attached as Exhibit 6 and includes the mitigation measures set out in the FSEIR that resulted in a "less-than-significant" finding.

Certification of the SEIR will require adoption of findings and for those impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level of insignificance, a statement of overriding considerations pursuant to Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines.

F. STAFF ANALYSIS/RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT

A Conditional Use Permit Application may be approved only if the four findings specified in Zoning Ordinance Section 873-F are made by the Planning Commission. The following analysis addresses each of the required findings:

Finding 1: *That the site for the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate said use and all yards, spaces, walls and fences, parking, loading, landscaping and other features required by the Zoning Ordinance, to adjust said use with land and uses in the neighborhood.*

The subject parcel is 440 acres in size, with most of the site consisting of landfill area. Under this request, the applicant is proposing an increase in the allowed average daily deliveries from 1,640 tons to 2,200 tons per day and the peak daily tonnage to 3,600 tons. The applicant is not requesting an expansion of the landfill. The subject parcel should continue to be adequate to accommodate this use.

Finding 2: *That the site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways adequate in width and pavement type to carry the quantity and kind of traffic generated by the proposed use.*

Access to the subject parcel is from W. American Avenue. The majority of the traffic traveling to the site will be coming from the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan area and it is expected that the trucks will use the preferred route of Jensen and State Route 145 (Madera Avenue) to reach American Avenue. American and Jensen Avenues are both classified as Arterial roads in the Transportation Element of the General Plan. State Route 145 (Madera Avenue) is designated

as an Expressway in the Transportation Element of the General Plan.

Under this request, the applicant is proposing an increase in the allowed average daily deliveries from 1,640 tons to 2,200 tons and the peak daily tonnage to 3,600 tons. According to the operational statement submitted by the applicant, from January 1998, through July 1998, approximately 1,700 tons per day were deposited in the landfill. Peak daily rates exceeded 2,200 tons 57 times, including 20 days that exceeded 2,400 tons and four days that exceeded 2,600 tons. The high peak of 2,818 tons was established on November 28, 1997. For the period of January through August 1998 an average of 201 vehicles per day made waste deliveries to the landfill. The highest recorded day totaled 297 waste deliveries (August 11, 1998). Increase in landfill activities with the increase in daily deliveries is estimated to generate a total of 450-vehicles per day.

The traffic study conducted as part of the SEIR indicated that all intersections currently operate at or above the adopted Level of Service "C" standard. Left-turn pocket warrant analysis showed that none of the analyzed approaches require left-turn pockets. With the proposed delivery rate increase added to the existing volumes, all intersections are projected to continue to operate at or above the Level of Service "C" standard. In the year 2020 with the proposed delivery rate increase, all intersections will operate at or above the adopted standards. Again, all approaches analyzed for left-turn pockets showed that none would be required in the year 2020 with proposed delivery rate increase conditions.

Finding 3: *That the proposed use will have no adverse impact on the abutting property and surrounding neighborhood or permitted use thereof.*

The subject parcel is located in a mixed agricultural and rural residential area with surrounding parcels ranging in size from 1.25 acres to 483 acres. Most of the smaller parcels are developed with a residence or are vacant and the larger parcels are in agricultural use.

The American Avenue Landfill is operated by Fresno County and is classified as a Class III facility and is authorized to accept non-hazardous solid wastes and inert solids, which include municipal solid waste, agricultural waste, construction and demolition waste, inert materials, dead small domestic animals, shredded tires, treated medical waste, and non-friable asbestos.

The landfill is designated in the County General Plan as a regional facility. It consists of three fill areas (I, II, III), which encompass 440 acres. Solid waste is no longer being deposited in Fill Area I (30 acres). Fill Area II is divided into eight modules, totaling 160 acres. Total space devoted to modules is somewhat less in order to provide for buffer and access areas. Modules 1-4 have been constructed and solid waste is currently being deposited in this area. Modules 5 and 6 will begin accepting waste in December 1999. Module 7 should be completed during the month of November 1999 and accepting waste in the

spring of 2001. Module 8 is tentatively scheduled to be constructed during the summer of 2001. Fill Area III will be comprised of approximately 250 acres divided into 14 modules. Construction in this area is not scheduled to begin until approximately 2005. The projected life of the landfill is approximately 30 to 32 years. The authorized hours and days of operation for the landfill facility are seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily and currently there are thirteen full time and four extra help employees. With the proposed increase in daily deliveries, five additional employees will be added.

The previous Conditional Use Permit (CUP 2623) authorized 1,640 tons of solid waste per day to be delivered to the landfill with a peak daily tonnage of 2,400 tons. However, according to the operational statement submitted by the applicant, in January 1998 through July 1998, the facility received an average daily delivery of approximately 1,700 tons. Peak daily rates exceeded 2,200 tons 57 times, including 20 days that exceeded 2,400 tons and four days that exceeded 2,600 tons. The high peak of 2,818 tons was established on November 28, 1997. Planning & Resource Management Department staff project that despite Assembly Bill ("AB") 939 diversion practices, average daily deliveries will at least hold steady and may even increase 5% per year based on current waste sources. If additional waste sources (such as Madera and Kings Counties) begin delivering to the landfill, the proposed permitted average daily rate of 2,200 may be exceeded in as little as two to three years. AB 939 required each city and county in California to divert 25 percent of its solid waste from landfill disposal by 1995, increasing to 50 percent by the year 2000. These diversion goals could be achieved by various methods, including source reduction, recycling, and composting. However, due to the increased waste volumes resulting from the closure of other landfills, regional facilities such as the American Avenue Landfill expect to continue to see an increase in waste received.

The current proposal amounts to an increase in the fill-rate of the landfill. The proposed increase in solid waste disposal to the site will result in additional traffic and may increase litter and noise impacts on surrounding parcels. The SEIR recommended specific mitigation measures to reduce these impacts. These conditions require, in part, that the cleanest available diesel engines be purchased for on-site equipment and/or convert all on-site diesel equipment to alternative fuels, that dust emissions be stabilized, windbreaks be installed at the windward side(s) of the landfill, and that excavation and grading be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour. As indicated in Finding 2, the traffic impact study indicated that the roads serving the site are adequate to accommodate the additional traffic that will be generated by this use. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is attached as Exhibit 6.

Finding 4: *That the proposed development is consistent with the General Plan.*

The subject parcel is designated Agriculture in the General Plan. The American Avenue Landfill is also designated in the Solid Waste Facility Policy of the

General Plan as the regional landfill to serve the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. The plan does not permit any new municipal solid waste landfills. It was determined under the previous Conditional Use Permit that this use is consistent with the General Plan. Based on the fact that this proposal will not result in a change in the use, but an operational change, this proposal can be considered consistent with the General Plan.

G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff believes the required findings can be made and therefore recommends approval of Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2804, subject to the following conditions:

1. The use shall be operated in substantial conformance with the operational statement approved by the Planning Commission.
2. Conditions of Unclassified Conditional Use Permits Nos. 953, 1665, 2416 and 2623 shall remain in full force and effect.
3. All mitigation measures listed in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Exhibit 6 of this Staff Report) shall be complied with.

CEQA Action

Compliance with CEQA is a prerequisite for any action on the project. The basic requirements are that the Planning Commission must certify that the SEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15090, and must articulate the factors that should be included in the findings and statement of overriding considerations required by CEQA pursuant to CEQA Sections 15091 and 15093.

The specific actions and suggested motions are outlined below:

If the Commission determines that it can not certify that the SEIR has been prepared in compliance with CEQA, the Commission can take no action on the project until it can find that: (1) the final SEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA, (2) the final SEIR has been reviewed and considered by the Commission, and (3) the final SEIR represents the County's independent judgement and analysis and sets forth an adequate range of alternatives to this project.

Legal standard for evaluating a SEIR

To evaluate the SEIR, the Commission should consider whether the SEIR was prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide the Commission with information which enables it to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be

exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an SEIR should be reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an SEIR inadequate, but the SEIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure. (CEQA Guidelines, section 15151.)

Planning Commission Action

If the Planning Commission believes the SEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA, the following steps/action are necessary:

The Commission's first step will be the certification of the final SEIR as referenced above.

The second step in the CEQA portion of the Commission's action is the adoption of findings pursuant to Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines. There are three findings that would be appropriate to this project because there are two (2) potentially significant impacts. One of these potentially significant impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level through mitigation. One impact remains a significant and unavoidable impact. These impacts are summarized in Table 2 of Volume 1 of the final SEIR. A copy of the table was also included in the Staff Report as Exhibit 5.

The one remaining significant unavoidable impact is:

AIR (1)

- The proposed project will create Nitrous Oxide impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.

The third step will be the adoption of a Statement of Overriding Considerations relative to the significant unavoidable impact. The Commission will be asked to identify the specific considerations. The Commission may require changes to the project which will reduce the impact for which this Statement must be made.

The fourth and final step in the CEQA portion of the Commission's action would be the adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. Adoption of this plan will set in place the provisions to assure that mitigation measures for the project are carried out.

Project Action

Once the Commission has completed its CEQA actions it may proceed with action on the project. The project application is for approval of the Unclassified Conditional Use Permit. Any action to approve the project will

require CUP findings. Three conditions of approval are recommended for the project as set forth in the Staff Report.

Motion Alternatives

1a. Move to certify that:

- The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the American Avenue Landfill Project has been completed in compliance with CEQA pursuant to Section 15090 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.
- The Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the final SEIR prior to approving the project.
- The final SEIR reflects the County's independent analysis and judgement and sets forth an adequate range of alternatives to this project.

OR

1b. Move to determine that additional information is required to make the FSEIR for the American Avenue Landfill Project a complete document. (Specify the information that is needed.) Direct that the revised section of the SEIR be recirculated and that notice of hearing be provided when the review and response to comments is completed.

2. Move to adopt findings, pursuant to Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines, for the one potentially significant environmental effect identified in the FSEIR for the American Avenue Landfill Project. This impact is set forth in Table 2 of Exhibit 5 of the Staff Report. The administrative record includes evidence and logical steps used in making these findings.

- A. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects as identified in the final SEIR. One of the two potentially significant impacts has been reduced to a less-than-significant level through mitigation measures. The other impact is substantially lessened through mitigation but remains significant and unavoidable. The potentially significant impact which have been reduced to a less-than-significant level is:

AIR

The proposed project will create PM-10 impacts with the operation on on-site equipment.

- B. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final SEIR.
3. Move to adopt a statement of overriding considerations for the one significant and significant-unavoidable impact. *(Specify the consideration for the impacts listed below. Note: the Commission may require changes to the project which would modify this findings.)*

AIR

1. The project will create Nitrous Oxide impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.
4. Move to adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the American Avenue Landfill Project as set forth in Exhibit 6.
- 5a. Move to adopt findings for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 2804 as stated in the Staff Report.
- OR
- 5b. Move to deny Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2804 for the American Avenue Landfill Project because the project will have significant environmental impacts that can not be fully mitigated and it would create a burden on the area which are not outweighed by social and economic benefits. *(Specify the impacts/areas of concerns).*
- OR
- 5c. Move to require changes to be made in the project to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects. *(Under this alternative the Commission may either define the details of the changes and incorporate them into a approval motion (Refer to Motion 5a.) or identify the areas change and continue the matter to allow details of the changes to be worked out.)*

NOTES:

The following notes reference various mandatory requirements of Fresno County or other agencies and are provided as information to the project applicant.

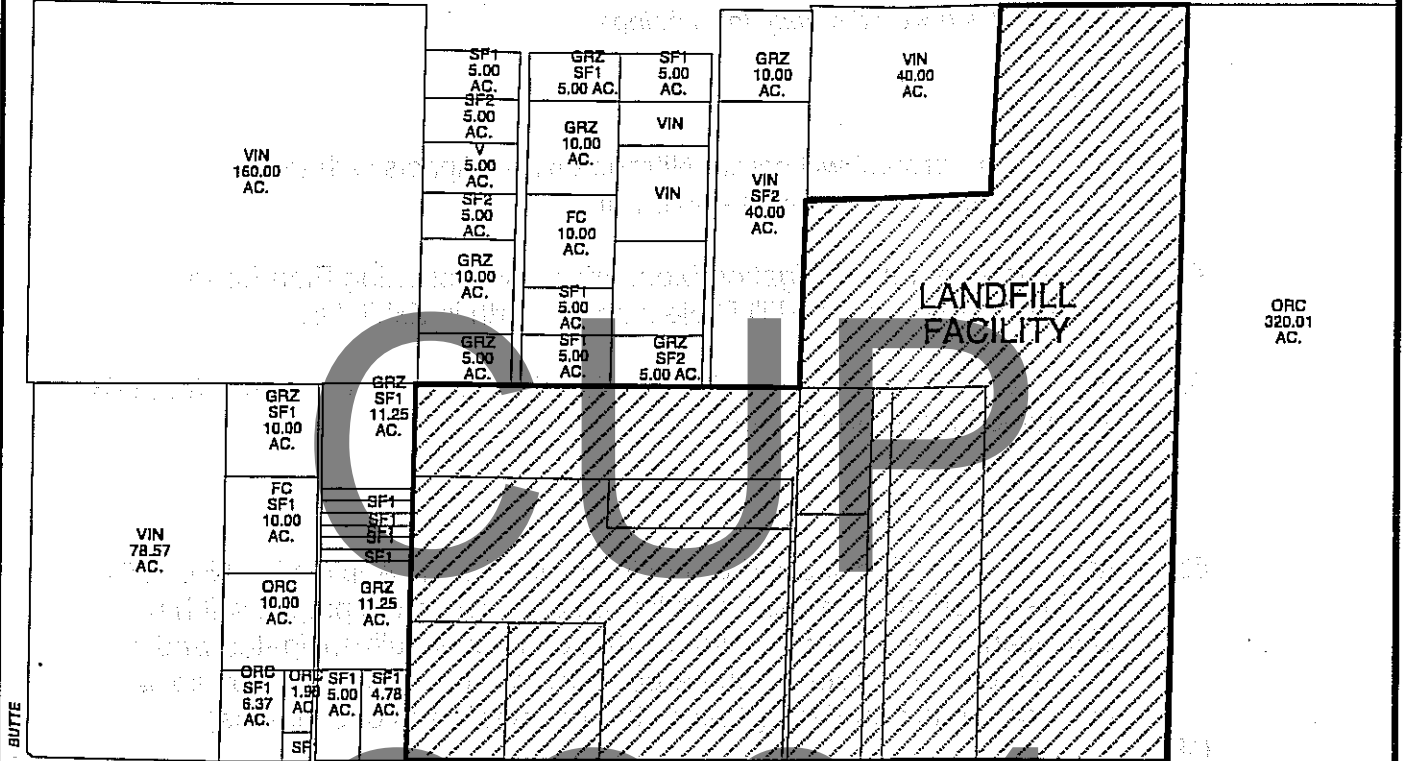
1. A revised Solid Waste Facilities Permit shall be submitted to the Fresno County Department of Community Health, Environmental Health System. Contact the Environmental Health System, Waste Management at (559) 445-3271.
2. The proposed project will be subject to the adopted rules of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.

EXHIBIT 1

EXISTING LAND USE MAP



CUP 2804



2804

Legend	
FC	FIELD CROP
GRZ	GRAZING
ORC	ORCHARD
SF#	SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENT
V	VACANT
VIN	VINEYARD

 Subject Property

600 0 600 Feet



EXISTING ZONING MAP

CUP 2804
TRS 14/17 - 32 & 33



AL20
KERRMAN
AE20

SISKIYOU

AE20

LASSEN

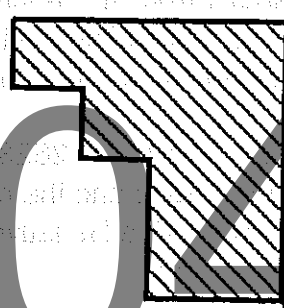
AE20

JENSEN

AE20

DEL NORTE

CUP 2804



BUTTE
AMERICAN



LINCOLN

AE20

AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
OPERATIONAL STATEMENT

OCT 14 1998

COUNTY OF FRESNO
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT SERVICESINTRODUCTION

The American Avenue Landfill ("Landfill") is located in rural central Fresno County ("County") and is situated approximately 17 miles southwest of the City of Fresno (see Figure 1). The Landfill is owned by the County and operated by the County Public Works & Development Services Department. The Landfill is classified as a Class III facility, and only nonhazardous wastes are accepted.

The Landfill is operated according to Waste Discharge Requirements ("WDR") issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Landfill is also operated under a Solid Waste Facilities Permit ("SWFP"), which is issued by the California Integrated Waste Management Board ("CIWMB"). The CIWMB and the County Health Services Agency, serving as the Local Enforcement Agency ("LEA"), are responsible for administering the SWFP.

The Landfill consisted of 20 acres when it was opened in 1971. In January 1980, an adjacent 10-acre area was added to the Landfill. During 1985, an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of expanding the Landfill from 30 acres to 440 acres. In May 1985, the County Board of Supervisors ("Board") approved Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") No. 2146, which provided for the expansion of the Landfill from a 30-acre site to a 440-acre regional facility. The Board certified the Final EIR, concluding that the project would not generate any significant unavoidable adverse impacts, at the same time CUP No. 2146 was approved.

In September of 1993, CUP No. 2623 was approved which raised the allowed daily average tonnage to 1,640 tons and the peak tonnage to 2,400 tons per day (TPD). When CUP No. 2623 was approved, a Negative Declaration was approved under Environmental Assessment ("EA") No. 3986.

However, the SWFP was not revised and still limits the Landfill to a daily average of 1,200 tons of solid waste to be received. As a result the Community Health Department, acting as the LEA, has issued a Notice and Order requiring the Public Works & Development Services Department to submit a revised SWFP application.

During the period of January through July 1998, approximately 1,700 TPD were deposited in the Landfill. Peak daily rates exceeded 2,200 tons 57 times, including 20 days that exceeded 2,400 tons, and four days which exceeded 2,600 tons. The high peak of 2,818 tons was set on November 28, 1997. These increases are related to the closure of other area landfills and population growth in Fresno County. Public Works & Development Services staff projects that despite Assembly Bill ("AB") 939 diversion practices, average daily tonnages will at least hold steady and may even increase 5% per year based on current waste sources. If additional waste sources (such as Madera and Kings Counties)

begin delivering to the Landfill, the proposed permitted average daily rate of 2,200 may be exceeded in as little as two to three years.

AB 939 required each city and county in California to divert 25 percent of its solid waste from landfill disposal by 1995, increasing to 50 percent by the year 2000. These diversion goals could be achieved by various methods, including source reduction, recycling, and composting. However, due to the increased waste volumes resulting from the closure of other landfills, regional facilities such as the American Avenue Landfill expect to continue to see an increase in waste received.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is to increase the average daily load from the permitted average daily tonnage of 1,200 tons to 2,200 tons. The increase in the average daily tonnage is primarily due to the closure of the City of Fresno, BFI Chateau Fresno and BFI Chestnut Avenue Landfills.

Public Works & Development Services Department staff anticipates that, on a limited basis, peak daily loads may be as high as 3,600 tons. These peak daily loads may take place, for example, when there is no solid waste pick up during a holiday period. If this should occur, the associated backlog of solid waste would result in a higher than normal delivery of solid waste during the following week.

Therefore, a revised SWFP will be submitted to increase the average daily tonnage to 2,200 TPD and increase the peak daily load to 3,600 tons. In addition, the CUP must be revised to reflect the same tonnages. As part of the process to make these changes, the associated environmental impacts need to be addressed. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) will be completed analyzing the environmental effects related to traffic/circulation, air quality, and noise as a result of the proposed increases in daily landfill tonnages. Data and related findings generated through this SEIR will be included with the County's SWFP application.

EXISTING CONDITIONS/OPERATIONAL CHANGES

The following sections present information on existing conditions and projected operational changes associated with the delivery of increased tonnages at the Landfill. Additional permitting and environmental information is contained in the prepared Report of Disposal Site Information, Periodic Site Review, and Preliminary Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan. These documents are on file in the Public Works & Development Services Department, Resources Division and with the LEA and the CIWMB.

1. Nature of the Operation

Existing Conditions

The Landfill is classified as a Class III facility and regulations authorize the disposal of nonhazardous solid wastes and inert solids. Such materials include municipal solid waste,

agricultural waste, construction and demolition waste, inert materials, dead small domestic animals, shredded tires, treated medical waste, and non-friable asbestos.

The land uses in the vicinity of the Landfill are rural and agricultural in character.

The Landfill is designated in the County General Plan as a regional facility. It consists of three fill areas (I, II, and III), which encompass 440 acres. Solid waste is no longer being deposited in Fill Area I (30 acres). Fill Area II is divided into eight modules, totaling 160 acres. Modules 1-4 have been constructed and solid waste is currently being deposited in this area. Modules 5 and 6 are scheduled for completion by December 1998 and will begin accepting waste within the next 12 to 18 months. Fill Area III will be comprised of approximately 250 acres divided into 14 modules. Construction in this area is not scheduled to begin until approximately 2005.

The Landfill is operated using the area fill method. Waste is placed in lifts and at the end of each day, a six-inch layer of soil is placed as a cover over the waste.

Projected Changes

The proposed increased tonnage acceptance rates will not change the basic operations of the Landfill. The permitted size and overall plan for the Landfill will not change. For that reason, much of the environmental analysis performed in 1984 is still adequate.

There will be an increase in vehicular trips to and from the Landfill associated with the increased disposal rates. Also, additional pieces of heavy equipment will be needed to handle the increased amounts of waste. These changes may impact the environment in the areas of traffic/circulation, air quality, and noise. These areas will be analyzed in the SEIR.

2. Times of Operation

Existing Conditions

The Landfill is open 362 days a year. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. The maximum operating hours are from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. daily. Monday through Friday, one equipment operator arrives at 6:30 A.M. to prepare the site for receiving waste. Additional employees report to work at 7:00 A.M. and 8:30 A.M. Waste deliveries begin at 7:00 A.M. and continue until 4:00 P.M. Normally, all equipment operations are completed by 5:00 P.M. On Saturday and Sunday, lower amounts of waste are received and the employee schedules are reduced. There are no seasonal changes or special activities affecting operating hours.

Projected Changes

The increased daily tonnages will not result in a change in operating hours. Additional

employees will be added to the schedule as needed to meet the additional workload. The increase in employees will be discussed in a later paragraph.

3. Number of Vehicle Trips/Deliveries to the Landfill

Existing Conditions

All information/data presented in this operations statement is based on a seven-day week and a 30-day month. For the period of January through August 1998, an average of 201 vehicles per day made waste deliveries to the Landfill. The highest recorded day totaled 297 waste deliveries (August 11, 1998). All waste deliveries are made between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Monday through Friday, 13 employees are assigned to the site. On Saturday, there are six employees, while Sunday there are only two. Other Public Works and Development Services and/or County of Fresno personnel may enter the site daily, accounting for approximately five trips per day.

Other miscellaneous delivery and service vehicles account for five trips per day.

When construction activities for new modules are taking place, there may be as many as 50 additional trips per day. Construction is usually scheduled for 90 working days between the months of May and October.

Projected Changes

For the purpose of environmental impact, increases in Landfill activities will reflect the maximum, peak daily tonnage rate of 3600 TPD. It is estimated that 450 vehicles per day would make waste deliveries at this rate. The new scale facility completed in 1998 is adequate to handle this rate without an increase in operating hours.

Five additional employees would be added, four on the Monday through Friday shift, and one on a Tuesday through Saturday shift.

Miscellaneous delivery/service and other traffic to the site should not increase.

4. Number of Employees

Existing Conditions

A Senior Engineer manages all County landfill operations with a staff consisting of a Staff Analyst, an Account Clerk, a Senior Engineering Technician, and two Engineering Technicians.

Presently, there are 13 full time and four extra help employees assigned directly to the

Landfill. These positions include a Disposal Site Supervisor, a Disposal Site Lead Supervisor, 11 Equipment Operators, and four Disposal Site Attendants.

Starting times are staggered for employees to provide maximum coverage during the busiest hours of the day (8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.). No employees live on site.

Projected Changes

At a peak daily rate of 3600 TPD, five additional employees would be hired. Four Equipment Operators would be added to the Monday through Friday schedule and one more Disposal Site Attendant would be added on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule. These schedule changes could be revised dependent upon daily tonnage rates.

5. Parking

Existing Conditions

All employees and visitors to the Landfill park on unpaved areas near the existing office trailer. Individual parking spaces are not defined. No parking is permitted on American Avenue outside the site fence.

Projected Changes

The approved site plan calls for future construction of a permanent office and maintenance facility. When this facility is built, a paved area will be provided with adequate marked parking for employees and visitors.

6. Equipment

Existing Conditions

Landfill equipment operators use a standard range of heavy equipment to move and compact the solid waste. Solid waste is spread up and down the working face using compaction equipment. The compaction equipment traverses the entire length of the working face and makes several passes over each two-foot thick layer of solid waste. A minimum six-inch layer of soil is placed over the working face of the Landfill at the end of each operational day.

A complete list of the various pieces of equipment will be discussed in the SEIR, along with the environmental impacts to air quality and noise.

Projected Changes

Five new pieces of equipment will be required at the peak daily rate of 3600 TPD. This will include a dozer, two compactors, and two scrapers. However, one of the compactors and

one of the scrapers will replace existing, smaller models. This will result in a net increase of only three heavy equipment items.

The impact of the new equipment will be discussed further in the SEIR.

7. Noise/Dust/Odor

Existing Conditions

The area surrounding the Landfill is predominately agricultural, with a few rural residential uses located within 500 feet of the outermost boundary of the Landfill. Existing sources of environmental noise within the vicinity of the Landfill include present solid waste-related operations, traffic on American Avenue, and intermittent farming operations on surrounding agricultural properties. Current mitigation measures include the installation of sound reducing mufflers on heavy equipment used on the site and a ten foot high soil berm placed around the active area of the Landfill.

Dust emissions result from routine soil excavation and grading operations and from vehicles traveling over unpaved roads. Water is routinely applied to working areas to minimize potential dust generation problems.

The decomposition of the organic components in solid waste may produce unpleasant odors. A minimum six-inch daily cover is placed on the solid waste and this management practice reduces the chance of odor spreading away from the Landfill.

Projected Changes

The increased tonnage delivery rates will not significantly change noise levels at the site itself. The replacement of older equipment with more modern engines and mufflers should mitigate any increase in equipment noise. As the Landfill expands into Fill Area III, the soil berm will be extended to surround all active areas of the Landfill. The SEIR will analyze any potential impacts associated with increased traffic noise along the primary haul routes to the Landfill.

Many of the site access roads at the Landfill have been upgraded by the placement of a weatherproof layer of base rock. This reduces the potential for dust emissions. A water wagon is permanently assigned to the Landfill and used as needed to minimize dust in working areas.

Public Works & Development Services file data indicate that there have been no complaints from the public regarding odors emanating from the Landfill. It is not expected that the increased tonnage rates will affect this area. The minimum six-inch daily cover will continue to be placed on the active area of the Landfill at the end of each day.

8. Water Usage

Existing Conditions

Water for site operations, landscape irrigation, and potable use is drawn from wells within the site boundary. Estimated maximum usage is 100,000 gallons per day during periods of extreme heat and dryness.

Potential site impacts upon groundwater are monitored through a series of groundwater detection wells spaced around the site boundary.

Projected Changes

Any changes in water usage have already been analyzed under the 1984 EIR and site approval documents. Simply increasing the tonnage delivery rate will not significantly affect water usage plans. All water used on site will continue to be drawn from on-site wells.

The detection well network will be expanded as the site boundary expands to the full 440 acres.

9. Building Use/Construction

Existing Conditions

Building facilities at the Landfill have all been approved in previous site plans. A new scalehouse was constructed in FY 1997-1998 and is now operational. A proposed maintenance/office building has previously been approved and will be built after design features are finalized and approved.

Projected Changes

No additional facilities will be required due to the increased tonnage rates. Any future facilities will be added to the site plan and approved through proper siting processes.

10. Landscaping/Fencing

Existing Conditions

There is a six-foot chain link fence with access gates surrounding the current active area of the Landfill. Inside the fence is a landscaped buffer zone in front of the 10 foot high sound berm that also surrounds the site. These features are conditions of CUP No. 2146 and apply to the full 440 acres.

Projected Changes

No changes are proposed for the landscaping or fence designs. As the site expands to the full 440 acres, these features will be expanded. The increased tonnage rates will not affect these features.

11. Utility Systems

Existing Conditions

Water systems have been discussed previously. Electricity and communications are provided by commercial sources. The Mid-Valley Fire Protection District provides structural fire protection. Storm water runoff is contained in an on-site retention basin and septic facilities have been constructed for other waste water.

Projected Changes

There are no proposed changes to utility systems as a result of the increased tonnage delivery rates.

12. Maintenance/Compliance Responsibility

Existing Conditions

Maintenance and compliance responsibilities for the Landfill are defined and regulated by California Code of Regulations, Title 27; WDR 97-200 issued by the RWQCB; a SWFP issued by the CIWMB and LEA, and conditions imposed by approved CUPs.

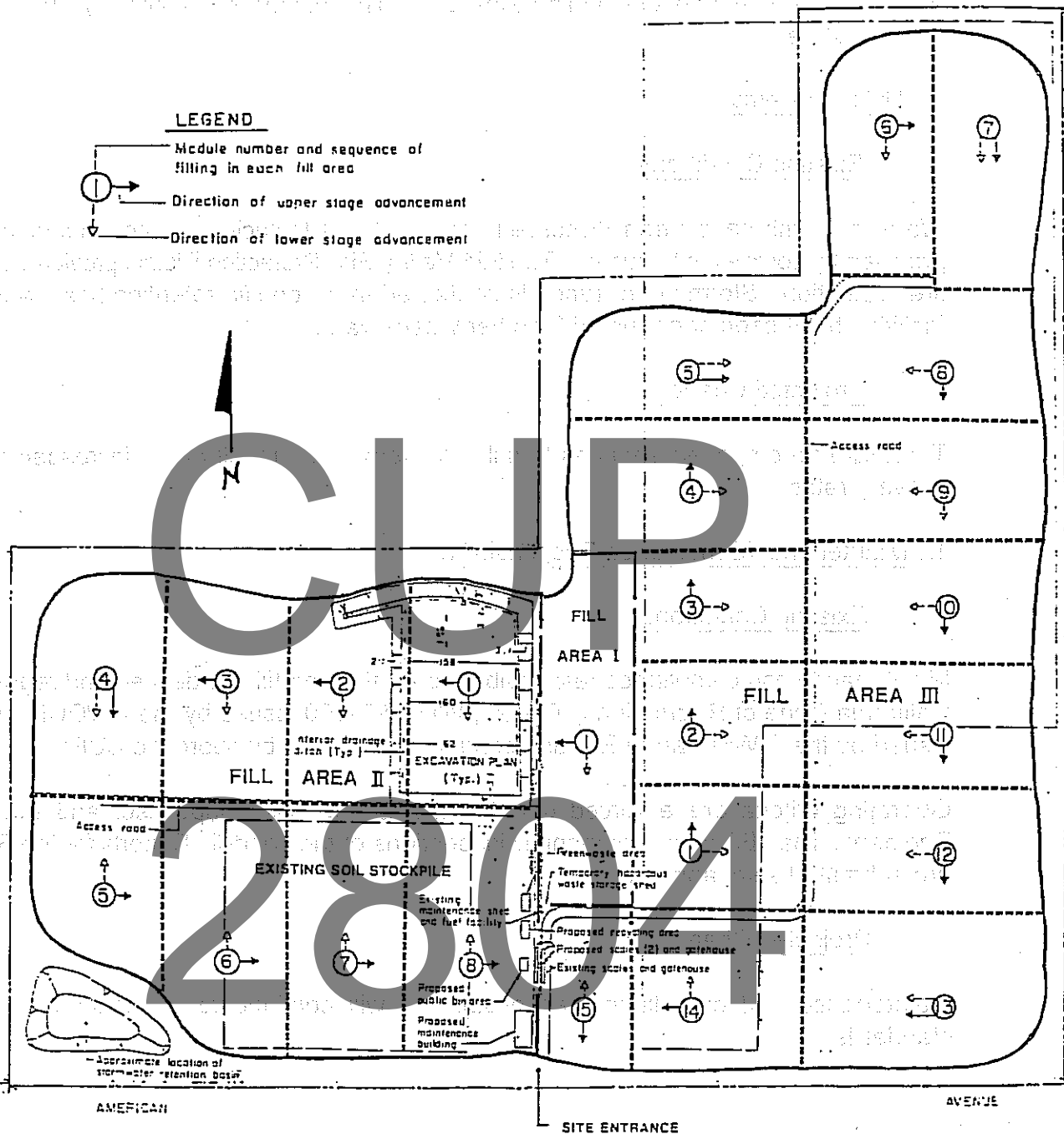
Operating criteria are enforced daily by the Landfill Site Supervisor and the Senior Engineer. The LEA conducts monthly inspections of the Landfill. Reports for the RWQCB are submitted semi-annually.

Projected Changes

Maintenance and compliance responsibilities will continue to be adhered to per all standards.

LEGEND

- 1 → Module number and sequence of filling in each fill area
- 1 → Direction of water stage advancement
- ▽ 1 → Direction of lower stage advancement



SITE PLAN

American Avenue Landfill SEIR



Exhibit 3

SECTION I - PROJECT SUMMARIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed increase of authorized average daily loads for the American Avenue Landfill. The American Avenue Landfill is located in rural Fresno County in central California.

The site is situated approximately 17 miles southwest of the City of Fresno and six (6) miles southwest of the City of Kerman. The 440-acre Landfill is located on the north side of American Avenue (18950 W. American Avenue), approximately 4 miles west of State Highway 145 (Madera Avenue). The study area for this project is bounded on the south by American Avenue and by agricultural land to the east, west and north.

The County of Fresno has filed Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application No. 2804 to revise the previous CUP No. 2623 by increasing the average daily loads from 1,640 to 2,200 tons per day (TPD) and peak daily loads from 2,400 to 3,600 TPD and to revise the Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) with the same limits, listed above. The SEIR evaluates the potential impacts of revising the CUP and the SWFP as requested.

PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

This Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) evaluates the project's potential and cumulative impacts regarding Traffic/Circulation, Air Quality and Noise. A summary of potential impacts, mitigation measures and levels of significance identified in this SEIR are provided in Table 2, General Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

Traffic/Circulation

The existing conditions analysis shows that all study intersections currently operate at or above the adopted level of service standards in both peak periods. With the proposed increase in allowable delivery rates, the future year (2020) study intersections are projected to operate at or above the adopted standard in both peak periods.

Air Quality

With implementation of the proposed control measures identified for impacts of oxides of nitrogen (NOX), precursors to ozone, a significant impact will still occur. This is considered a significant unavoidable impact, which cannot be completely controlled. However, PM-10 impacts will be reduced to a level considered less than significant. No other air quality impacts were identified.

Noise

The additional equipment, like the existing equipment on the landfill site is not expected to significantly increase noise levels generated by the landfill. Existing traffic noise levels in the study area are already well over the County's 55 dBLdn compatibility standard. Therefore the additional traffic due to the project cannot cause traffic noise levels to exceed this standard. The relative change in traffic noise levels due to the project are within the acceptability limits identified. Therefore, from standpoints of overall traffic noise levels and relative change in traffic noise levels, the project will not cause a significant noise impact.

Cumulative traffic noise impacts from 2020 with the project will be well over the County's 55 dBLdn compatibility criterion at locations near road. However, since the existing traffic noise levels in the study area already exceed the County's compatibility standard, the project cannot cause cumulative traffic noise levels which will exceed this standard. No cumulative impacts will result from the project.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives to the proposed project under consideration are listed below and are evaluated in this Supplemental EIR. The Alternatives Section provides a project description analysis and evaluation of each alternative's potential impact in comparison to the proposed project.

- Alternative #1: No Project (Existing Rates of fill remains the same)
- Alternative #2: Diversion Program
- Alternative #3: Alternative Location

LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project will not create any long-term impacts which would adversely affect the state of the environment related to traffic/circulation or noise impacts. Significant adverse impacts were identified air quality. With implementation of the recommended air quality control measures identified, impacts will be only partially reduced and will remain significant. The approval of the proposed project will not commit irreversible environmental changes and will not be growth inducing. The proposed project will not modify the scope of the landfill operations. No changes to the size or capacity of the project site are proposed as part of the project.

AREAS OF CONTROVERSY

The areas of controversy based on preliminary comments from public agencies and members of the public include:

- Traffic/Circulation
- Air Quality
- Noise

No Impact/Level less than significant	No significant environmental impact has been identified. A less than significant impact is an impact that would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment and would not require mitigation.
Mitigated to a level less than significant.	A significant environmental impact has been identified and will be reduced to a level that is not considered significant after mitigation is implemented.
Partially mitigated remains significant.	A significant environmental impact has been identified and it remains significant even after mitigation is implemented.
Significant unavoidable adverse.	A significant environmental impact has been identified and it cannot be mitigated therefore it is still considered significant.

2804

**TABLE 2
 GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES**

The following table summarizes the impacts evaluated in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) prepared for the proposed project. Each environmental issue addressed in the document is listed followed by impacts identified within that section.

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Traffic/Circulation	No impacts were identified.		Level less than significant.
Air Quality	The proposed project will create NOX impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicant shall purchase the cleanest diesel engines available for on-site equipment and/or convert all on-site diesel equipment to alternative fuels. 	Partially controlled. Remains a significant unavoidable impact.
	The proposed project will create PM-10 impacts with the operation of on-site equipment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The applicant shall effectively stabilize dust emissions using water, chemical stabilizer/suppressant, or vegetative ground cover on all disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively utilized for landfill purposes. 3. The applicant shall effectively stabilize dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant on all on-site unpaved roads. 4. The applicant shall effectively control fugitive dust emissions 	Reduced to a level less than significant after mitigation.

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
		<p>utilizing application of water or by presoaking for all land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, and cut & fill activities.</p> <p>5. The applicant shall limit all operations or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from on-site paved roads and adjacent public streets at least once every 24 hours when operations are occurring. <i>(The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.)</i></p> <p>6. The applicant shall limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.</p> <p>7. The applicant shall ensure that landfill roads connected to off-site adjacent paved public roads are paved for a sufficient distance to allow mud and dirt accumulation to drop off.</p>	

CUP
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RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
		8. The applicant shall install wind breaks at windward side(s) of the Landfill.	
		9. The applicant shall suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 miles per hour (mph).	
		10. The applicant shall limit area subject to excavation, grading, and other activities at any one time.	
		11. The applicant shall effectively stabilize fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant after the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, or said piles.	
		12. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 4642 - Solid Waste Disposal Sites.	
		13. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 2201 - New Source Review.	

CUP
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RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Noise	No noise impacts were identified.	14. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 2520 - Supplemental Requirements for Federally Mandated Operating Permits.	Level less than significant.

CUP

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**TABLE 3
 SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative	Feasible	Meets Project Objectives	Under Further Consideration	Environmentally Superior
<i>Alternative #1:</i> No Project (Existing rate of fill remains the same)	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>Alternative #2:</i> Diversion Program	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>Alternative #3:</i> Alternate Location	Yes	No	Yes	No

CUP

2804

Source: TPG Consulting, Inc.

EXHIBIT 6

FINAL

SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

AMERICAN AVENUE LANDFILL
COUNTY OF FRESNO

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 98091036

SUBMITTED
July, 1999

Prepared For:

County of Fresno
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
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(559) 262-4853
Attn: Joanne Striebich, Staff Analyst

Prepared By:

TPG Consulting, Inc.
8405 N. Fresno Street, Suite 300
Fresno, California 93720
(559) 439-4881
Attn: Charles Clouse, Principal

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

This Mitigation Monitoring Program was developed in response to Assembly Bill (AB) 3180 (Section 21081.6 of the Public resources code), effective January 1, 1989. Its purpose is to ensure that proposed mitigation measures included in environmental documentation will extend beyond the pages of the document, and are implemented to reduce or eliminate significant detrimental project-related impacts to the environment. This program implements the mitigation measures outlined in the Supplemental Draft EIR and the Final EIR for the American Avenue Landfill, State Clearinghouse No. 98091036.

The following mitigation and control measures are identified in the Draft Supplemental EIR prepared for the American Avenue Landfill. The following outlines responsibility for the identified mitigation and control measures. It should be noted that the control measures identified for air quality impacts are not mandatory and are suggested measures which the applicant should comply with.

CUP
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American Avenue Landfill - COUNTY OF FRESNO
 MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

RESOURCE	TIMING	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Air Quality	Throughout remaining landfill operation. When on-site equipment purchased.	1. The applicant shall purchase the cleanest diesel engines available for on-site equipment and/or convert all on-site diesel equipment to alternative fuels.	County of Fresno - Public Works & Development Services Department
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	2. The applicant shall effectively stabilize dust emissions using water, chemical stabilizer/ suppressant, or vegetative ground cover on all disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively utilized for landfill purposes.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	3. The applicant shall effectively stabilize dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant on all on-site unpaved roads.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	4. The applicant shall effectively control fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water or by presoaking for all land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, and cut & fill activities.	

CLUP
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American Avenue Landfill - COUNTY OF FRESNO
 MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

RESOURCE	TIMING	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	5. The applicant shall limit all operations or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from on-site paved roads and adjacent public streets at least once every 24 hours when operations are occurring. <i>(The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preaced or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.)</i>	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	6. The applicant shall limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	7. The applicant shall ensure that landfill roads connected to off-site adjacent paved public roads are paved for a sufficient distance to allow mud and dirt accumulation to drop off.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	8. The applicant shall install wind breaks at windward side(s) of the Landfill.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	9. The applicant shall suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 miles per hour (mph).	

*American Avenue Landfill – COUNTY OF FRESNO
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM*

RESOURCE	TIMING	MITIGATION AND CONTROL MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	10. The applicant shall limit area subject to excavation, grading, and other activities at any one time.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation. Daily operation.	11. The applicant shall effectively stabilize fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant after the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, or said piles.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	12. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 4642 – Solid Waste Disposal Sites.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	13. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 2201 – New Source Review.	
	Throughout remaining landfill operation.	14. The applicant shall comply with SJVUAPCD Rule 2520 – Supplemental Requirements for Federally Mandated Operating Permits.	



County of Fresno

Department of Public Works and Planning
Richard L. Brogan
Director

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

IS NO.: 4877
PROJECT NO(S): CUP 3055
APPLICANT: County of Fresno
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: See attached Initial Study Application
POTENTIAL IMPACTS: Identified on Environmental Checklist
SOURCES CONSULTED: See attached routing memo. Comments received are indicated by a check mark and are attached hereto.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

Upon consideration of the evidence, it has been determined that it is not fairly arguable that this project will have a significant impact on the environment and a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be recommended.

The proposed project may or will have a significant adverse impact on the environment and the preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR will be recommended to the decision makers.

Performed by: Lew Pond

Reviewed by: Margie McHenry

Lew Pond, Plng & Resource Mgt. Analyst

Margie McHenry, Sr. Staff Analyst

Date: 5/8/03

Date: 5/8/03

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST FORM
(TO BE COMPLETED BY LEAD AGENCY)

I. BACKGROUND:

- A. Name of Proponent: County of Fresno
- B. Applications and Project Description: Initial Study No. 4877 and Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055; Allow modification of the existing Conditional Use Permits to allow use of Alternative Daily Cover for the American Avenue Landfill on a 437.72-acre parcel of land in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture, twenty-acre minimum parcel size) District.
- C. On the north side of W. American Avenue between S. Butte Avenue and the S. Humboldt Avenue alignment, approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman (18950 W. American Avenue) (APN 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 06ST, 09ST, and 13ST, portion of 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 33ST, 34ST and 35ST)

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

(Explanations for all "YES" and "MAYBE" answers are required on attached sheets.)

	YES	MAYBE	NO
A. EARTH - Will the proposal result in:			
1. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?	_____	_____	_____X_____
2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of the soil?	_____	_____	_____X_____
3. Changes in topography or ground surface relief features?	_____	_____	_____X_____
4. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	_____	_____	_____X_____
5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	_____	_____	_____X_____
6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river, stream, bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?	_____	_____	_____X_____

	YES	MAYBE	NO
7. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	_____	_____	X _____
B. AIR – Will the proposal result in:			
1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?	_____	_____	X _____
2. The creation of objectionable odors?	_____	X _____	_____
3. Alteration of air movement, moisture, temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	_____	_____	X _____
C. WATER – Will the proposal result in:			
1. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?	_____	_____	X _____
2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	_____	X _____	_____
3. Alterations to the course or flow of floodwaters?	_____	_____	X _____
4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?	_____	_____	X _____
5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	_____	_____	X _____
6. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?	_____	_____	X _____
7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	_____	_____	X _____
8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?	_____	_____	X _____

	YES	MAYBE	NO
9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?	_____	_____	X _____
10. Change in the quality of ground water?	_____	_____	X _____
D. PLANT LIFE – Will the proposal result in:			
1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	_____	_____	X _____
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?	_____	_____	X _____
3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	_____	_____	X _____
4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?	_____	_____	X _____
E. ANIMAL LIFE – Will the proposal result in:			
1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms or insects)?	_____	_____	X _____
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	_____	_____	X _____
3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	_____	_____	X _____
4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?	_____	_____	X _____
F. NOISE – Will the proposal result in:			
1. Increases in noise levels?	_____	_____	X _____
2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	_____	_____	X _____
G. LIGHT AND GLARE – Will the proposal result in:			
1. An increase in light or glare?	_____	_____	X _____

YES MAYBE NO

H. **LAND USE** – Will the proposal result in:

1. Substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?

_____ _____ X

I. **NATURAL RESOURCES** – Will the proposal:

1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?

_____ _____ X

J. **RISK OF UPSET** – Will the proposal result in:

1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?

_____ _____ X

2. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?

_____ _____ X

K. **POPULATION** – Will the proposal:

1. Alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?

_____ _____ X

L. **HOUSING** – Will the proposal:

1. Affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?

_____ _____ X

M. **TRANSPORTATION / CIRCULATION** – Will the proposal result in:

1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?

_____ _____ X

2. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?

_____ _____ X

3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?

_____ _____ X

YES

MAYBE

NO

- 4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and / or goods?
- 5. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?
- 6. An increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?

N. **PUBLIC SERVICES** – Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

- 1. Fire protection?
- 2. Police protection?
- 3. Schools?
- 4. Parks or other recreational facilities?
- 5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?
- 6. Other governmental services?

O. **ENERGY** – Will the proposal result in:

- 1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?
- 2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources or energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?

P. **UTILITIES** – Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- 1. Power or natural gas?
- 2. Communication systems?
- 3. Water?

	YES	MAYBE	NO
4. Sewer or septic tanks?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
5. Storm water drainage?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
6. Solid waste and disposal?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
Q. HUMAN HEALTH – Will the proposal result in:			
1. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
R. AESTHETICS – Will the proposal result in:			
1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
S. RECREATION – Will the proposal result in:			
1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
T. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Will the proposal:			
1. Result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2. Result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure or object?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
3. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
4. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

YES MAYBE NO

U. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --

- | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|------------|
| 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | _____ | _____ | X
_____ |
| 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.) | _____ | _____ | X
_____ |
| 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.) | _____ | _____ | X
_____ |
| 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | _____ | _____ | X
_____ |

**Initial Study Attachment
Initial Study Application No. 4877
Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055
(County of Fresno)**

This discussion is keyed to the attached Initial Study Checklist Form prepared for this project and based on the comments received during the Initial Study process.

Project Description

Allow modification of the existing Conditional Use Permits to allow use of Alternative Daily Cover for the American Avenue Landfill on a 437.72 acre site located on the north side of W. American Avenue between S. Butte Avenue and the S. Humboldt Avenue alignment, approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman (18950 W. American Avenue) (APN 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 06T, 09ST, and 13ST, and 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 33ST, 34ST and 35ST).

Discussion

B. Air & Q. Human Health

B.(2), Q.(1,2) The Department of Community Health, Human Services System, (Health Department) has reviewed the subject application and indicated that improper use of the proposed Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) could result in potential odor, vector, and human health impacts. The Health Department recommended inclusion of a mitigation measure, agreed to by the applicant, requiring the applicant to discontinue use of the ADC and revert to use of compacted earthen cover material should the application of ADC become impractical, or contribute to conditions hazardous to the public health and safety or the environment.

C. Water

(3.) The subject application could result in changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff with the use of reusable tarps or geosynthetic film. These impacts are not considered to be significant because stormwater runoff will continue to be collected and diverted to the existing on-site stormwater retention basin.

N. Public Services

(1.) One of the forms of ADC proposed by the applicant is the use of reusable and non-reusable geosynthetic blanket and film products. Because of fire safety precautions that must be taken at landfills, the applicant was requested to provide manufacturer's specifications for the geosynthetic products for review by the North Central Fire District (Fire District). The Fire District indicated that the blanket and film products have been shown to be non-combustible and, therefore, expressed no concerns with the project.

The applicant has requested that other State-approved forms of ADC be permitted. Because of potential impacts that other ADCs may have on fire protection services, a mitigation measure is included, as described in the "Other" Section below stating that the proposed use of such ADC may require additional environmental review.

Other

According to the Operational Statement, the applicant proposes other State-approved forms of ADC be permitted other than those specifically discussed in this Initial Study. Potential impacts relating to the use of other State-approved ADC's were addressed with a mitigation measure requiring that prior to use of additional State-approved ADC's, specifications on the proposed ADC be submitted to determine if additional environmental review will be required.

Conclusion:

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Potential impacts to air quality and human health are addressed with inclusion of a mitigation measure requiring the applicant to discontinue use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) should it come impractical or contribute to conditions hazardous to public health and safety or the environment. Potential impacts relating to future use of other State-approved ADC's were addressed with a mitigation measure requiring that prior to use of additional State-approved ADC's, specifications on the proposed ADC be submitted to determine if additional environmental review will be required. Impacts related to increases in stormwater runoff and fire protection are not considered to be significant. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Ste. "A", Fresno, CA.

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MITIGATION MEASURES
Initial Study Application No. 4877
Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055
(County of Fresno)

This project has been modified to incorporate the following provisions to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects identified in the above environmental document. A substantial change in these provisions may affect the validity of the current environmental document, and a new or amended environmental document may be required. The mitigation measures must be included as project conditions and be identified with an asterisk (*) so they can readily be identified as mandatory mitigation measures for this project.

- 1*. Should the application of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) become impractical, or contribute to conditions hazardous to the public health and safety on the environment, the owner or operator shall terminate such use and revert to the use of compacted earthen cover material in accordance with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20680. Impractical conditions are those which make placement of ADC difficult due to adverse climactic or other conditions such that the performance requirements of Section 20690 (a)(2) cannot be met.
- 2*. Prior to use of State-approved Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), other than geosynthetic fabric/panel products or processed green waste material, the owner or operator shall submit specifications on the proposed (ADC) to the Development Services Division for determination regarding the need for additional environmental analysis.

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File original and one copy with: Fresno County Clerk 2221 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721		Space Below For County Clerk Only.	
Agency File No: IS 4877		LOCAL AGENCY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00	
Responsible Agency (Name): Fresno County		County Clerk File No: E-	
Address (Street and P.O. Box): 2220 Tulare St. Sixth Floor		City: Fresno	Zip Code: 93721
Agency Contact Person (Name and Title): Low Pond, Planning & Resource Analyst		Area Code: 559	Telephone Number: 262-4321
Applicant (Name): County of Fresno		Extension: -0-	
Project Description:		Project Title: Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055	
<p>Allow modification of the existing Conditional Use Permits to allow use of Alternative Daily Cover for the American Avenue Landfill on a 437.72 acre site located on the north side of W. American Avenue between S. Butte Avenue and the S. Humboldt Avenue alignment, approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman (18950 W. American Avenue) (APN 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 06T, 09ST, and 13ST, and 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 33ST, 34ST and 35ST).</p>			
<p>Justification for Negative Declaration: Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Potential impacts to air quality and human health are addressed with inclusion of a mitigation measure requiring the applicant to discontinue use of Alternative Daily Cover should it become impractical or contribute to conditions hazardous to public health and safety on the environment. Impacts related to increases in stormwater runoff and fire protection are not considered to be significant. Potential impacts relating to future use of other State-approved ADC's were addressed with a mitigation measure requiring that prior to use of additional State-approved ADC's, specifications on the proposed ADC be submitted to determine if additional environmental review will be required. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Ste. "A", Fresno, CA.</p>			
<p>FINDING: The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.</p>			
Newspaper and Date of Publication: Fresno Business Journal – May 9, 2003		Review Date Deadline: Planning Commission, May 29, 2003	
Date:	Type or Print Signature: Margie McHenry, Senior Staff Analyst	Submitted by (Signature):	

State 15083, 15085

**LOCAL AGENCY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**
(not to exceed one page)

County Clerk File No.

MITIGATION MEASURES
Initial Study Application No. 4877
Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3055
(County of Fresno)

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- 1*. Should the application of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) become impractical, or contribute to conditions hazardous to the public health and safety on the environment, the owner or operator shall terminate such use and revert to the use of compacted earthen cover material in accordance with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20680. Impractical conditions are those which make placement of ADC difficult due to adverse climactic or other conditions such that the performance requirements of Section 20690 (a)(2) cannot be met.

- 2*. Prior to use of State-approved Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), other than geosynthetic fabric/panel products or processed green waste material, the owner or operator shall submit specifications on the proposed (ADC) to the Development Services Division for determination regarding the need for additional environmental analysis.

Richard S. Galt
Principal Staff Analyst
Resources Division
Applicant

5/14/03
Date

OPERATIONAL STATEMENT

Use of Alternative Daily Cover at the American Avenue Disposal Site

Project Summary

The County of Fresno (County) proposes to use California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)-approved alternative daily cover (ADC) at the County-owned and -operated American Avenue Disposal Site (Disposal Site). The use of ADC is necessary because the County will run out of soil to cover solid waste by January 2004. The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) has indicated that the use of ADC will require a revision to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Disposal Site. Consequently, an Initial Study is being conducted to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the use of ADC. No other changes to the operational parameters of the Disposal Site are proposed under this project.

Disposal Site Background Information

The Disposal Site is situated in the rural central portion of the County. It is located approximately 17 miles west of the City of Fresno and approximately six miles southwest of the City of Kerman. The 440-acre facility is located on the north side of West American Avenue, approximately four miles west of State Highway 145 (see Figure 1). Surrounding land use to the east and south consists of agriculture, orchards, vineyards, and cotton fields. To the north, land is primarily used for agriculture and there are a few single-family residences within 1,000 feet of the Disposal Site. Land use to the west is a mixture of residential, agricultural, and undeveloped land.

The Disposal Site is designated Agriculture and zoned AE-20, Exclusive Agriculture, 20-acre minimum parcel size. Land within one mile of the Disposal Site is compatible with the above land use designation and zoning.

The Disposal Site is owned by the County and operated by the County Department of Public Works and Planning. It is a permitted Class III municipal solid waste facility and hazardous wastes are not accepted.

Operational Statement
Page 2

In 1985, CUP No. 2146 was approved, which provided for the expansion of the Disposal Site from 30 acres to a 440-acre regional facility. (CUP No. 2146 also allowed the processing of green waste at the Disposal Site.) An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared at that time to analyze the potential effects of the expansion, and a final EIR was certified. In 1993, CUP No. 2623 was approved, along with a Negative Declaration, to allow the daily average tonnage to increase to 1,640 tons with a peak tonnage of 2,400 tons per day (TPD). In 1998, the County filed CUP Application No. 2804 to revise CUP No. 2623 to increase the average daily tonnage from 1,640 to 2,200 TPD and peak daily tonnage from 2,400 to 3,600 TPD. This project entailed the attendant revision of the Solid Waste Facilities Permit, and a Supplemental Environmental EIR was prepared for this project. In 1999, CUP No. 2804 was approved and the final Supplemental EIR was certified.

Disposal Site Operations

The Disposal Site is under regulatory authority of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the CIWMB, and the County Department of Community Health. The Department of Community Health is the LEA for the CIWMB. The County operates the Disposal Site under State Waste Discharge Requirements, a Solid Waste Facility Permit, and a CUP.

The current waste stream is comprised of residential, commercial, industrial, and self-hauled wastes. All drivers of vehicles containing solid waste enter off West American Avenue and are weighed at the Disposal Site scalehouse. The attendant fee is charged for the type and amount of solid waste contained in the vehicle. Approximately 90 percent of the solid waste delivered to the Disposal Site is comprised of commercial waste haulers and the remaining 10 percent consists of private vehicles including self-haulers, contractors, businesses, and County maintenance vehicles.

The Disposal Site is open seven days a week and closed New Years Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

In 2001, a total of approximately 522,400 tons of solid waste were delivered to the Disposal Site. The annual average daily tonnage for 2001 was approximately 1,443 tons. Based on the latest available data from January through November 2002, approximately 471,864 tons of solid waste has been delivered to the Disposal Site. The average daily tonnage, from January through November 2002, is 1,425 tons.

The total number of vehicles delivering solid waste to the Disposal Site during 2001 was 65,822. The average daily number of vehicles for the same time period was 182. Based on the latest available data through November 2002, the total number of vehicles is 61,832, and the average daily number of vehicles is 187.

The Disposal Site is operated using an area fill method. Solid waste is placed in lifts and compacted by equipment operated by Disposal Site personnel. After a lift is completed, usually at the end of each business day, daily soil cover is placed on top of the solid waste. Large or bulky wastes are placed in the lower portion of the advancing lift, separated to prevent bridging of the surrounding solid waste, and crushed by compaction equipment. Cover soils are obtained from on-site excavations. The soil cover is litter-free, non-combustible, and prevents detectable odors off-site.

The operation of disposal sites and placement of daily cover soils is addressed by the requirements of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The placement of daily cover is designed to prevent the generation of potential vector, fire hazard, water infiltration, odor, and erosion impacts.

Project Description

Title 27 of the CCR requires the placement of a six-inch layer of soil to cover solid waste placed in a disposal site. Title 27 also allows the use of ADC and specifies ten categories of approved categories/materials that do not require a site specific demonstration project. At this time, the County is considering only two of these categories/materials—geosynthetic blanket and panel products and processed green waste. The County, however, reserves the right to use other approved ADC categories/materials in the future due to changes in State law.

Geosynthetic blanket and panel products consist of reusable tarps and nonreusable film products. The County is investigating the use of either product. Reusable tarps come in varying sizes to accommodate the size of the active working face at the disposal site. If the County uses tarps, they will be placed over the active area of the working face by manual or equipment-assisted means; this will take place at the conclusion of the delivery of solid waste at the end of each business day. Each morning, the tarps will be removed and stored a short distance away from the active portion of the working face prior to the delivery of new solid waste.

Operational Statement

Page 4

Nonreusable film products are produced in varying sizes, and are typically lain in overlapping panels to provided coverage over the working face. Using an equipment attachment, the film is rolled out and ballast is concurrently placed to anchor the film down over the solid waste. The following morning, new solid waste is place directly over the film.

Processed green waste consists of yard trimmings, brush, residential or community garden wastes, and untreated wood wastes that are free from contamination. The green waste would be delivered to the Disposal Site by self-haulers and, possibly in the future, by commercial haulers and businesses. This material would be diverted and processed by a contractor into material suitable for use as ADC (the County may elect to have the stockpiled green waste transported off-site for processing at a permitted facility). It is projected that the amount of green waste delivered to the Disposal Site by self-haulers will be approximately 1,426 tons per year.

The processing of green waste at the Disposal Site is allowed by CUP No. 2146. Disposal Site personnel will be responsible for transporting and applying the processed green waste to the Disposal Site working face.

Potential Environmental Effects of the Project

This section discusses the potential environmental effects of using the two referenced ADC categories/materials. (As stated, the County reserves the right to use yet-unspecified ADC categories/materials due to future changes in State law.) Only those environmental topics that apply to this project are discussed below.

Land Use and Planning

The Disposal Site is designated Agriculture and zoned AE-20. Surrounding land is designated Agriculture and zoned AE-20. The use of the two ADC categories/materials will not change the existing designation and zoning for the Disposal Site and adjacent land, and not affect County land use policies governing the facility and surrounding land. Further, no new buildings or structures will be constructed at the Disposal Site due to the application of the two ADC categories/materials. No significant land use and planning effects are expected due to the use of the two ADC categories/materials.

Geology and Soils

Potential issues include disposal site slope stability and erosion. Runoff from active Disposal Site areas is directed away from the working face to perimeter drainage ditches which discharge to a retention basin located at the southwest corner of the facility. Water in the retention basin is allowed to percolate into the underlying soil. The use of the two ADC categories/materials will replace the use of daily soil cover and it is expected that this process will not modify existing slope stability and erosion conditions.

Water

The use of geosynthetic blanket and panel products and processed green waste will not require the use of water and, consequently, decrease water use.

One of the purposes of ADC is to minimize the production of leachate, which is created as liquid percolates through solid waste. The Disposal Site is equipped with an automated leachate collection and removal system. This system is monitored monthly in order to track the volume of leachate generated. The use of geosynthetic blanket and panel products or processed green waste will provide a barrier equivalent to soil cover and will continue to minimize the production of leachate within the Disposal Site.

Air Quality

Disposal Site operations generate vehicular emissions, dust, and methane gas. Vehicular emissions include reactive organic gases, nitrous oxides, and carbon monoxide. Dust is generated through normal Disposal Site operations, which include travel over facility roads, excavation of soils, and deposition of solid waste. Methane gas is generated from the anaerobic biological decomposition of organic matter found in solid waste.

The Supplemental EIR prepared in 1999 identified a range of existing and proposed mitigation measures (e.g., application of water and dust palliatives on roads) to address potential air quality impacts. Compared to the amount of dust generated from the placement of daily soil cover, the use of geosynthetic blanket and panel products will result in the generation of less dust. It is projected that the use of processed green waste will not increase the amount of dust that is generated by the application of daily soil cover.

The geosynthetic blanket and panel products will be delivered to the Disposal Site and either reused, or left on the working face and covered by solid waste on a daily basis. Accordingly, there will be a limited number of additional vehicular trips associated with the periodic delivery of these materials. The green waste will be delivered to the Disposal Site as part of standard business operations and diverted for processing by the contractor. Once the green waste is processed, this material will be suitable for use as ADC. Overall, it is expected that air quality conditions at the Disposal Site will not change due to the use of the two ADC categories/materials.

Transportation/Circulation

Based on the latest available data, the average daily vehicular trips per day, from January through November 2002, is 187. The average daily tonnage for 2002, through November, is 1,425 tons. CUP No. 2804 allows delivery rates of 2,200 TPD, and a peak delivery rate of 3,600 TPD. The type of vehicles delivering solid waste to the Disposal Site include transfer rigs, packer trucks, commercial vehicles, and self-hauler vehicles. The County employs 21 people who work at the Disposal Site and they drive their own vehicles to and from the facility. No new employees will be hired to apply the two ADC categories/materials, and the proposed project will not result in increased tonnage deliveries to the Disposal Site.

The use of geosynthetic blanket and panel products will result in a small increase in vehicular trips since these materials will be delivered to the Disposal Site on a periodic basis, and stored on-site and either reused or applied as required. The use of processed green waste will not increase the number of vehicular trips. In summary, it is expected that the use of the two ADC categories/materials at the Disposal Site will result in an insignificant increase in vehicular trips at the facility.

Noise

Noise is generated from traffic traveling along West American Avenue, vehicles entering the Disposal Site, and from equipment used at the facility.

Operational Statement
Page 7

The use of geosynthetic blanket and panel products will not cause existing noise levels to increase since the working face is covered with soil on a daily basis. For the same reason, the use of processed green waste is not expected to increase existing noise levels associated with the application of daily cover. In summary, the use of the two ADC categories/materials is expected to not result in a significant increase in existing noise levels.

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County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
ALAN WEAVER
DIRECTOR

Planning Commission Staff Report Agenda Item No. 2 March 14, 2013

SUBJECT: Initial Study Application No. 6631 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3393

Allow a 15,000 square-foot household hazardous waste collection and management facility within an existing 440-acre waste disposal site in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture; 20-acre minimum parcel size required) Zone District.

LOCATION: The project is located at the northwest corner of W. American and S. Humboldt Avenues approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman in the Fresno County (SUP. DIST.: 1) (18950 W. American Avenue) (APN: 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 06T, 09ST, 13ST; 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 33ST, 34ST, 35ST).

Applicant: County of Fresno
Owner: County of Fresno

STAFF CONTACT: Ejaz Ahmad, Planner
(559) 600-4204

Chris Motta, Principal Planner
(559) 600-4227

RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study (IS) Application No. 6631; and
- Approve Unclassified Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application No. 3393 with recommended Findings and Conditions; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor / Fresno, California 93721 / Phone (559) 600-4497 / 600-4022 / 600-4540 FAX 600-4200
Equal Employment Opportunity • Affirmative Action • Disabled Employer

IMPACTS ON JOB CREATION:

The Commission’s action will have a limited effect on job creation. Short-term jobs associated with construction activity could occur as the result of this proposal.

EXHIBITS:

1. Mitigation Monitoring, Conditions of Approval, and Project Notes
2. Location Map
3. Existing Zoning Map
4. Existing Land Use Map
5. Site Plan
6. Floor Plan/Elevations
7. Applicant’s Submitted Operational Statement
8. Summary of Initial Study Application No. 6631

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION:

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
General Plan Designation	Agriculture	N/A
Zoning	AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural; 20-acre minimum parcel size required)	N/A
Parcel Size	440 acres	N/A
Project Site	American Avenue waste disposal site with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Hauler • Scale House • Office and Maintenance Shop • Parking • Perimeter fencing 	A 15,000 square-foot household hazardous waste (HHW) collection and management facility within the 440-acre American Avenue waste disposal site. The project includes:
Structural Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Hauler • Scale House • Office and maintenance shop • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 320 and 96 square-foot Haz Mat storage containers • 110 square-foot recycle storage container • 90 square-foot storage

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perimeter fencing 	containers with a 1,200 square-foot canopied area dedicated for loading/sorting of the HHW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 160 square-foot office 144 square-foot flush toilet with septic and leach field 1,500 gallon potable water storage tank 10,000 gallon fire suppression water storage tank
Nearest Residence	3,000 feet (approximately) northeast of the proposed facility	No change
Surrounding Development	Vineyard, orchard, single family residences	No change
Operational Features	American Avenue waste disposal site with related improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow a 15,000 square-foot household hazardous waste collection and management facility within the existing waste disposal site. The facility will operate a Reuse Center (for the distribution of useable Household Hazardous Waste) and PaintCare Program (for the recycling of architectural coatings) as well as serve as a Certified Used Oil Collection Center and a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Collection site. Material collected from County residents and small businesses will be sorted, tested, packed and placed into containers Recyclable solid wastes will be sent off-site to a recycling facility and non-recyclables will be sent off-site for disposal. HHW will be accepted between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays once a week; 4

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
		<p>weeks/month; 10 months/year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility will operate 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday); 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Saturdays); and 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Sundays)
Employees	<p>9 (on-site) 6 (off-site)</p>	<p>3 to 4 full-time (initially) Up to 10 full-time (at full build-out)</p>
Customers	<p>American Avenue waste disposal site:</p> <p>757 per week (maximum allowed: 2,527 per week)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 per each Friday-business customer (initially) 90 per each Friday-business customer (at full build-out) 100 per each Saturday-residential customer (initially) 200 per each Saturday-residential customer (at full build-out)
Traffic Trips	<p>3,160 vehicle trips per week for the American Avenue waste disposal site (maximum allowed: 5,054 vehicle trips per week)</p>	<p>At full build-out, the proposed facility will add a total of 876.5 vehicle trips per week (780 trips by residential and business participants, 6 by visitors, 84 by employees and 6.5 by service and delivery trucks) to the existing 3,160 vehicle trips per week for the American Avenue waste disposal site.</p>
Lighting	<p>Outdoor lighting for the existing improvements on the property</p>	<p>Perimeter lighting and task lighting at various workstations</p>
Hours of Operation	<p>American Avenue Waste disposal site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays 	<p>Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Management facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays; and 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays Drop off from business

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
		customers: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Fridays; and from residential customers on Saturdays

EXISTING VIOLATION (Y/N) AND NATURE OF VIOLATION: N

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified as having been prepared and considered by the decision-making body in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 2146 on May 7, 1985, authorizing the expansion of the 30-acre American Avenue landfill into a 440-acre regional non-hazardous sanitary landfill.

Section 15162 of CEQA states that once an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared unless: 1) substantial changes are proposed to the project; 2) substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; or, 3) new information of substantial importance is presented which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous EIR and Negative Declaration was certified. The EIR prepared for the project was certified by the Board of Supervisors.

The subject application was reviewed by various agencies none of which identified any substantial changes to the environment resulting from this proposal which would trigger the need to prepare a supplemental EIR. As a result, an IS was prepared for the project by County staff in conformance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the IS, staff has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. A summary of the Initial Study is below and included as Exhibit 8.

Notice of Intent of Negative Declaration publication date: May 4, 2012.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notices were sent to 25 property owners within 1,320 feet of the subject property exceeding the minimum notification requirements prescribed by the California Government Code and County Zoning Ordinance.

PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A CUP Application may be approved only if four Findings specified in Zoning Ordinance Section 873-F are made by the Planning Commission. The decision of the Planning Commission on a CUP Application is final unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the Commission's action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The project will be located within an existing 440-acre American Avenue waste disposal site.

County records indicates that, over the past several decades, the current use of the property has been expanded and modified through the approval of various discretionary land use and site plan review approvals.

The first Conditional Use Permit No. 953 was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on March 16, 1971 to permit a 20-acre sanitary land-fill disposal site. The site was expanded over an additional ten acres with the approval of Conditional Use Permit No. 1665 on December 27, 1979. Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application No. 2146 and related Environmental Impact Report (EIR) were approved by the County Board of Supervisors on May 7, 1985 to authorize expansion of the 30-acre disposal site into a 440-acre current regional non-hazardous sanitary landfill. Later, on September 9, 1993, modifications to CUP 2164 by CUP 2623 resulted in an increase in the daily deliveries from 1,200 tons to 1,640 tons. Related to these approvals, Site Plan Review (SPR) Nos. 5947 and 6324 and a revised SPR were approved on May 6, 1987, May 23, 1991 and January 9, 1994 for phased expansions of the facility and related improvements which included scales, gate house, office and maintenance building, and parking.

The current Conditional Use Permit No 3393 proposes a 15,000 square-foot Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility on the subject property. The proposed facility will operate a Reuse Center (for the distribution of useable Household Hazardous Waste) and PaintCare Program (for the recycling of architectural coatings) as well as serve as a Certified Used Oil Collection Center and a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Collection site. The facility will collect and process household hazardous waste (HHW) from county residents and small businesses. Recyclable solid wastes will be sent to an appropriate recycling facility and non-recyclable solid wastes will be shipped off-site for disposal.

As was required for prior approvals, approval of this application would require Site Plan Review (Section 874 of the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance). Through the Site Plan Review process, the staff will make sure that prior to occupancy being granted for the proposed use, on-site and off-site improvements have been constructed according to the property development standards of the Zone District.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Finding 1: The site of the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate said use and all yards, spaces, walls and fences, parking, loading, landscaping, and other features required by this Division, to adjust said use with land and uses in the neighborhood.

	Current Standard:	Proposed Operation:	Is Standard Met (y/n)
Setbacks	Front: 35 feet Sides: 20 feet Rear: 20 feet	Front (south property line abutting American Avenue): 220 feet Rear (north property line): 6,380 feet Side (east property line): 2,640 feet Side (west property line): 6,380 feet	Yes
Parking	N/A	Seven paved parking stalls	N/A

	Current Standard:	Proposed Operation:	Is Standard Met (y/n)
Lot Coverage	No requirement	15,000 square-foot portion of a 440-acre site	N/A
Separation Between Buildings	Six foot minimum	N/A	N/A
Wall Requirements	No requirement	N/A	N/A
Septic Replacement Area	100 percent	Septic tank and leach field for a 144 square-foot flush toilet	Yes. Site is adequate in size to accommodate the septic replacement area
Water Well Separation	Septic tank: 50 feet; Disposal field: 100 feet; Seepage pit: 150 feet	Will utilize an existing on-site well	Yes. The well is over 100 feet from the disposal field

Reviewing Agency/Department Comments:

Zoning Section of the Development Services Division: Proposed improvements satisfy the setback requirements of the AE-20 Zone District in which the project site is located.

No comments specific to the adequacy of the site were expressed by reviewing Agencies or Departments.

Analysis:

Staff review of the Site Plan by the Zoning Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning demonstrates that the proposed development exceeds the minimum building setback requirements of the AE-20 Zone District. The proposed facility will be setback approximately 220 feet from the southern property line (35 feet required), 6,380 feet from the northern property line (20 feet required), 2,640 feet from the eastern property line (20 feet required); and 6,380 feet from the western property line (20 feet required). Ample area is available on the property for traffic circulation. The project will use the existing access to the site off of American Avenue.

Based on the above information, staff believes the site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the proposed use.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

None.

Conclusion:

Finding 1 can be made.

Finding 2: *The site for the proposed use relates to streets and highways adequate in width and pavement type to carry the quantity and kind of traffic generated by the proposed use.*

		Existing Conditions	Proposed Operation
Private Road	No	N/A	N/A
Public Road Frontage	Yes	Good (American Avenue)	No change
Direct Access to Public Road	Yes	Good (American Avenue)	No change
Road ADT		1900	No change
Road Classification		Arterial with 60 existing right-of-way	No change
Road Width		24.2 feet	No change
Road Surface		Asphalt paved	No change
Traffic Trips		3,160 vehicle trips per week for the American Avenue waste disposal site (maximum allowed: 5,054 vehicle trips per week)	At full build-out, the project will add a total of 876.5 vehicle trips per week (780 trips by residential and business participants, 6 by visitors, 84 by employees and 6.5 by service and delivery trucks) to the existing 3,160 vehicles trips per week for the American Avenue waste disposal site
Traffic Impact Study (TIS) Prepared	No	American Avenue landfill traffic	No TIS required by the County Design Division
Road Improvements Required		No. American Avenue is in good condition	No change

Reviewing Agency/Department Comments:

Road Maintenance and Operations Division, Development Engineering Section (Department of Public Works and Planning): No concerns with the proposal.

Design Division (Development Services Division): No concerns with the proposal.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans): No concerns with the proposal.

No other comments related to the adequacy of street and highways were expressed by reviewing Agencies or Departments.

Analysis:

The project will utilize the existing American Avenue access to the property (Exhibit 5). The County Design Division and California Department of Transportation review of the project did not require a Traffic Impact Study (TIS). Additional traffic generated by this proposal will remain below the threshold of maximum traffic trips currently allowed to the 440-acre American Avenue waste disposal site. Given the project will generate limited traffic, no additional road right-of-way or off-site street improvements are required for this application.

Based on the above information, staff believes that American Avenue at the subject property will remain adequate to accommodate the proposed use.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

- None

Conclusion:

Finding 2 can be made.

Finding 3: The proposed use will have no adverse effect on abutting property and surrounding neighborhood or the permitted use thereof.

Surrounding Parcels				
	Size:	Use:	Zoning:	Nearest Residence:
North	Five acres to 40 acres	Single Family residence with field crops	AE-20	156 feet north
South	323 acres to 483 acres	Orchard; field crops	AE-20	None
East	320 acres	Orchard; field crops	AE-20	None
West	1.25 acres to 11.25 acres	Single family residence with open field	AE-20	130 feet west

Reviewing Agency/Department Comments:

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Drinking Water: Public shall not be allowed to access any utilities, including water at the proposed facility.

North Central Fire District: A fire sprinkler system shall be installed in accordance with the Fresno Fire Department Limited Area Sprinkler Standard under the canopy due to the extended response time from the nearest fire station. Fire sprinkler system and the suppression systems in the Hazardous Material containers shall be monitored. The project shall be provided with a minimum 20,000 gallon water tank and UL listed fire pump in the 100-150 gallon per minute (gpm) range and a 4½ inch suction outlet for water tank for use by fire apparatus within 10 feet of an access road, or install a fire hydrant with a minimum 8-inch main and a fire flow of 1,500 gpm within 10 feet of the access road. A fire protection water line shall be extended from the existing fire pump at the adjacent County facility to provide a water supply to the fire sprinkler system and to a fire hydrant. Given the distance, a minimum eight-inch water line is required to run the line. Additional gates to the facility shall be provided with a fire access bypass keyway for electric gates or a fire access padlock for manual gates.

This aforementioned requirement has been included as Conditions of Approval.

Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division: Prior to occupancy, the Applicant shall complete and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan or a Business Plan Exemption form. All hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5. An application for revision of the existing solid waste facility permit shall be filed with the enforcement agency (LEA) at least 180 days prior to the proposed facility operations. A Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Permit by Rule Notification (DTSC Form 1094B) (11/08) shall be submitted to the County of Fresno Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, CUPA Program.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District: The project will be subject to Air District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule); Rule 2010 (Permits required) pursuant to District Rule 9510, Section 4.4.3; Regulation VIII – (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations), Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants) may apply to the project.

Zoning Section (Development Services Division): Building permits will be required for all improvements noted under Items 9 and 10 of the Operational Statement (Exhibit 7).

Building and Safety Section (Development Services Division): Plans, permits and inspections will be required for the proposed development.

Development Engineering Section of the Development Services Division: An Engineered Grading and Drainage Plan will be required for all on-site and off-site improvements. A Grading Permit or Voucher will be required for any grading proposed with this application

The aforementioned requirements have been included as Project Notes.

Water/Geology/Natural Resources Section of the Development Services Division: No water related concerns with the proposal.

Fresno County Design and Road Maintenance and Operations Divisions, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans): No concerns with the proposal.

Analysis:

The project is located in an agricultural area. Surrounding parcels contain orchards and vineyards with sparsely located single family residences and range from 1.25-acre to 320-acre in size. The nearest single family residence is approximately 3,000 feet northwest of the proposed facility. The existing improvements on the property include scales, a scale house, an office and maintenance shop, and parking.

The proposed household hazardous waste facility will occupy a 15,000 square-foot portion of a 440-acre waste disposal site. The recyclable household hazardous waste (HHW) collected at the site from county residents and small businesses will be shipped to an off-site recycling facility and non-recyclable solid wastes to an off-site disposal site. Equipment used during the facility operation includes: hazardous materials storage containers, recyclable storage trailer, modular office, and several storage modules for loading, sorting, and consolidation of Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW). All equipment including a proposed water storage tank and a canopy over HHW reception/sorting area will be within 20 foot height.

The Initial Study prepared for this project identified potential impacts related to aesthetics. To minimize this impact, a mitigation measure is recommended in the Initial Study and has been accepted by the applicant. The mitigation measure requires that all lighting be hooded and directed in such a manner as not to produce glare upon adjacent roads and properties. Other impacts identified in the IS related to air quality, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, utilities and service system have been determined to be less than significant.

Staff notes that the proposed facility: 1) maintains small footprint in comparison to the 440-acre waste disposal site in which it is located; 2) maintains low height and is similar in look/design to the existing improvements on the property; and 3) similar in its function to the current use of the property. Further, the facility will be: 1) set back at a reasonable distance from the nearest farmland; 2) enclosed by chain-link fencing; and 3) will be hidden from view from American Avenue due to the existing eight-foot high berm and mature trees along the perimeter of the site.

Based on the above information and with adherence to a Mitigation Measure, Conditions of Approval including the recommended Site Plan Review and Project Notes as described above, staff believes this proposal will have no adverse effect on abutting properties and surrounding land uses.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

- See attached Exhibit 1 (Mitigation Measure, Conditions of Approval and Project Notes)

Conclusion:

Finding 3 can be made.

Finding 4: *The proposed development is consistent with the General Plan.*

Relevant Policies:	Consistency/Considerations:
<p>General Plan Policy LU-A.3: County may allow by discretionary permit in areas designated Agriculture, certain agricultural uses and agriculturally-related activities, including certain non-agricultural uses, subject to the following criteria: a) Use shall provide a needed service to surrounding agricultural area, which cannot be provided within urban areas; b) Use shall not be sited on productive agricultural lands if less productive lands available; c) Use shall not have a detrimental impact on water resources or the use or management of surrounding properties within 1/4 mile radius; d) Probable workforce located nearby or readily available.</p>	<p>With regard to Criteria “a”, the proposed facility is to provide a safe and efficient means for Fresno County residents and small businesses to dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) and is needed. With regard to Criteria “b”, the project is not located on productive farmland. Rather, it is located within a 440-acre American Avenue waste disposal site which has been heavily disturbed with the existing land fill operations. With regard to Criteria “c”, the project involves limited water use and as such will not impact groundwater resources, as noted by the Water-Geology-Natural Resources Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning. With regard to Criteria “d”, the project is located approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman and 3.2 mile northeast of the City of San Joaquin and can provide an adequate workforce.</p>
<p>Policy LU-A.12: Agricultural activities be protected from encroachment of incompatible uses, Policy LU-A.13 requires buffers between proposed non-agricultural uses and adjacent agricultural operations, and Policy LU-A.14 requires an assessment of the conversion of productive agricultural land and that mitigation be required where appropriate.</p>	<p>The proposed facility is located on an existing waste disposal site and not on farmland. The facility will be enclosed by an eight-foot high chain-link fence and will be set back approximately 300 feet from the nearest farmland to the south of the property.</p>
<p>General Plan Policy HS-B.1: Fire hazards should be identified to reduce the risk to life and property.</p>	<p>The project will adhere to fire protection requirements from the North Central Fire Protection District which has been included as Conditions of Approval.</p>
<p>General Plan Policy HS-F.1: Facilities handling hazardous materials or wastes shall be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable hazardous materials and waste management laws and regulation.</p>	<p>The project is consistent with this policy in that it would adhere to all the federal, state, and local laws for construction and operation of the facility.</p>
<p>General Plan Policy PF-C.17: County shall</p>	<p>The Water/Geology/Natural Resources</p>

Relevant Policies:	Consistency/Considerations:
undertake a water supply evaluation, including determinations of water supply adequacy, impact on other water users in the County, and water sustainability.	Section of the Development Services Division reviewed the project and expressed no water-related concerns with the proposal. The proposal is consistent with this Policy.
General Plan Policy PF-F.2: All new solid waste disposal sites and related facilities shall be located in areas where potential environmental impacts can be mitigated and the facilities are compatible with surrounding land uses subject to criteria a. b. c. and d. Criteria PF-F.2 a. states that the solid waste facility shall not be located within the conical surface area as defined by the Federal Aviation Regulations. Criteria PF-F.2 b. states that the facility shall not be sited on productive agricultural land if less productive lands are available. Criteria PF-F.2 c. states that the facility shall be located in areas of low concentrations of people and dwellings. Criteria PF-F.2 d. states that the facility shall be located along or close to a major road system.	With regard to Criteria “a”, the proposal is not located within the conical surface area of an airport. With regard to Criteria “b”, the proposal is not located on farmland but on an existing waste disposal site. With regard to Criteria “c”, the project area has low concentrations of people and dwellings. With regard to Criteria “d”, the project site abuts American Avenue, which is a major thoroughfare in the area. The proposal meets this policy.
General Plan Policy PF-F.6: County shall impose site development and operational conditions on new solid waste facilities in order to mitigate potential environmental impacts on existing and planned land uses in the area.	The proposed facility will be located within an existing waste disposal site. Through mitigation measures and conditions of approval included in the Initial Study prepared for the project and Exhibit 1 of this report, potential environmental impacts on existing land uses in the area will be reduced to a less than significant level.

Reviewing Agency Comments:

Policy Planning Section of the Development Services Division: The subject property is designated Agriculture in the County General Plan and is not under a Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract. The project shall adhere to the aforementioned General Plan Policies LU-A.3, LU-A.12, LU-A.13, LU-A.14, HS-B.1, HS-F.1, PF-C.17, PF-F.2, and PF-F.6.

Analysis:

The General Plan allows the subject non-agricultural use in the areas designated Agriculture in the Fresno County provided the use substantially adheres to criteria a. through d. of Policy LU-A.3. The proposal meets all criteria of Policy LU-A.3. The project also meets criteria a. through d. of Policy PF-F.2 related to the project’s compatibility with surrounding land uses. Other

policies are also met in that the project: 1) is located on an existing waste disposal site; 2) maintains significant distance from the nearest farmland; 3) will adhere to local Fire Departments' requirements and federal, state, and local laws for construction and operation of the facility; and 4) will not impact groundwater resources.

Based on the above considerations, staff believes the proposal is consistent with the county General Plan.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

None.

Conclusion:

Finding 4 can be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CONCLUSION:

Staff believes the required Findings for granting the Unclassified CUP Application can be made based on the factors cited in the analysis, the recommended Conditions of Approval and Project Notes regarding mandatory requirements. Staff therefore recommends adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project and approval of Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3393 subject to the recommended Mitigation Measures, Conditions and Project Notes.

PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS:

Recommended Motion (Approval Action)

- Move to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study Application No. 6631; and
- Move to determine the required Findings can be made and move to approve Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3393, subject to the Mitigation Measure, Conditions of Approval and Project Notes attached as Exhibit 1; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

Alternative Motion (Denial Action)

- Move to determine that the required Findings cannot be made (state basis for not making the Findings) and move to deny Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3393; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

Mitigation Measures, Recommended Conditions of Approval and Project Notes:

See attached Exhibit 1.

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Exhibit-1
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
Initial Study (IS) No. 6631/Unclassified Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 3393
(Including Conditions of Approval and Project Notes)

EXHIBIT 1

Mitigation Measures					
Mitigation Measure No. *	Impact	Mitigation Measure Language	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Time Span
1.	Aesthetics	All outdoor lighting shall be hooded and directed so as not to shine toward public roads or surrounding properties.	Applicant	Applicant/PW&P	As noted
Conditions of Approval					
1.		Development of the property shall be in accordance with the Site Plan, Floor Plans, Elevations, and Operational Statement approved by the Commission.			
2.		A Site Plan Review (SPR) Application shall be submitted for approval by the Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning, in accordance with Section 874 of the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance. Items to be addressed under the SPR may include, but are not limited to: design of parking and circulation, driveway, access, grading and drainage, fire protection, and lighting.			
3.		As required by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Drinking Water, public shall not be allowed to access any utilities, including water at the proposed facility.			
4.		As required by the North Central Fire District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fire sprinkler system shall be installed in accordance with the Fresno Fire Department Limited Area Sprinkler Standard under the canopy due to the extended response time from the nearest fire station. Fire sprinkler system and the suppression systems in the Hazardous Material containers shall be monitored. The project shall be provided with a minimum 20,000 gallon water tank and UL listed fire pump in the 100-150 gallon per minute (gpm) range and a 4 1/2 inch suction outlet for water tank for use by fire apparatus within 10 feet of an access road, or install a fire hydrant with a minimum 8 inch main and a fire flow of 1500 gpm within 10 feet of the access road. A fire protection water line shall be extended from the existing fire pump at the adjacent County facility to provide a water supply to the fire sprinkler system and to a fire hydrant. Given the distance, a minimum eight-inch water line is required to run the line. Additional gates to the facility shall be provided with a fire access bypass keyway for electric gates or a fire access padlock for manual gates. 			

*MITIGATION MEASURE – Measure specifically applied to the project to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects identified in the environmental document and Conditions of Approval reference recommended Conditions for the project.

Notes

Notes

The following Notes reference mandatory requirements of Fresno County or other Agencies and are provided as information to the project Applicant.

1.	<p>Contact the Building and Safety Section of the Development Services Division at (559) 600-4540 regarding plans, permits and inspections for the proposed development. Building permits will be required for all improvements noted under Items 9 and 10 of the Operational Statement (Exhibit 7)</p>
2.	<p>According to the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (Health Department):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to occupancy, the Applicant shall complete and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan or a Business Plan Exemption form. • All hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5. • An application for revision of the existing solid waste facility permit shall be filed with the enforcement agency (LEA) at least 180 days prior to the proposed facility operations, • A Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Permit by Rule Notification (DTSC Form 1094B) (11/08) shall be submitted to the County of Fresno Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, CUPA Program. <p>Contact the Health Department at (559) 600-3271 for information.</p>
3.	<p>According to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District), the project may be subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule) • Rule 2010 (Permits required) pursuant to District Rule 9510, Section 4.4.3 • Regulation VIII – (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions) • Rule 4102 (Nuisance) • Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings) • Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations) • Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants) <p>Contact the Air District's Small Business Assistance Office at (559) 230-5888 for information.</p>
4.	<p>According to the Development Engineering Section of the Development Services Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Engineered Grading and Drainage Plan will be required for on-site and off-site improvements • A grading permit or voucher will be required for any grading proposed with this application. <p>Contact the Development Engineering Section of the Development Services Division at (559) 600-4022 for information.</p>
	<p>The project shall conform with the Fresno County Noise Ordinance related to construction noise limiting noise-generating construction</p>

Notes

activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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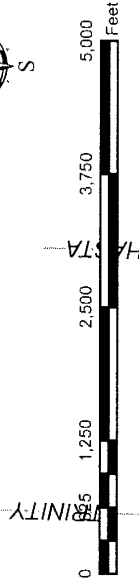
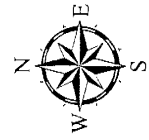
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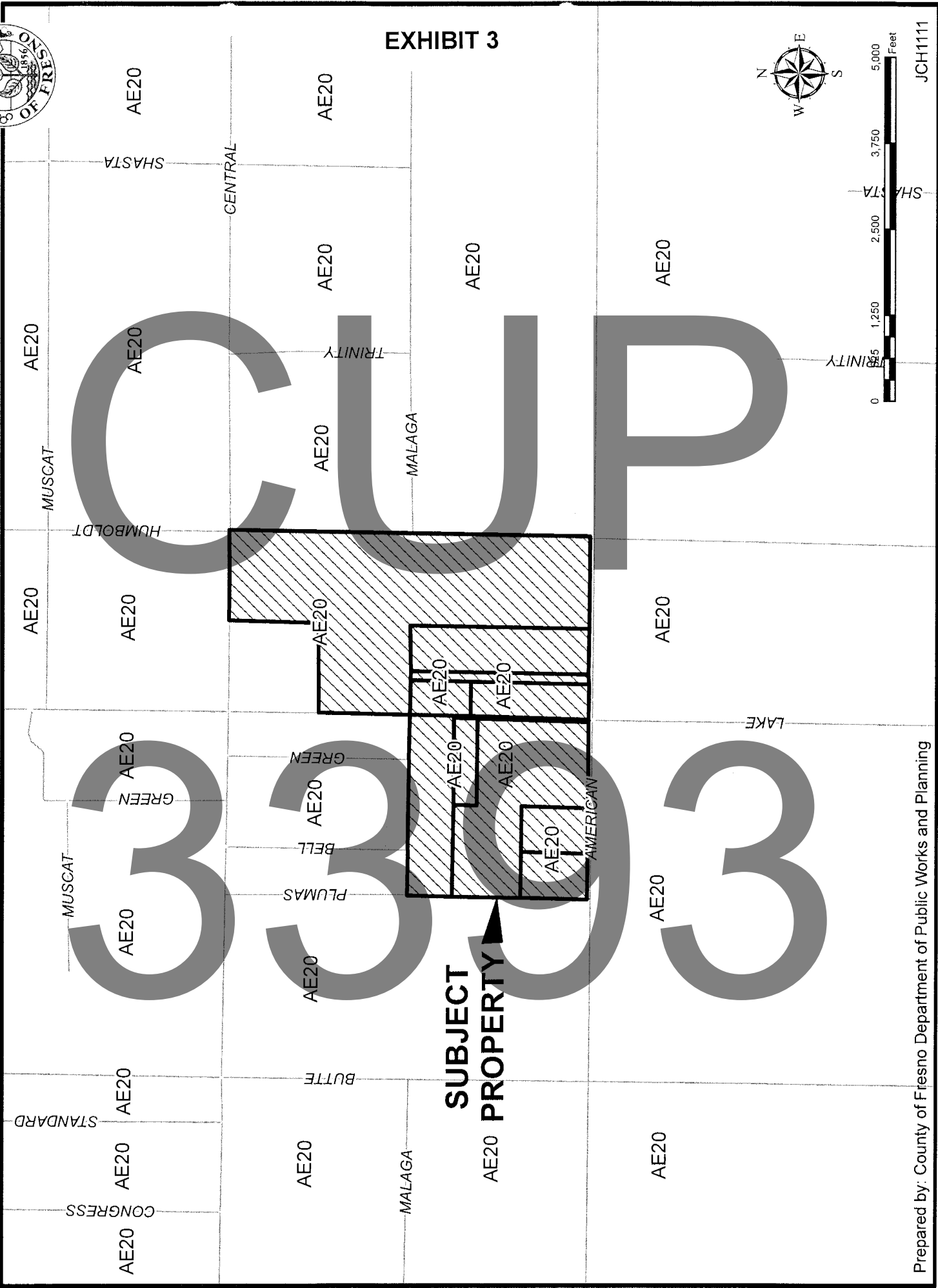
EXISTING ZONING MAP



EXHIBIT 3



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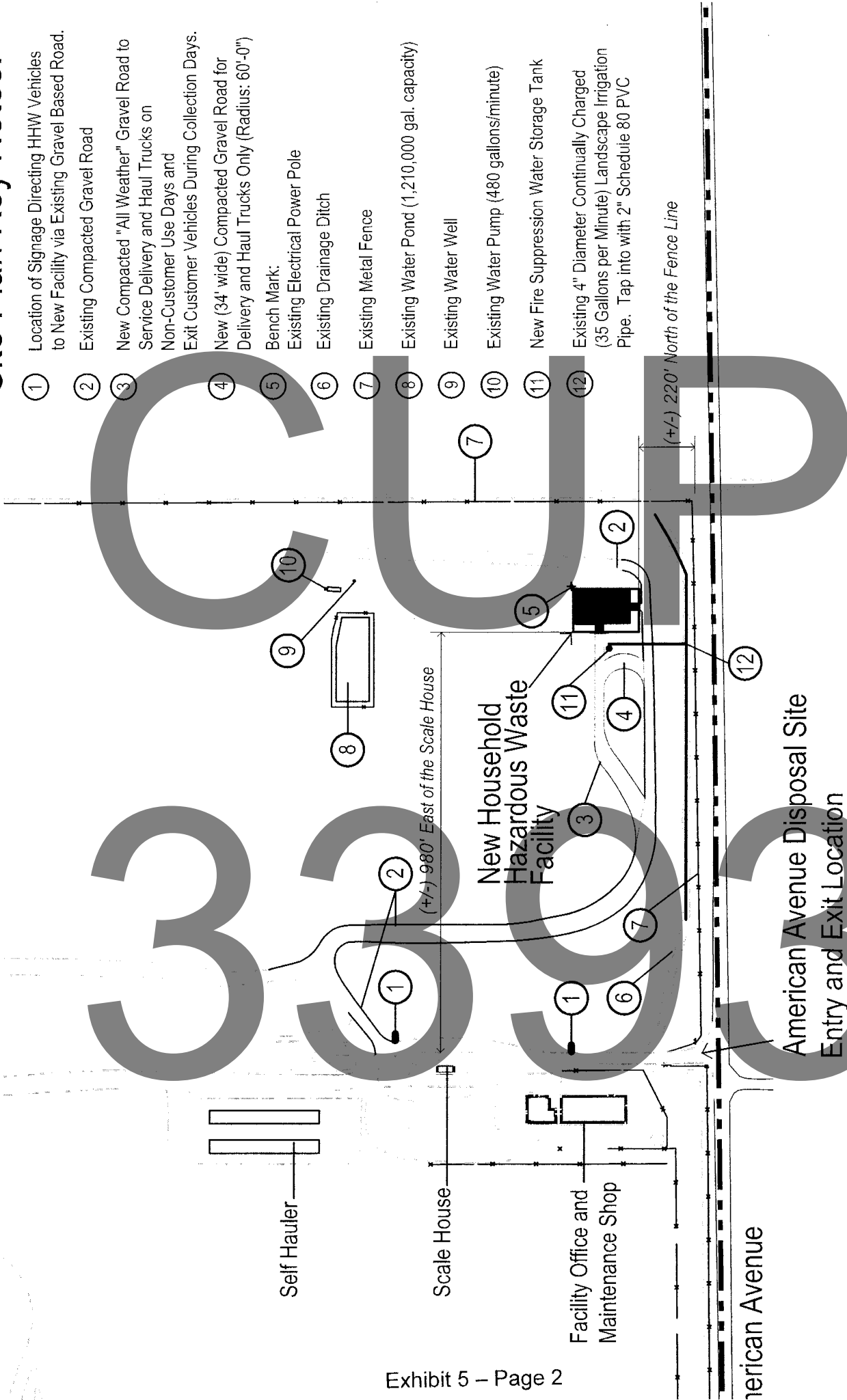
EXHIBIT 5



"SITE PLAN" - SEE ENLARGED DRAWING

Site Plan Key Notes:

- ① Location of Signage Directing HHW Vehicles to New Facility via Existing Gravel Based Road.
- ② Existing Compacted Gravel Road
- ③ New Compacted "All Weather" Gravel Road to Service Delivery and Haul Trucks on Non-Customer Use Days and Exit Customer Vehicles During Collection Days.
- ④ New (34' wide) Compacted Gravel Road for Delivery and Haul Trucks Only (Radius: 60'-0")
- ⑤ Bench Mark:
- ⑥ Existing Electrical Power Pole
- ⑦ Existing Drainage Ditch
- ⑧ Existing Metal Fence
- ⑨ Existing Water Pond (1,210,000 gal. capacity)
- ⑩ Existing Water Well
- ⑪ Existing Water Pump (480 gallons/minute)
- ⑫ New Fire Suppression Water Storage Tank
- ⑬ Existing 4" Diameter Continually Charged (35 Gallons per Minute) Landscape Irrigation Pipe. Tap into with 2" Schedule 80 PVC

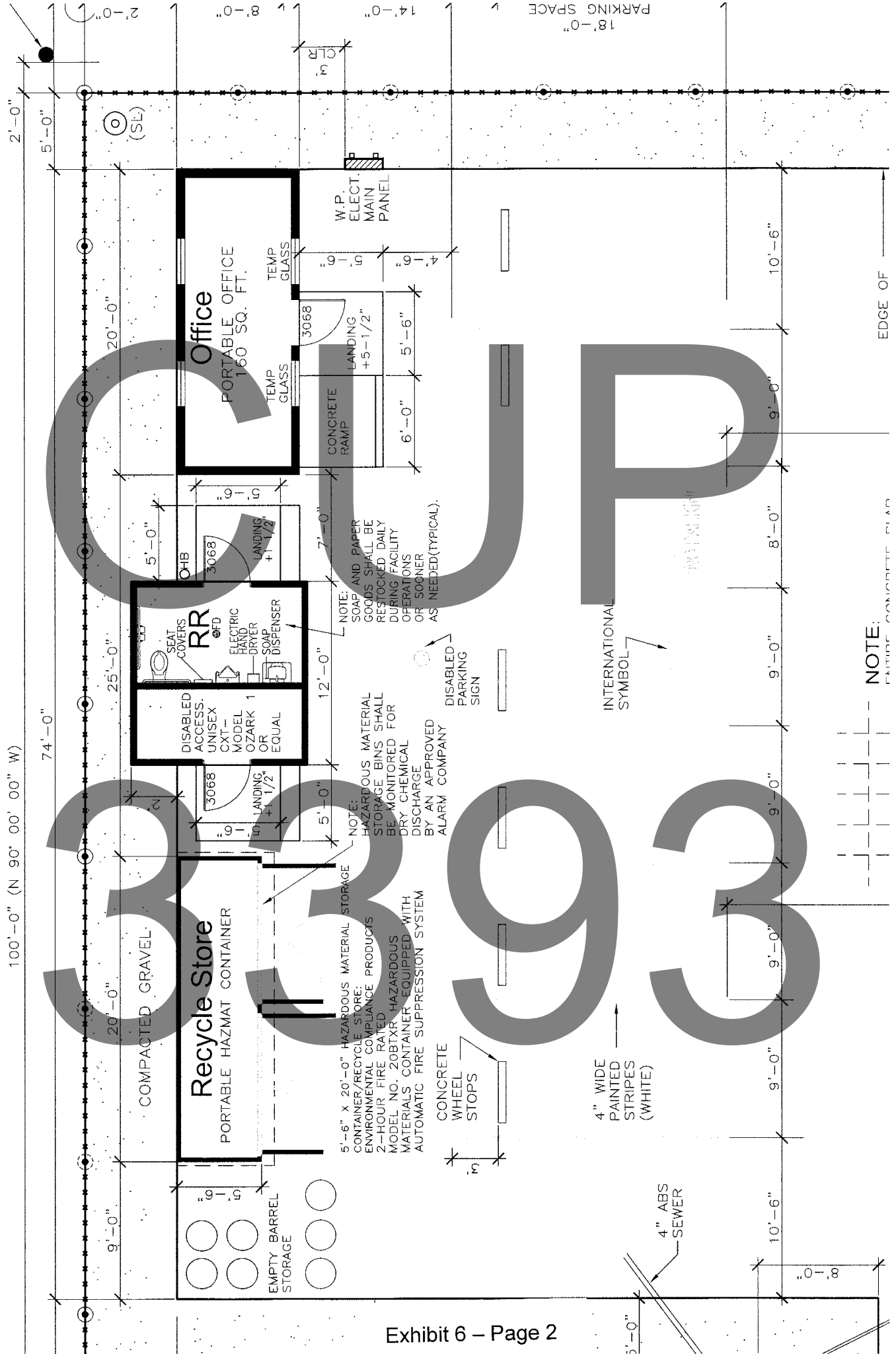


ENLARGED DRAWING

American Avenue

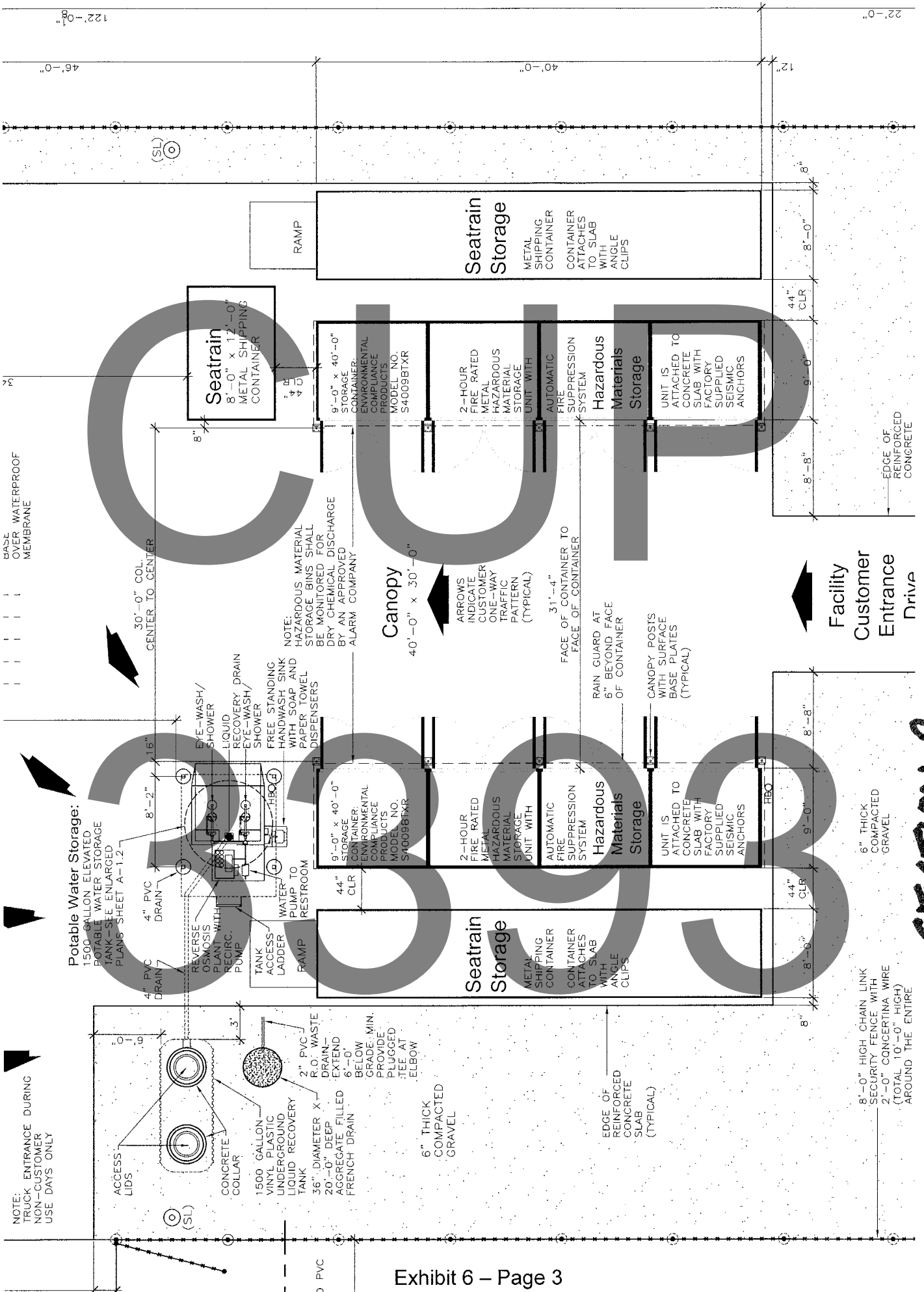
Private AG

100'-0" (N 90° 00' 00" W)



NOTE: FUTURE CONCRETE PAD

SECTION 1



NOTE:
TRUCK ENTRANCE DURING
NON-CUSTOMER
USE DAYS ONLY

Potable Water Storage:

- 1500 GALLON ELEVATED POTABLE WATER STORAGE TANK—SEE ENLARGED PLANS SHEET A-1.2
- 4" PVC DRAIN
- REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANTS WITH RECIRC. PUMP
- TANK ACCESS LADDER
- RAMP
- WATER TO RESTROOM PUMP
- 36" DIAMETER X 20'-0" DEEP AGGREGATE FILLED FRENCH DRAIN
- 1500 GALLON VINYL PLASTIC UNDERGROUND LIQUID RECOVERY TANK
- CONCRETE COLLAR
- ACCESS LIDS
- 30 PVC

NOTE:
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE BINS SHALL BE MONITORED FOR DRY CHEMICAL DISCHARGE BY AN APPROVED ALARM COMPANY

Canopy
40'-0" x 30'-0"

- ARROWS INDICATE CUSTOMER ONE-WAY TRAFFIC PATTERN (TYPICAL)
- 31'-4" FACE OF CONTAINER TO FACE OF CONTAINER
- RAIN GUARD AT 6" BEYOND FACE OF CONTAINER
- CANOPY POSTS WITH SURFACE BASE PLATES (TYPICAL)

Seatrain Storage

- METAL SHIPPING CONTAINER
- CONTAINER ATTACHES TO SLAB WITH ANGLE CLIPS

Seatrain Storage

- METAL SHIPPING CONTAINER
- CONTAINER ATTACHES TO SLAB WITH ANGLE CLIPS

Hazardous Materials Storage

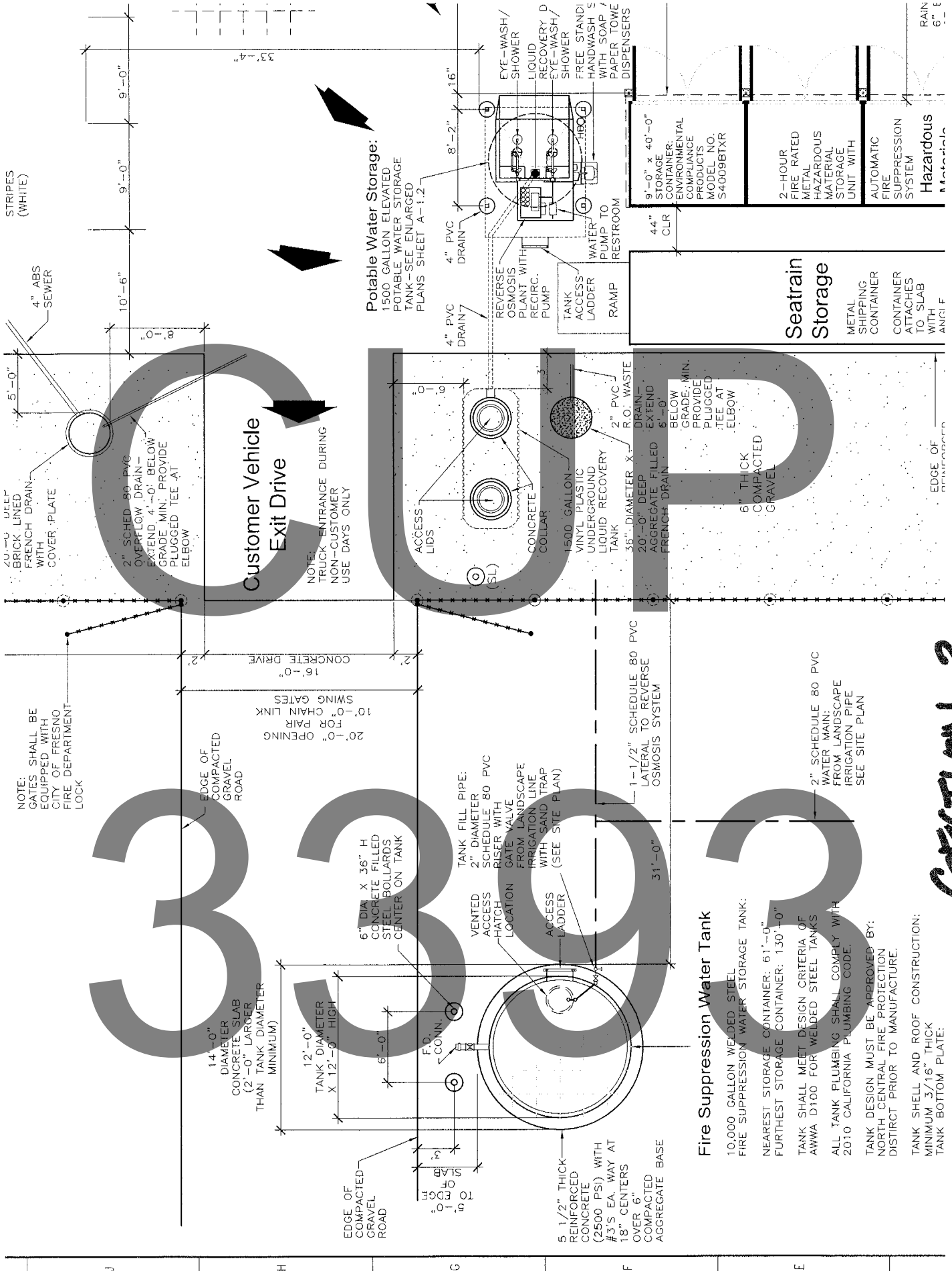
- 2-HOUR FIRE RATED METAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE UNIT WITH AUTOMATIC FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM
- UNIT IS ATTACHED TO CONCRETE SLAB WITH FACTORY SUPPLIED SEISMIC ANCHORS

Hazardous Materials Storage

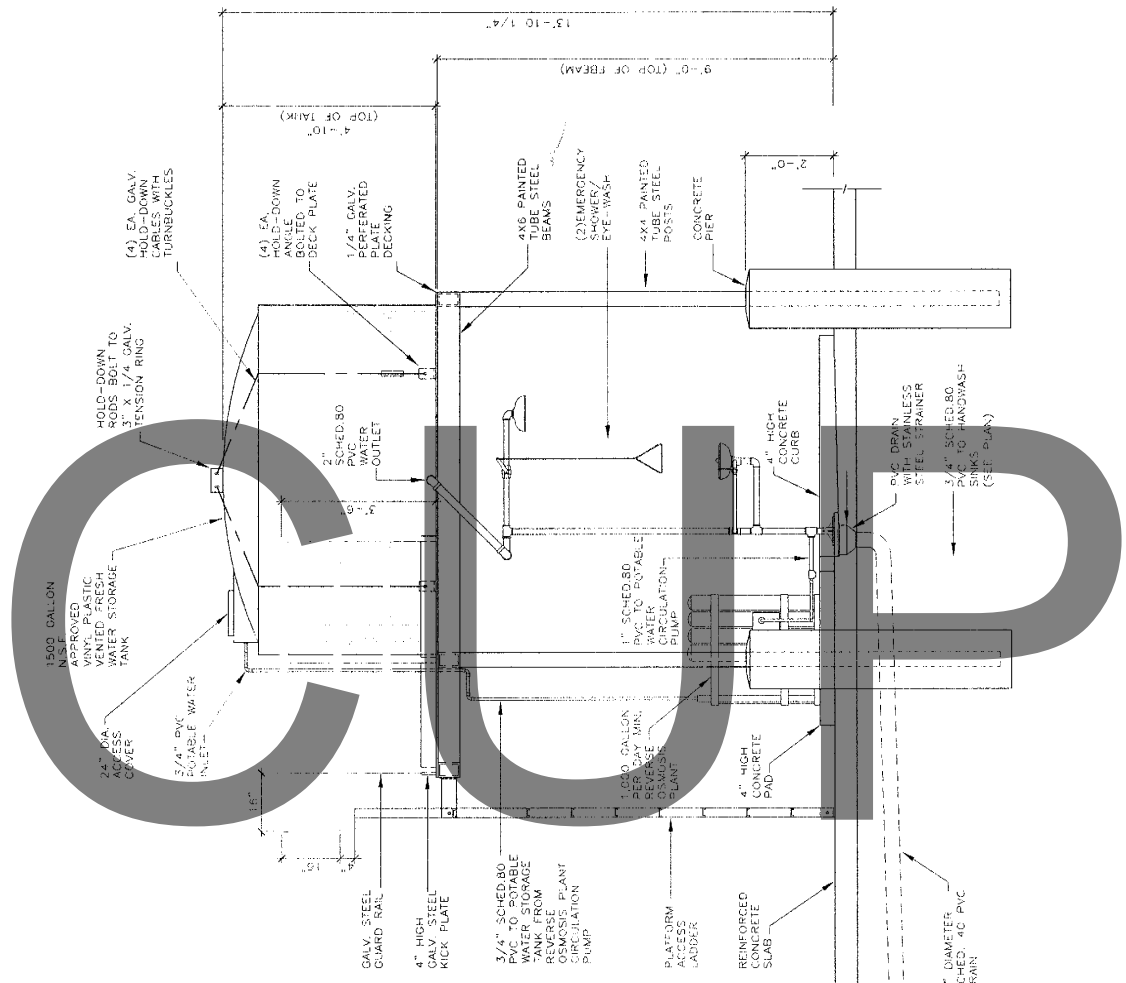
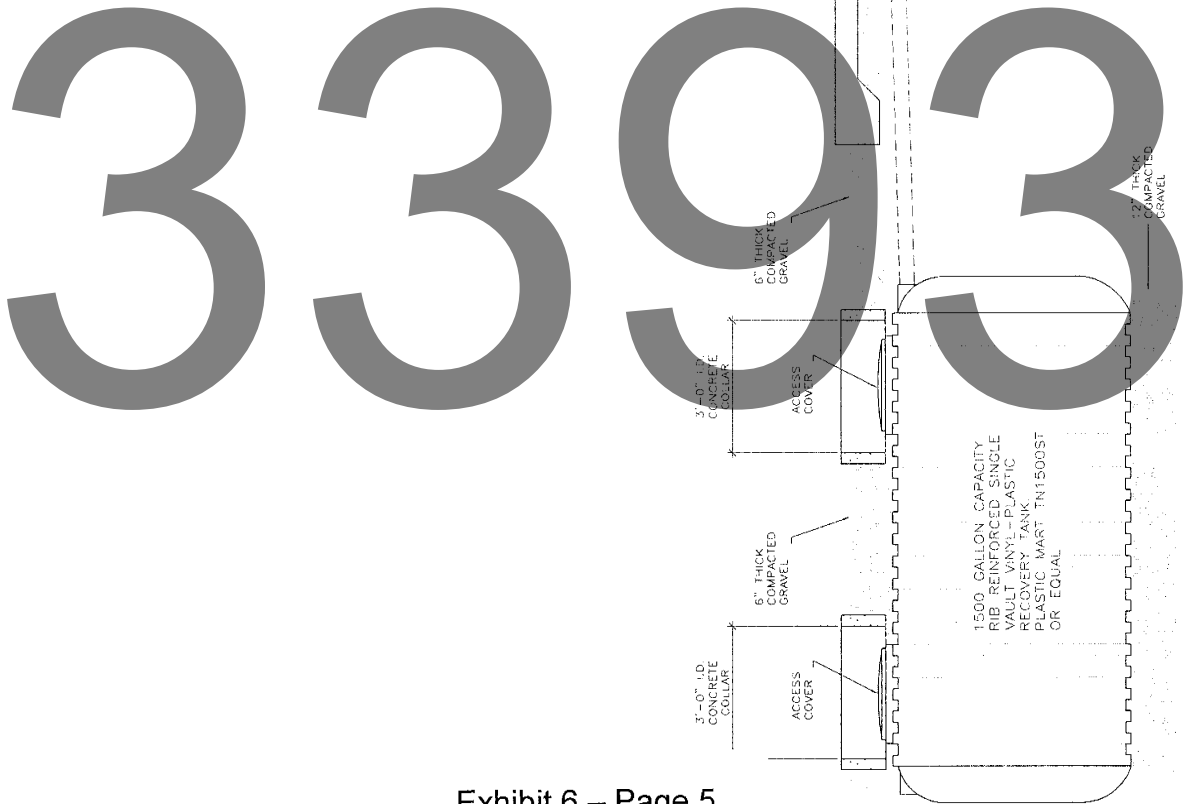
- 2-HOUR FIRE RATED METAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE UNIT WITH AUTOMATIC FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM
- UNIT IS ATTACHED TO CONCRETE SLAB WITH FACTORY SUPPLIED SEISMIC ANCHORS

8'-0" HIGH CHAIN LINK SECURITY FENCE WITH 2'-0" CONCRETE WIRE (TOTAL 10'-0" HIGH) AROUND THE ENTIRE

SECTION 2

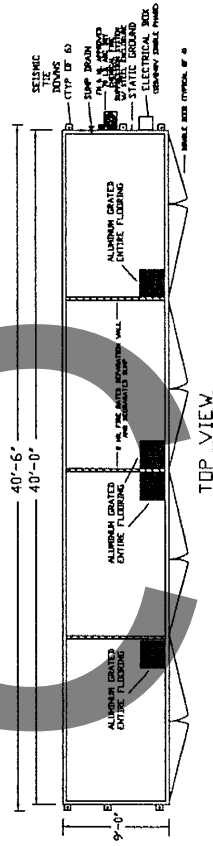


SECTION 3

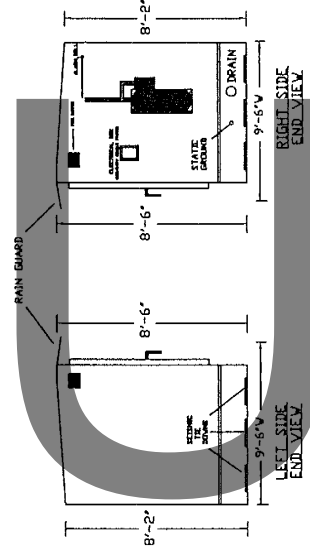


WATER STORAGE TANK.

APPROVED BY: _____
 DATE: _____

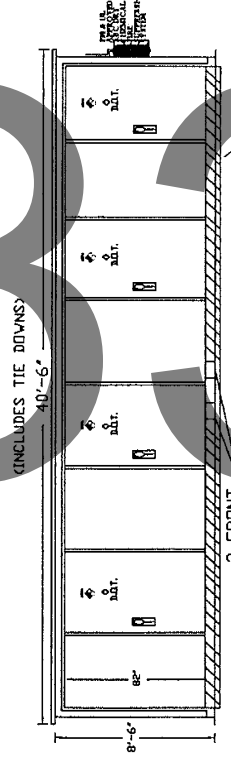


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 C/P 3393
 COUNTY OF FRESNO
 NOV 02 2012

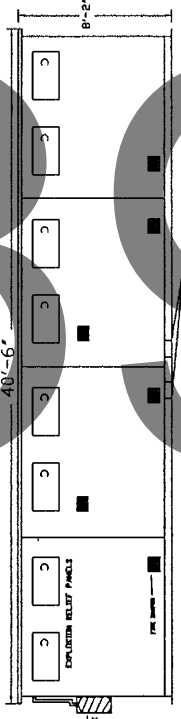


NOT TO SCALE

FRESNO, CA



2 FRONT FORKTRUCK POCKETS 10" WIDE 38" ON CENTER



2 FRONT FORKTRUCK POCKETS 10" WIDE 38" ON CENTER

ECP_MODEL #S4009BIXR

- FM APPROVED.
- (2) HR FIRE RATED/R11 INSULATION INCLUDED.
- 8' GROUND ROD INCLUDED.
- LOADING RAMPS INCLUDED.
- BUILDING WEIGHT: 24,900 LBS.
- SUMP CAPACITY: 7,569 GALLONS.

DESCRIPTION:

ECP_MODEL #S4009BTXR

DATE: 8/22/2012

Environmental Compliance Products
 8907 Warner Ave, Suite 122
 Huntington Beach, CA 92647
 PH (714) 847-4474 (714) 847-7554 FAX

HAZ. MAT. STORAGE UNITS

CWP 3393

RECEIVED
COUNTY OF FRESNO

NOV 02 2012

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

40' x 10' HAZARDOUS MATERIALS STORAGE UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

1. Factory Mutual Approved, to meet FMRC Class 6049 (NFPA 30)
2. Complies with UFC, UBC, EPA, NFPA and OSHA codes and regulations for compliance in design
3. Dimensions: 100 – 55 gallon drum capacity (single level)
39'6" x 10'2" x 7'5" (l-w-h) interior dimension
400 sq.ft. interior dimension
40'8" x 12' x 9' (l-w-h) exterior dimension
56" wide x 89" high (door openings)
6 doors
4. All materials must be new, unused, non-commercial grade ASTM A570 and commercial grades ASTM A500, ASTM A569 and ASTM A36 steel
5. Double walled, 12 & 14 gauge welded steel construction with Factory Mutual Approved 2 hour fire rating and R-11 insulation (roof, walls and doors) Sump built of 10 gauge steel
6. Chemical resistive coating consists of 5 mils DFT Epoxy inside
7. UL Listed fusible link fire dampers for inside storage
8. Internal spill containment is 1,754 gallon
9. Static ground connection on all units
10. Spill containment drain on all units to be a minimum of 4" above ground to allow drainage
11. Full opening doors for pallet loading and accessibility; must be a minimum of 56" wide each (6 doors) with 3 point locks
12. Non-spark aluminum grate floor (cut in 10' lengths)
13. Unit is designed to be portable by forklift, with front and rear loading capacity with forklift pockets
14. Seismic tie down holes are 1" diameter
15. Unit has 3/8" grounding lugs, set at 30" diameter

16. TEN-year warranty on structural
17. ONE-year warranty on coating
18. 3 steel loading ramps (50" wide)
19. DOT placards and NFPA signs included
20. 70 lb.UL & FM Approved ABC Dry Chemical Fire Suppression System with battery alarm & steel enclosure
21. Portable mounted UL rated 4A:60B:C fire extinguisher
22. 8 explosion relief panels
23. Steel shelving 72 lineal feet (16 shelves)
24. 3 turbine fans (300 CFM)
25. Copper grounding rod and accessories
26. One internal 2 hour fire rated separation wall 10 feet from end of building (interior to be 10' x 10') dividing building into 2 separate compartments with 2 drains
27. Explosion proof air conditioner 18,000 BTU's (Class I, Div. II)

3393

EXHIBIT 7

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/OPERATIONAL STATEMENT: A REGIONAL, PERMANENT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF FRESNO COUNTY

1. Nature of Proposal/Operation

The County of Fresno proposes to construct and operate a 15,000 square foot regional permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) Facility (Facility) within the 440-acre American Avenue Disposal Site (AADS). The purpose of the Facility is to provide a safe and efficient means for Fresno County residents (Residential Participants) and small quantity business generators (Business Participants) to dispose of HHW. In addition to accepting and managing HHW brought to the Facility by Residential and Business Participants, the Facility will operate a Reuse Center (for the distribution of useable HHW), serve as a Certified Used Oil Collection Center, a Designated Sharps Collection Point, a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation collection site, and participate in the PaintCare Program for the recycling of architectural coatings. Additionally, a variety of off-site programs will be operated out of the Facility, allowing HHW to be collected and brought back to the Facility for consolidation and management (Local HHW Network Programs). Off-site programs may include, but are not limited to a Door-To-Door (DTD) Program (to serve the homebound and the infirm), a Mobile Program (to provide periodic temporary collection events, primarily at locations outside of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area), and a Drop-off Program, initially for the local collection and management of sharps, paint and Universal Wastes (UW), such as batteries, fluorescent lamps, and electronic waste (E-Waste). (As specified in the applicable regulations, some of the programs described above will be "Full-Service" [deal with all types of HHW] and some programs will provide "Limited Service" (deal only with UW and/or specific waste streams such as sharps). Additional programs (such as that being developed for recycling alkaline batteries) and/or other waste streams may be added as community needs and applicable regulations evolve over the life of the Facility.

No HHW will be buried at the American Avenue Disposal Site; no HHW will remain on the site when the Facility is no longer operational. All HHW that is brought to the Facility will either be recycled or shipped out to appropriate management/recycling facilities on a regular basis by properly licensed haulers throughout the life of this Facility. (State law requires that no unit of HHW shall remain on site for more than one year without authorization by the appropriate regulatory agency.) The State-required Closure/Financial Assurance Plan for the Facility will regulate, and ensure that adequate funding is available for, the removal of all HHW from the Facility at closure. A Hazardous Materials Business Plan, including a Hazardous Materials Inventory and Emergency Response Contingency Plan, will be prepared, approved and implemented.

HHW consists of:

"...the small quantities of a variety of materials that are the by-products of the operation and maintenance of a place of residence and which exhibit one or more of the following characteristics: toxicity, ignitability, reactivity and corrosivity." (Health and Safety Code, section 25218)

With few exceptions, the majority of the HHW items accepted at the Facility can be found in the average garage, under the kitchen sink or for sale at a local "home store". The applicable State regulations also allow a business that generates small quantities of the HHW to utilize these facilities and participate in some of their programs, if that business is able to qualify as a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator. For illustrative purposes only, a generic list of some of the most common items managed at HHW facilities is provided in Table One.

Table One			
Household Hazardous Wastes		Universal Wastes	
Cleaners & polishes	Pool chemicals	VCR/DVD players	Printers
Automotive products (including batteries)	Hobby supplies (art supplies, photographic chemicals, etc.)	Household batteries (alkaline & rechargeable)	Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
Paints & related materials	Medical sharps (needles & lancets)	Small electronic appliances	Cell phones & telephones
Thinners & solvents	Pharmaceuticals	Fluorescent tubes	Radios
Adhesives	Asbestos	Fax machines	Televisions
Aerosol products	Waste oil & oil filters	Copy machines	Computer monitors
Pesticides and fertilizers	Small tanks (BBQ gas, extinguishers)	Hair dryers, curling irons	Cordless battery operated tools

The definitions, regulations and detection thresholds pertaining to HHW are constantly being revised by a variety of regulatory agencies. The Facility does not intend to be limited to managing only those items in the table provided above. Nor does the Facility have any obligation to accept every item defined as HHW in the Health and Safety Code. For example, the Facility does not anticipate accepting radioactive or explosive material, except for smoke/fire/CO2 detectors. Only small cylinders of compressed gases, such as those used for barbecues and fire extinguishers, are anticipated to be accepted. Items such as ammunition and fireworks are directed to law enforcement for management elsewhere. Small quantities of treated wood waste (e.g., railroad ties, utility poles) may be accepted from Participants who abide by all current regulations applicable to this waste stream. The Facility will ONLY accept HHW that is manageable by the Facility staff. The required Operations/Emergency Plan will provide detailed information on how the Facility will manage both acceptable and unacceptable waste streams, including but not limited to procedures for initiating tracking of any items turned away.

HHW brought to the Facility by each Participant will be limited to household quantities. (Health and Safety Codes limit County Residential Participants from transporting more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of HHW to the Facility from their place of residence. Business Participants [also known as Conditional Exempt Small Quantity Generators or CESQGs] are limited to bringing 27 gallons or 220 pounds of HHW from their place of business.) Large commercial or industrial generators of HHW are prohibited from using this Facility. The Facility will accept small quantities of abandoned HHW brought for management by health, fire and police personnel.

People seeking to drop off HHW are required to remain in their vehicles. Acceptable materials are removed from vehicles by Facility staff within the canopied Staging Area, transferred to the sorting area within the hazardous material storage units, sorted, tested as needed, and then appropriately lab-packed or loose-packed into Department of Transportation (DOT)-approved shipping containers.

Most of the HHW collected will be stored in the original containers unless the container is found to be unsound or leaking. This method allows for tertiary storage of the container contents with the over-packing drum and modular unit providing additional levels of security. Any unsound or leaking container is placed in a secondary container to secure the contents. All unidentified or unlabeled wastes and unknowns received are segregated in a designated location of the sorting area by Facility staff for subsequent hazardous categorization-chemical identification testing to determine its' associated hazards. Upon determining the material's hazard classification, each

unknown or unlabeled material is transferred to the appropriate drum or other packaging container. Containers brought to the Facility are not normally opened. It is the policy of the Facility that the label accurately reflects the contents of the container, since it presents a greater hazard to open and verify many labeled containers. Non-original containers (i.e., food containers, etc.) must be opened and contents verified and analyzed to properly categorize. Safety precautions used in identifying any waste include the wearing protective clothing.

Waste oil and used antifreeze will be directly bulked appropriately into a 1,000-gallon and 170-gallon bins located in a Seatrain container equipped with secondary containment. These bulk wastes are stored until the volume approaches maximum capacity, at which time transportation to the appropriate reclamation collection facility will be arranged.

Home generated sharps are also accepted in approved containers. Staff will subsequently place the sharps containers inside a biomedical waste container. When full, they will be transported by a Medical Waste Transporter to an appropriate certified management facility.

A key element to operating a cost effective permanent HHW collection is maximizing the reuse of HHW. HHW eligible for reuse by the public includes, but is not limited to, paint, fertilizer, household cleaners, stain, varnish, automotive products, garden products and aerosol products at least half full with an operating nozzle. Reusability of a product will be determined by the Facility staff and will depend upon factors such as age, amount of product remaining, potential hazard and demand. Items selected will be in the original container with readable labels and judged by the staff to be uncontaminated. All participants electing to take reuse materials will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Items brought to the Facility which are suitable for reuse will be placed in the prefabricated modular hazardous material storage unit designated as the Reuse Center. Under the direct supervision of staff, Participants will be allowed to select items from the Reuse Center during Business Hours, and perhaps, under conditions yet to be defined, during Facility Hours.

The Facility at AADS as designed will be able to store up to 15,000 gallons of HHW of various kinds. In practice, the amount of HHW on site at any given time is anticipated to be significantly less than that. As soon as enough HHW has been accumulated to warrant a pick-up, it will be removed from the Facility by an appropriate vendor/HHW Hauler. Some waste streams (e.g., used oil, e-waste, UW) are anticipated to be removed as frequently as once a month. Most of the HHW will probably be held on site for at least three months. However, no specific unit of HHW is allowed to remain on site more than one year (without special dispensation from the local enforcement agency). It is anticipated that initially, the bulk of the HHW will be brought directly to the Facility by On-site Participants. As the program matures, it is anticipated that the majority of the HHW managed will be brought to off-site locations by the public and then transported to the Facility by staff for consolidation, storage and management. At full build-out it is unlikely, but possible, that as much as 180,000 gallons of HHW will be managed by the Facility within a twelve-month period (15,000 gallons of HHW removed from the Facility twelve times a year). This figure includes HHW collected from Off-site Participants.

Security of the Facility is addressed in multiple ways. The landfill itself is almost always staffed, as it operates 10 to 11 hours a day, seven days a week, 361 days a year. When the landfill is closed, the Facility will be monitored by the same on-site security guards and alarm/closed circuit television system that protects the landfill. The Facility itself will be surrounded by an eight-foot high chain link fence set in concrete. There will be perimeter lighting to facilitate surveillance after hours. The HHW storage units on-site are constructed of reinforced steel and are secured at all

times with an appropriate security-locking device when Facility staff is not present.

Day-to-day operations of the Facility will be subcontracted (Primary Subcontractor). Besides collecting, identifying, sorting, consolidating, packing, tracking and reporting the HHW, the Primary Subcontractor will be responsible maintaining a contract with a licensed HHW management company (HHW Hauler) to collect the HHW from the Facility and take it to approved/permitted facilities for management. It is anticipated that the HHW Hauler will provide service at least once a quarter when the Facility is first opened. Frequency of service will increase as needed, with an anticipated maximum of monthly service required at full build-out. (Please note that the Primary Subcontractor must have the ability to request service from the HHW Hauler as frequently needed, in order to remove the manifested material from the Facility as required by law.) Some other vendors/subcontractors may be utilized for managing specialized waste streams such as paint, UW and recyclable materials.

The initial Primary Subcontractor shall be Eco Solutions, Inc., who has developed over 20 such facilities and who currently operates ten similar programs for various jurisdictions throughout California. Eco Solutions currently utilizes PSC, Inc., a licensed HHW Hauler to remove the HHW to approved/permitted recycling and HHW management facilities. (PSC, Inc. is the subcontractor providing similar services to the County currently and for over five years of HHW drop-off programs.)

2. Proposed Operational Time Limits

The Facility is planned to operate within the landfill’s permitted Hours of Operation. Table Two (below) provides an overview of the proposed Facility Hours and Business Hours:

Table Two			
Hours	Activities	Initially:	Maximum
Facility Hours (Staff scheduled to work, programs operating) (Up to 45 hours/week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage/maintain the Facility • Collect HHW brought to Facility by public (On-site, full-service program) • Collect HHW from Local Network Programs (Off-site programs) • Properly manage, track, store (short-term) & report HHW collected • Manage & promote Facility-related programs (on & off-site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (4:00 p.m. Sat) • 3 days/week (Thur., Fri., & Sat.) • 4 weeks/month • 10 months/year • Closed Nov. /Dec. • Includes Business Hours (see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri, • 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sat, • 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sun. • 5 days/week • 4 weeks/year • 12 months/year • Includes Business Hours (see below)

Table Two			
Hours	Activities	Initially:	Maximum
Business Hours: On-Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Participants bring the full-range of HHW to the Facility for management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day/week (Friday), 4 weeks/ month 10 months/year 9:00 am.-1:00 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day/week (Friday), Up to 5 weeks/ month (all year) 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Within Facility located at AADS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Participants bring the full range HHW to the Facility for management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day/week (Saturday), 4 weeks/ month 10 months/year 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 days/week (Saturdays & another day of the week TAB) Up to 5 weeks/ month (all year) Within Facility Hours (see above)
Business Hours: Off-Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public brings UW and similar specific low-impact types of HHW to off-site locations for consolidation, and transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours determined by host operating the drop-off site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours determined by host operating the drop-off site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHW staff collects from & services off-site Drop-off Program sites (Host-operated sites) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Facility Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Facility Hours
(Not at Facility located at AADS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHW Staff oversees & operates off-site Local Network Programs, including but not limited to DTD, Mobile, Sharps programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Facility Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Facility Hours

As long as they fall within the Facility's Hours of Operation, Facility Hours and/or Business Hours may be adjusted periodically to reflect the needs of the Facility, its staff and/or the Participants. Upon occasion, Staff may elect to accept HHW from a Participant during Facility Hours (outside of Business Hours) if special circumstances make participation during Business Hours problematic. In addition, First Responders (e.g., police, fire or health agency employees) may be granted access to the Facility and its services at any time during its Hours of Operation to arrange for management of abandoned waste.

Due to budget constraints or low participation, it is possible that the County may find it necessary to periodically shorten Facility Hours and/or to suspend operation of the Facility and/or Facility-related programs for a given period of time. A plan, addressing Facility maintenance and security and abandoned HHW, will be in place until regular operating hours are resumed:

3. Number of Customers/Participants

Several factors unique to this Facility are reflected in the Participant Count projections provided in Table Three.

These factors include:

- It is anticipated that the majority of program Participants (Off-Site Participants) will never visit AADS; their HHW will be collected at off-site locations throughout the County and be transported to the Facility by staff. The number of Off-site program Participants is projected to be 5,000 annually once the program is fully operational, with up to 9,000 Off-site Participants served annually at full build-out.)

- This project will not require or cause an increase in the number of AADS Permitted Customers currently authorized. The Facility has been sized so that the number of Facility Permitted Participants on any given day will fall within the existing AADS Permitted Customer allotment (361 per day, 2,527 per week).
- As indicated in Table three, the On-site Participants are not evenly distributed over the Facility's Hours of Operation. This makes the value of an "average" daily On-site Participant Count rather moot. (During most Facility Hours of Operation, the number of On-site Participants is zero, bringing the daily average number of On-Site Participants (390/7=55) well below the 100 On-site Participants anticipated on a Saturday at full build-out.) For this reason, Table Three provides a more realistic description of the impact Facility Customers will have on AADS.

Table Three: Participant Counts										
<u>Customer</u>	<u>Participant Counts</u>								<u>Weekly Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>
	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>			
<u>Initially</u>										
Business	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>	
Residential	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>14</u>	
Landfill (actual average/day: FY 2011-12)	<u>37</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>757</u>	<u>108</u>	
Total Customers (Initially)	<u>37</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>125</u>	
Current Maximum Customers Permitted at AADS	<u>361</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>2,527</u>	<u>361</u>	
<u>Build-out</u>										
Business	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>12</u>	
Residential	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>42</u>	
Landfill (projected average/day, including 5% increase)	<u>39</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>795</u>	<u>114</u>	
Total Customers (Build-out)	<u>139</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>1185</u>	<u>169</u>	

Visitors

From time to time, usually when the Facility is not actively collecting HHW from Participants (outside of Business Hours), individuals and small groups of people (Visitors) may be granted access to participate in a variety of outreach, educational and/or training programs, including an occasional Facility tour or committee meeting. It is anticipated these visitors will utilize passenger vehicles (cars and small trucks) to access the site. Personnel from fire, health and police departments may occasionally access the site at any time for inspections or enforcement-related reasons, and/or to dispose of HHW collected in the line of duty.

The number of visitors is anticipated to average no more than three individual guests per week. One or two groups of 10 to 25 visitors each could be accommodated quarterly. All visitors will be encouraged, and any group with over five members will be required, to limit their visits to Non-Business Hours.

4. Numbers of Employees

It is anticipated that approximately three to four people (Facility Staff) will be initially hired to manage and staff the HHW Facility (including the Recycling Center) and to implement the Local HHW Network (e.g., DTD, Mobile Event, Drop-off Programs and Sharps Collection). Facility Staff will be scheduled to work within Facility Hours (see above). Subject to changes in customer demand and funding availability, it is anticipated that initially, there will be three "full-time" (eight hours a day) employees, each working three days a week, four weeks a month, ten months a year. At full build-out, there may be as many as six employees, each working up to five days a week, up to five weeks a month, up to twelve months a year.

Besides working on-site, Facility staff will also travel to and provide limited, specific program-related services (such as removal of HHW and inspections) at off-site locations during Facility Hours. (The selection, the day-to-day management, and employees of each off-site Drop-off Program site and its Host shall be the responsibility of the Host and the jurisdiction in which the Drop-off Program site program is located.) There will be no on-site live-in caretaker.

5. Service and Delivery Vehicles

It is anticipated that on average, three vendors, service providers and others with business at the Facility (Service Providers) will visit the site each week, generally at times when the Facility is not open to the public. While Service Providers will be discouraged from accessing the Facility during Business Hours, they may get special authorization from Staff to do so when necessary. It is anticipated that they will access the Facility with passenger vehicles, small trucks and perhaps, occasionally, a multi-axel vehicle, and park within the boundaries of the Facility.

It is anticipated that the Primary HHW and/or an UW Hauler will come to the HHW Facility in a large tractor-trailer truck an estimated six to nine times a year during the first three years the Facility is fully operational. It is unlikely but possible that the number of visits required could increase to as many as twelve a year thereafter (e.g., one truck visit each month), in order to remove the manifested material from the site as required. It is unlikely but possible that at full build-out the Primary HHW hauler may be requested to make a second visit during any given month in order to keep the Facility in compliance with storage regulations.

Vehicle Traffic Generated

The Total Vehicle Traffic Generated by the Facility will be the sum of the vehicle trips a week made by the On-Site Participants, Visitors, Employees and Service Providers/Vendors.

Table Four provides a summary of the Vehicle Trip Data. Please note the projected Vehicle Counts for the Facility will not result in any increase in the Vehicle Count already authorized for AADS under a prior CUP.

Table Four: Vehicle Trips

<u>Trip Source</u>	<u>Number of Trips (Entries and Exits)</u>			
	<u>Initial Count (Weekly)</u>		<u>Build-out Count (Weekly)</u>	
	<u>No. Visits</u>	<u>Trip Count</u>	<u>No. Visits</u>	<u>Trip Count</u>
AADS:				
Customers Permitted/Week	2527.00	5040.00	2527.00	5040.00
Actual or Projected Customers /Week	757.00	1,514.00	795.00	1,185.00
Facility				
Participants /Week	120.00	240.00	390.00	780.00
Visitors /Week	3.00	6.00	3.00	6.00
Employees: On-site /Week	9.00	18.00	30.00	60.00
Employees: Off-site/Week	6.00	12.00	12.00	24.00
Service/Vendors	3.00	6.00	3.00	6.00
HHW Hauler /Week	0.08	0.16	0.25	0.50
Total	141.08	282.16	438.25	876.50

6. Site Access

AADS is designed for public traffic flow. In addition, the bulk of the Facility's traffic will be confined to Saturdays, which is a relatively slow day for the landfill. After entering from American Avenue, Participants will drive to the Gatehouse, from where they will be directed to a private, two-lane compacted gravel road that will take them directly to the Facility. Upon reaching the Facility, Participants will turn left through the Facility entrance gate and drive onto the concrete pad to the designated Unloading and Collection area where staff will unload their HHW (see Sheet G-1.0 for traffic flow). Participants must remain in their vehicles when dropping off HHW. After the HHW is removed by staff, vehicles will proceed past the Reuse Center and exit out the Facility's exit gate, before traveling back along the gravel road to the landfill's exit at American Avenue. Participants visiting the Reuse Center shall be required to park in the designated parking spaces provided.

7. Parking

As shown in Sheet A-1.0, six (6) standard and one (1) accessible parking space are provided. During Facility Hours, parking will be used by Facility Staff and by Participants wishing to visit the Reuse Center.

Arriving before or after Business Hours, service providers, vendors and HHW Haulers will load and unload their vehicles in the canopy covered Unloading and Collection area.

8. No Products Produced or Sold

The primary function of the Facility is to collect and properly manage HHW generated by residents of Fresno County. No products will be produced or sold. No processing will be undertaken, although some materials collected (and/or their containers) may be separated, cleaned, consolidated, repackaged, filtered, crushed, compacted and/or similarly handled to make them more manageable, reusable or recyclable. Whenever practical, items including, but not limited to, packaging, cardboard boxes, empty containers, food scraps and office paper that may be generated at this site will be consolidated and sent to a recycling facility/program. While such activities have the potential to generate some income, recycling is not anticipated to be more than an incidental source of revenue (which would be used to off-set some of the costs of operating the Facility).

Residential HHW shall be collected from Residential Participants at no charge. Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Waste will be collected from Business Participants (reservation required) when the Facility is closed to Residential Participants. Business Participants shall be required to reimburse the Facility Operator for the cost of the service at the rates specified in the Consultant Agreement. The Primary Subcontractor shall provide free cost estimates to Business Participants.

9. and 10. Major Equipment, Materials and Supplies

It is anticipated that minor equipment at the HHW Facility shall include, but not be limited to: Forklift and/or pallet jack, small power tools, shop vacuum, small portable pumps, work stations, space heaters and a small commercial scale. Appropriate storage units will be provided for items such as hand tools, solid waste, UW, recyclables and supplies, including but not limited to personal protective gear, cleaning equipment, packaging materials, storage boxes/drums, wiping cloths, booms and absorbent.

Paper goods and hand soap serving the toilet and hand wash sink shall be scheduled to be restocked daily or sooner as needed.

Specific major on site equipment shall include, but are not limited to:

- One (1) 8'-0" x 12'-0" Seatrain storage unit for collection and storage of used automotive oil and antifreeze.
- Two (2) 8'-0" x 40'-0" Seatrain storage units to store Universal HHW waste.
- Several transportable items such as small roll-off bins and tractor trailers for trash and packaged e-waste.
- Two (2) emergency eye wash/shower stations with underground liquid recovery tank.
- One (1) reverse osmosis fresh water plant system and recirculation pump with underground rejected water storage tank.
- Storage units and/or shelving for items such as protective gear, packaging, absorbent and cleaning materials, lab materials, empty packing cartons and drums.

11. Noise, Glare, Dust and Odors

Given the size and current ambiance of the landfill, it is unlikely that the small increase in noise, glare, dust and odors due to Facility operations will reach detectable levels beyond the perimeter of the Facility itself.

Noise

The primary activities to take place at the Facility (collection, consolidation and storage) are not inherently noisy. Some of the noise associated with the use of hand tools (e.g., impact wrenches, hammers, sump pumps) and forklift may require an operator to wear protective gear. However, this noise is anticipated to be intermittent and of relatively short duration. Traffic noise associated with the arrival and departure of an estimated 90 to 200 Participant vehicles during Business Hours should not be significant.

Periodically, a small number of additional vendors, service providers, regulatory agencies and/or Visitors vehicles may enter the Facility. Congestion, emissions, noise and odors should not be an issue given the small number of such vehicles is estimated to be approximate 3 to 6 per week.

Dust

Dust management protocols currently required and in place at AADS (including the liberal use of water trucks), are anticipated to keep dust from being a significant problem at the Facility as well. None of the proposed activities associated with the Facility are anticipated to increase the generation of dust at the AADS. HHW handling protocols to be used at the Facility are designed to prevent the disbursement of friable materials. Absorbents used are designed to be as dust-free as possible. Given that most of the Facility's area is paved, this project should result in an overall reduction rather than any increase in the potential for dust creation.

Glare

Facility pole mounted security and fluorescent task lighting shall be hooded to shield light from neighboring properties and roads.

Odor

Facility operating procedures require most packages to be left unopened. Oil and latex paint, as well as other volatile organics, will not be consolidated on site. No organic material other than small amounts of treated wood will be collected. Therefore air and odor emissions associated with this project should be well below regulatory limits, as well as undetectable by neighbors and any sensitive receptors in the area.

Vectors

There is no reason to believe that vectors will be a problem at this Facility. No organic material except small amounts of treated wood will be accepted from Participants. Employees are anticipated to properly manage any food they bring on-site. That said, it may be necessary for the Facility to deal with vectors related to landfill operations.

12. Generation of Liquid and Solid Wastes

Liquid Wastes

All liquid waste generated at this Facility shall be collected and contained within underground containment tanks and vaults.

Toilet vault shall be pumped twice monthly or sooner if needed.

Discharged emergency eye wash/shower liquid shall be diverted to an on site underground tank accessible to be pumped and recaptured in the event of a discharge.

Rejected reverse osmosis water shall be diverted to an onsite on site underground tank accessible for pumping to be pumped twice monthly or sooner if needed.

Pumping of all underground tanks and vaults shall be conducted by Crown Industries, Inc. under contract with the County of Fresno.

Water shall not be used for managing the HHW. All program-related clean-up is conducted with absorbents and wiping cloths which are then incorporated with the HHW and transported to appropriate off-site management facilities or programs.

Precipitation

All waste handling activities shall occur either within a storage module equipped with secondary containment devices or beneath the waterproof fabric canopy. The storage units and the canopy protect the HHW from exposure to the elements as it is unloaded and sorted, as well as for all stored materials and equipment. With potential contaminants protected and all spills quickly contained and remediated, rainwater will not collect contaminants from the Facility and should be safely and legally incorporated with similar rainwater run-off generated elsewhere at the landfill.

Solid Waste

Solid waste will be generated as a result of collecting HHW from the public. The solid wastes include empty boxes, buckets, containers and bags which the public brought the HHW to the Facility. In addition, empty oil and antifreeze containers will be added to the solid waste as Facility staff will be bulking these items directly into above-ground storage tanks. Empty boxes deemed recyclable will be dismantled and stacked separately from other solid wastes designated for disposal. Small quantities of office paper, plastic bottles and cans generated on site by staff will be sent off-site to an appropriate recycling facility. Solid waste designated for disposal will be placed into one or two 4-yard bins on site for subsequent weekly or biweekly disposal (depending upon the number of participants served) by the private solid waste hauler that serves the landfill. It is anticipated that at full build out no more than two 4-yard boxes a week will be required for solid waste.

13. Water

Water for the Facility shall be supplied to the site from an existing well approximately 400 feet due north of the site. The water main shall consist of a buried 2 inch schedule 80 PVC pipe. Once on site, the non-potable well water shall service:

- 10,000 gallon NFPA-approved steel (grey in color) fire suppression water storage tank equipped with a fire department hose connection and automatic refill system.
- 2,000 gallon per day capacity (100 gallons per day production anticipated) reverse osmosis fresh water plant equipped with a recirculation/pressure booster pump. Potable water produced by the reverse osmosis system will be stored in an above ground platform mounted 1,500 gallon NSF approved storage tank to supply potable water to emergency eye wash/shower stations and hand a washing lavatory sink located within the Restroom. Rejected reverse osmosis water shall be drained to a 1,500 gallon underground storage tank equipped with a high level alarm. Bottled drinking water will be provided to Employees and Participants as needed.

14. Advertising and Signage

No permanent monument sign is planned for the Facility. A banner identifying the Facility, along with directional and informational signage as required by law and as needed to ensure that Participants have a safe, pleasant and productive experience will be posted. The placement of directional signage is anticipated to be at the AADS main entrance, near the AADS scale house, adjacent access roads and attached to the Facility's perimeter fencing. Additional needed signs will be placed within the site to meet various regulatory and logistic requirements (e.g., "No Smoking", "Stay in your vehicle", "Keep Right"). All signage shall be designed and placed in such a manner as to comply with all applicable regulatory and development standards. Pavement marking signs will assist in Participant traffic control.

15. Existing Structures

Currently, there are no structures or utilities on the site.

16. Proposed Structures

All new structures within the Facility are planned to be temporary, easily relocated structures to be removed at the time of Facility Closure.

New structures within the Facility are as follows:

1. One (1) portable 8'-0" x 20'-0" metal office equipped with electrical power, lighting and electrical heating/cooling air conditioner unit.
2. One (1) prefabricated 12'-0" x 12'-0" concrete unisex vault toilet equipped with water closet, hand washing lavatory, electric hand dryer and associated paper goods. Toilet vault shall be equipped with a high level alarm.
3. Two (2) 8'-0" x 40'-0" Hazardous Waste containers equipped with explosion relief panels, dry chemical fire suppression system, interior lighting and secondary containment system. Dry chemical fire suppression system shall be monitored by an approved Alarm Company under contract with the County of Fresno.
4. One (1) 5'-6" x 20'-0" Reuse Center hazardous waste container equipped with explosion relief panels, dry chemical fire suppression system, interior lighting and secondary containment system. Dry chemical fire suppression system shall be monitored by an approved Alarm Company under contract with the County of Fresno.
5. One (1) elevated 8'-6" x 11'-6" potable water storage tank steel frame.
6. One (1) 30'-0" x 40'-0" fire retardant waterproof semi-transparent fabric canopy equipped with fluorescent task lighting serving the Unloading and Collection area. Canopy frame will consist of heavy duty galvanized steel pipe.

At Facility Closure, all structures, underground tanks and utilities shall be dismantled and removed from the site. Abandoned gravel roads, on site gravel areas and demolished concrete slabs shall be hauled and recycled. Testing of the abandoned site for soil contamination will be conducted to confirm the abandoned site area is free of Facility generated contaminants.

17. Outdoor Lighting and Sound Amplification

Lighting

The Facility shall have six, 20 foot high pole mounted photocell controlled 2-stage LED security lights spaced evenly around the Facility perimeter. Security lighting shall be hooded to direct the light down and away from adjacent properties and road ways. Photocell activated fluorescent lighting fixtures shall be provided below the canopy area. Fluorescent lighting shall be hooded to direct light away from adjacent properties and roadways. Fluorescent task lighting shall be located above reverse osmosis equipment and above emergency eye wash/ showers.

All lighting shall conform to California Energy Efficiency Standards for outdoor lighting.

Sound Amplification

No outdoor sound amplification system shall be used at the Facility. Staff members will communicate with cell phones or handheld radios.

18. Landscaping and Fencing

The perimeter of the Facility (100 feet x 150 feet) shall be enclosed with a galvanized, 8 foot high chain-link fence equipped with three strands of barbed wire (total 10 feet high). The fence shall have a pair of 8-foot chain link swing gates at the Customer Entrance and a pair of 10-foot chain link swing gates at the Customer Exit to the Facility. The exit gate will serve as a delivery/transport truck entrance/exit on non-customer use days.

No landscape planting or landscape irrigation is proposed for the Facility.

19. Hazardous Waste Generation

With few exceptions, all the hazardous waste at the Facility will have been collected from the Participants or brought to the Facility by first-responders for the express purpose of having it properly managed. Besides soiled cleaning supplies such as rags, absorbent, and protective gear, HHW generated on site is anticipated to primarily consist of very small quantities of materials such as those associated with a small consolidation, packing and shipping operation. All HHW collected, including that small amount created at the Facility, will be handled as required by law and as specified in the approved Operations/Emergency Plan, and in a manner that meets all applicable State regulations and standards. As all HHW collected at the Facility will either be made available for reuse or shipped out to appropriate management facilities on a regular basis by properly licensed haulers throughout the life of this Facility, it is anticipated that there will be no HHW left unmanaged, having been removed from the Premises as part of Facility operations. The State-required Closure Plan and Financial Assurance Plan will define all the steps, and ensure that adequate funding is available, to completely remove all HHW from the Premises at closure.

See Table One for a list of the types of HHW that may be brought to the Facility by the public for management. While the Facility could manage up to 15,000 gallons of HHW a month, it is anticipated that the program will normally attract much less than this amount.

19. Applicable Permits and Notifications

The Facility shall:

- Comply with applicable County of Fresno Environmental Health, Hazardous Waste Generator and Hazardous Material Business Plan requirements, including providing required Closure/Post Closure and Financial Assurance Plans.
- Operated under all applicable Department of Toxic Substances Control regulations, Public Health and Safety Codes and Public Resources Codes.
- Be permitted under the standardized permit notification with Cal EPA Department of Toxics (Form DTSC 1094B)
- Be in compliance with all requirements of the AADS Landfill Facilities Permit.

The following permits and notifications for the HHW Facility will be included in the operations manual:

- Department of Toxic Substance Control Permit By Rule Notification
- Fresno County Certified Unified Program Agency Permit By Rule Approval
- Fresno County Certified Unified Program Agency Hazardous Materials Business Plan
- Fresno County Fire Marshall Hazardous Materials Storage Unit Design Specification Approval

- Fresno County Fire Marshall HHW Facility Inspection Approval (processed by the Fresno City Fire Department)
- CA Department of Public Health: Designated Sharps Collection Point
- CalRecycle: Certified Used Oil Collection Center Designation
- CalRecycle: PaintCare designated paint collection site (for architectural coatings)

20. Landfill Facilities Permit Revision

Prior to starting Facility construction, a revised Facilities Permit for the AADS must be prepared and approved by the Local Enforcement Agency, and agreed to by CalRecycle. The permit revision process will be orchestrated by the Landfill Principal Engineer, under the guidance and with the assistance of an outside consultant familiar with landfill permitting requirements, permit revision process and the specific attributes and needs of the AADS. Besides updating many existing plans and documents (e.g., Closure-Post Closure Plan, Waste Water Discharge Plan, and the Joint Technical Document) the revision process may require that the Facility address any site-specific issues identified by a wide variety of regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction at AADS. The Facility will have to be in compliance with all applicable design and operational requirements imposed on the AADS in order for the AADS to obtain the permit revision.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
ALAN WEAVER
DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

APPLICANT: County of Fresno

APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study Application No. 6631 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3393

DESCRIPTION: Allow a 15,000 square feet household hazardous collection and management facility within an existing 440-acre waste disposal site in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture; 20-acre minimum parcel size required) Zone District.

LOCATION: The project is located at the northwest corner of W. American and S. Humboldt Avenues approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman in the Fresno County (SUP. DIST.: 1) (18950 W. American Avenue) (APNs: 020-052-04ST, 05ST, 06T, 09ST, 13ST; 020-210-26ST, 27ST, 33ST, 34ST, 35ST).

I AESTHETICS

- A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; or
- C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed facility will operate a Reuse Center (for the distribution of useable Household Hazardous Waste) and PaintCare Program (for the recycling of architectural coatings) as well as serve as a Certified Used Oil Collection Center and a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Collection site. The facility will collect household hazardous waste (HHW) from county residents (residential participants) and small quantity business generators (commercial participants). All HHW that is brought to the facility will either be reused or shipped out to management/recycling facilities on a regular basis. The recyclable solid wastes will be sent to an appropriate recycling facility and non-recyclable solid wastes will be hauled off-site for disposal.

On-site equipment will include but is not limited to two 40' x 8' x 8' and one 12' x 8' x 8' hazardous materials storage containers, a 20' x 5' recyclable storage trailer and a 20' x 8' modular office. Several other storage modules will be used for loading, sorting, and

consolidation of Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) and will be anchored to a concrete pad. A 32' x 40' x 19' canopy will cover the reception/sorting area to protect HHW collected. All equipment/modules including the proposed canopy are less than 20 feet in height and, at the nearest point, sit approximately 220 feet from the southern property line.

The project is located on a 15,000 square feet portion of the existing 440-acre American Avenue disposal site. The site is not located along a designated Scenic Highway and no scenic vistas or scenic resources were identified near the proposal. Surrounded farmland is planted in vineyard, and orchard with sparsely located single family residences. The nearest single family residence is approximately 3,980 feet east of the proposed facility. Given the small foot print of the proposed facility and its location on the property, no degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings is expected from this proposal.

- D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The project will have some perimeter lighting and task lighting at various workstations. Although glare should not be an issue when considering the distance and scarcity of local sensitive receptors, a standard mitigation measure would require that all lighting be hooded and directed as to not shine towards adjacent property and public streets.

**Mitigation Measure:*

1. *All outdoor lighting shall be hooded and directed so as not to shine toward public roads or surrounding properties.*

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

- A. Would the project convert prime or unique farmlands or farmland of statewide importance to non-agricultural use; or
- B. Would the project conflict with existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act Contracts; or
- C. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or
- D. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or
- E. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural uses or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
setting.

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The site is currently zoned for agriculture but is not in farming operations. It currently is and historically has been used as a solid waste disposal site. For that reason, it is not subject to the Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract. The proposal being a household hazardous collection and management facility is compatible with the current use of the property and as such will not change existing environment on or around the property.

III. AIR QUALITY

- A. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. Would the project isolate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation; or
- C. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under a Federal or State ambient air quality standard; or
- D. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District), the project specific emissions of criteria pollutants are not expected to exceed District significance thresholds of 10 tons/year NOX, 10 ton/year ROG and 15 tons/year PM10 and as such, the project would have no significant adverse impact on air quality.

The project is not subject to District Rule 9510 requirements and related fees. However, the Air District's other rules that may apply to the project include: District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule); Rule 2010 (Permits required) pursuant to District Rule 9510, Section 4.4.3; Regulation VIII – (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations), and Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants). A project note would require the applicant to contact the District's Small Business Assistance Office for compliance to these rules.

- E. Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to the applicant's Operational Statement, most waste items brought to the site in packages will be remain unopened. Oil and latex paints as well as other volatile organics will not be consolidated on-site. No organic material other than small amounts of treated wood will be collected. Therefore, air and odor emissions associated with this project will be undetectable by any sensitive receptors in the area beyond the perimeter of the facility.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species; or
- B. Would the project 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 Game (CDFG) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); or
- C. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means; or
- D. Would the project 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; or

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This proposal will occupy an approximately 15,000 square-foot portion of a 440-acre site that has been heavily disturbed with current waste disposal operations.

The proposal was routed to the California Department of Fish and Game and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comments. No concerns were expressed by either agency. Therefore, no impacts were identified in regards to: 1) any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species; 2) any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Dept. of Fish and Game or U.S Fish and Wildlife Service; 3) federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; and 4) 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.

- E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- F. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources or be in conflict with an approved local regional or state habitat conservation plan.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5; or
- B. Would the project cause of substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or

- C. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or
- D. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located in an area sensitive to historical, archeological or paleontological resources and will not impact these resources.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- A. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury or death involving:
 - 1. Rupture of a known earthquake?
 - (a.) Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - (b.) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - (c.) Landslides?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The area is designated as Seismic Design Category C in the California Geological Survey. There are no known earthquake fault zones located within the project area. No agency expressed concerns or complaints related to ground shaking, ground failure, liquefaction or landslides. Construction of the project will be subject to the Seismic Design Category C Standards.

- B. Would the project result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Potential permanent erosion impacts will be minor in that the proposal will not cause significant changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns and the rate and amount of surface run-off, with adherence to the Grading and Drainage Sections of the County Ordinance Code. The Fresno County Development Engineering Section review of the project requires that a Grading Permit or Voucher shall be obtained for any grading proposed with this application. This will be included as a Project Note.

- C. Would the project result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse; or
- D. Would the project be located on expansive soils creating substantial risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located within an area of known risk of landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse, or within an area of known expansive soils.

- E. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative disposal systems where sewers are not available for wastewater disposal?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposed facility will be provided with a new flush toilet with septic tank and leach field. The Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (Health Department) reviewed the project and expressed no concerns with the soils capabilities relating to the proposed on-site sewage disposal system.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

- A. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Would the project conflict with applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Analysis of the project in consideration of the proposed use and the comments received from the Air District supports the determination that the project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project is not expected to produce greenhouse gases through significant burning of fossil fuel resulting from substantial increase in traffic trips to the property. The project will adhere to the Air District rules as identified in Section III. A. B. C. D. above

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- A. Would the project create a significant public hazard through routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- B. Would the project create a significant public hazard involving accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- C. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of a school; or

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The household hazardous waste (HHW) collected at the site include: cleaners and polishes, automotive products, paints & related materials, thinners & solvents, adhesives, aerosol products, pesticides and fertilizers, hobby supplies, medical sharps, pharmaceuticals,

asbestos, waste oil & oil filters, and small tanks. Other wastes include: household batteries, electronic items, communication items, appliances and such. The proposed facility would be able to store up to 15,000 gallons of HHW within storage modules that will be anchored to a new concrete floor. According to the applicant's Operational Statement, all solid waste collected at the site involves no liquid waste which would be subject to spill preventions on the property. Liquid waste generated on the site that will come from hand and eye wash and emergency shower will be disposed of according to the local and state regulations.

The Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (Health Department) reviewed the project and requires that; 1) prior to occupancy, the applicant shall complete and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan; 2) all hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5; 3) an application for revision of the existing solid waste facility permit shall be filed with the enforcement agency (LEA) at least 180 days prior to the proposed facility operations; and 4) a Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Permit by Rule Notification (DTSC Form 1094B) (11/08) shall be submitted to the County of Fresno Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, CUPA Program. These requirements will be included as Project Notes.

The project is not within on-quarter mile of a school.

D. Would the project be located on a hazardous materials site?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is located within an existing solid waste disposal site.

E. Would a project be located within an airport land use plan or, absent such a plan, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area; or

F. Would a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located within an airport land use plan area, two miles of a public use airport, or in the vicinity of a private airstrip.

G. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted Emergency Response Plan or Emergency Evacuation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted Emergency Response Plan.

- H. 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?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICATION IMPACT:

The North Central Fire Protection District (NCFPD) reviewed the project and requires: 1) a fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with the Fresno Fire Department Limited Area Sprinkler Standard under the canopy due to the extended response time from the nearest fire station; 2) the fire sprinkler system and the suppression systems in the Hazardous Material containers be monitored; 3) a minimum 20,000 gallon water tank and UL-listed fire pump in the 100-150 gallon per minute (gpm) range; a 4 ½ inch suction outlet for water tank for use by fire apparatus within 10 feet of an access road, or installation of a fire hydrant with a minimum 8 inch main and a fire flow of 1500 gpm within 10 feet of the access road; 4) fire protection water line extended from the existing fire pump at the adjacent County facility to provide a water supply to the fire sprinkler system and to a fire hydrant; 5) a minimum eight-inch water line due to the distance required to run the line; and 5) any additional gates to the facility provided with a fire access bypass keyway for electric gates or a fire access padlock for manual gates. These requirements will be included as Conditions of Approval.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- A. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade water quality; or

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section VI.E., above. All liquid waste generated at the facility will be collected and contained within underground containments and vaults and will be pumped on a regular basis.

The project was reviewed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of Drinking Water and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). CDPH did not deem the facility to be a public water system, given the fact that the public will not be allowed to access any utilities including water at proposed hazardous waste site. No concerns with the proposal were expressed by the RWQCB.

- B. Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge so that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project will provide potable water to the workers for hand and eyes wash and emergency shower. Water supply will come from an existing well on the property via a two-inch PVC pipeline. Once on-site, fresh water need will be extracted and processed via reverse osmosis system and potable water will be stored in an elevated storage tank. As per Plumbing Code (except where not deemed necessary for safety or sanitation by the Authority having

Jurisdiction) that each plumbing fixture shall be provided with an adequate supply of potable running water piped thereto in an approved manner, the potable water will be piped from the tank to the sink and shower. The project will utilize limited water and will not impact groundwater resources.

The Water-Geology-Natural Resources Section of the Department of Public Works and Planning reviewed the project and expressed no concerns related to water supplies for the project.

- C. Would the project substantially alter existing drainage patterns, including alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site; or
- D. Would the project substantially alter existing drainage patterns, including alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site?
- E. Would the project create or contribute run-off which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted run-off?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

No stream or river exists on or near the project site that would be impacted by this proposal. According to the Development Engineering Section of the Department of Public Works and Planning: 1) an Engineered Grading and Drainage Plan will be required for on-site and off-site improvements; and 2) a grading permit or voucher will be required for any grading proposed with this application. These requirements will be included as Project Notes.

- F. Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section A. above.

- G. Would the project place housing within a 100-year floodplain; or
- H. Would the project place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not located in a special flood hazard area as identified on the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

- I. Would the project expose persons or structures to levee or dam failure; or
- J. Would the project inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not prone to a seiche, tsunami or mudflow, nor is the project exposed to potential levee or dam failure.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

A. Will the project physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is approximately three miles southwest of the nearest city of the City of Kerman, and will not impact that community.

B. Will the project conflict with any Land Use Plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project?

FINDING LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is designated Agriculture in the Fresno County General Plan which allows certain non-agricultural uses such as the proposed facility by discretionary approval provided the use meets General Plan Policy LU-A.3., criteria a. b. c. d. as well as other policies noted below.

Criteria LU-A.3.a. states that the use shall provide a needed service to the surrounding area which cannot be provided more effectively within urban areas. Criteria LU-A.3.b states that the use shall not be sited on productive agricultural land if less productive land is available in the vicinity. Criteria LU-A.3.c states that the use shall not have a detrimental impact on water resources. Criteria LU-A.3.d states that a probable workforce should be located nearby or readily available.

With regard to Criteria “a”, the proposed facility will provide a safe and efficient means for Fresno County residents and small quantity business generators to dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) and is needed. With regard to Criteria “b”, the project is not located on productive farmland. The proposed facility is located within a 440-acre waste disposal site which has been heavily disturbed with the existing land fill operations. With regard to Criteria “c”, the project involves no water use and as such will not impact ground-water resources, as noted by the Water-Geology-Natural Resources Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning. With regard to Criteria “d”, the project is located approximately three miles southwest of the City of Kerman and 3.2 mile northeast of the City of San Joaquin and can provide adequate workforce.

Policy LU-A.12 of the General Plan requires that agricultural activities be protected from encroachment of incompatible uses, Policy LU-A.13 requires buffers between proposed non-agricultural uses and adjacent agricultural operations, and Policy LU-A.14 requires an assessment of the conversion of productive agricultural land and that mitigation be required where appropriate.

In this instance, the project is not located on a farmland but on an existing waste disposal site and sits at an adequate distance from the surrounding farmland. The proposed facility is approximately 220 feet from the nearest farmland to the south across American Avenue and will be enclosed by an eight-foot high chain-link fence.

General Plan Policy PF-C.17 requires water supply evaluation to determine adequacy of water supply to meet the highest demand that could be permitted on the land in question. Comments provided by the Water-Geology-Natural Resources Unit of the Development Services Division, indicates that the project will not impact groundwater resources.

General Plan Policy PF-F.2 requires that all new solid waste disposal sites and related facilities shall be located in areas where potential environmental impacts can be mitigated and the facilities are compatible with surrounding land uses subject to criteria a. b. c. & d. Criteria PF-F.2 a. states that the solid waste facility shall not be located within the conical surface area as defined by the Federal Aviation Regulations. Criteria PF-F.2 b. states that the facility shall not be sited on productive agricultural land if less productive lands are available. Criteria PF-F.2 c. states that the facility shall be located in areas of low concentrations of people and dwellings. Criteria PF-F.2 d. states that the facility shall be located along or close to a major road systems.

With regard to Criteria "a", the proposal is not located within conical surface area of an airport. With regard to Criteria "b", the proposal is not located on a farmland but on a existing wastes disposal site. With regard to Criteria "c", the project is in an area of low concentrations of people and dwellings. With regard to Criteria "d", the project is located along American Avenue which is major thoroughfare in the area.

General Plan Policy PF-F.6 requires that county shall impose site development and operational conditions on new solid waste facilities in order to mitigate potential environmental impacts on existing and planned land uses in the area. The existing land uses in the area consist of farming operations. Mitigation measures and conditions of approval included in the analysis will ensure that the project impacts on existing land uses in the area are reduced to a less than significant level.

The project also meets General Plan Policy HS-B.1 which requires identification of fire hazardous to reduce the risk to life and property. The project will adhere to Fire Requirements of the North Central Fire Protection District which will be included as Conditions of Approval.

General Plan Policy HS-F.1 requires that facilities handing hazardous materials or wastes shall be deigned , constructed and operated in accordance with applicable hazardous materials and waste management laws and regulation. The project will adhere to all the federal, state, and local laws for construction and operation of the facility.

- C. Will the project conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

- A. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource; or
- B. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site designated on a General Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No mineral resource impacts were identified in the analysis. The site is not located in an identified mineral resource area identified in Policy OS-C.2 of the General Plan.

XII. NOISE

- A. Would the project result in exposure of people to severe noise levels; or
- B. Would the project result in exposure of people to or generate excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise level; or
- C. Would the project cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity; or
- D. Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project operations will not create substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels. The Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division reviewed the project and did not identify any potential noise-related impacts. However, the project will be subject to conformance with the Fresno County Noise Ordinance related to construction noise limiting noise-generating construction activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This will be included as a Project Note.

- E. Would the project expose people to excessive noise levels associated with a location near an airport, or a private airstrip; or
- F. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located near an airport or private airstrip.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- A. Would the project induce substantial population growth either directly or indirectly; or
- B. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing; or
- C. Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

This proposal will not result in an increase of housing, nor will it otherwise induce population growth.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

- A. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered public facilities in the following areas:

- 1. Fire protection?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section VIII. H. Hazards and Hazardous Material.

- 2. Police protection; or
- 3. Schools; or
- 4. Parks?
- 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not impact schools, parks or other public facilities, and should have no impacts on provision of police services.

XV. RECREATION

- A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks; or
- B. Would the project require the construction of or expansion of recreational facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No such impacts were identified in the analysis.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

- A. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system taking into account all modes of transportation; or
- B. Would the project conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demands measures?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to the Applicant's Operational Statement, the number of vehicle trips currently permitted for the existing 440-acre American Avenue disposal site (AADS) is 5,054 vehicle trips per week whereas the current number of landfill-related vehicle trips in and out of the property is 3,160 vehicle trips per week. The project vehicle counts will not exceed the vehicle count already authorized for the disposal site.

At full build-out, the proposed facility is anticipated to add a total of 876.5 vehicle trips per week. This includes: 780 trips by residential and business participants, six by visitors, 84 by employees and 6.5 by service & delivery trucks.

The Design Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning reviewed the project and expressed no concerns with the proposal and did not require a Traffic Impact Study.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) also reviewed the project and expressed no traffic-related concerns with the proposal.

- C. Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not result in a change in air traffic patterns.

- D. Would the project substantially increase traffic hazards due to design features; or
- E. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project design will not create traffic hazard or result in inadequate emergency access. No changes to the existing ingress and egress off of American Avenue will occur from this proposal.

The County Development Engineering and Road Safety & Maintenance Operations Division expressed no concerns with the proposal and did not require additional road right-of-way for or improvements to American Avenue.

- F. Would the project conflict with adopted plans, policies or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not conflict with any adopted transportation plans.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- A. Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements; or

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:
See discussion in Section VI. E. Geology and Soils

- B. Would the project require construction of or the expansion of a new water or wastewater treatment facilities?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section IX. B. Hydrology and Water Quality

- C. Would the project require or result in the construction or expansion of new stormwater drainage facilities?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section IX. E. Hydrology and Water Quality

- D. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed; or

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section IX. B. Hydrology and Water Quality

- E. Would the project result in a determination of inadequate wastewater treatment capacity to serve project demand?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion in Section VI. E. Geology and Soils

- F. Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity; or

- G. Would the project comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project will comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to handling and disposal of solid wastes.

Solid wastes generated as a result of collecting HHW from the public would include empty boxes, buckets, containers and bags. Empty oil and antifreeze containers will be added to the solid waste as the facility staff will be bulking these items directly into above-ground storage tanks. Empty boxes deemed recyclable will be dismantled and stacked separately from other solid wastes designated for disposal. These recyclable items will be sent off-site to an appropriate recycling facility. Solid waste designated for disposal will be placed into one or two four-yard bins on site for subsequent weekly or biweekly disposal by the private solid waste hauler that serves the landfill.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not result in an impact on sensitive biological and cultural resources.

- B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICATION IMPACT:

The Project was evaluated to assess potential cumulative impacts by Fresno County and public agencies. All appropriate project specific mitigation measures were developed to reduce the project's impacts and potential cumulative impacts to less than significant levels. Potential cumulative impacts include, but not limited to impacts to aesthetics. Cumulative impacts on aesthetics are considered to be less than significant with all lighting required to be hooded and directed downward. The project will not impact groundwater quality or quantity as determined by the county staff and state agency (CDPH). Traffic impacts were reviewed by staff and there are no significant cumulative impacts. The project will comply with all applicable County policies and ordinances. Given these considerations, the project will not have cumulative considerable impacts on the environment.

- C. Does the project have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No substantial impacts on human beings, either directly or indirectly, were identified in the analysis.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3393 staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there will be no impacts to agricultural & forestry resources, biological resources, cultural resources, mineral resources, population & housing, recreation, transportation/traffic.

Potential impacts related to air quality, geology & soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, utilities & service system have been determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts to aesthetics have been determined to be less than significant with the identified Mitigation Measures.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Street Level, located on the southeast corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

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