Section 5.14
SOLID WASTE

5.14 SOLID WASTE

This section analyzes the solid waste impacts of the project and recommends mitigation measures to reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills. Specifically, this section compares the solid waste generation of the proposed project with the capacity of the existing landfills operating within Los Angeles County that accept waste from municipalities and unincorporated areas.

5.14.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

STATE PLANS AND POLICIES FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

California Integrated Waste Management Act

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) requires every city and county in the state to prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to its Solid Waste Management Plan, that identifies how each jurisdiction will meet the mandatory state waste diversion goals of 25 percent by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. The purpose of AB 939 is to "reduce, recycle, and re-use solid waste generated in the state to the maximum extent feasible." Noncompliance with the goals and timelines set forth within AB 939 can result in fines up to $10,000 per day on jurisdictions (cities and counties) not meeting the recycling and planning goals.

The term "integrated waste management" refers to the use of a variety of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle the municipal solid waste stream with the least adverse impact on human health and the environment. AB 939 established a waste management hierarchy as follows:

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

As of June 2008, neither the California Integrated Waste Management Board nor the State Legislature have introduced new legislation to set diversion requirements beyond 2000.

REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element

In 1997, the County of Los Angeles prepared a countywide siting element that estimates the amount of solid wastes generated in the County and proposes various diversion and alternate disposal options.

The Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element identifies the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) as the responsible agency to develop plans and strategies to manage and coordinate the solid waste generated (including hazardous waste) in the County unincorporated areas and address the disposal needs of Los Angeles County as a whole. The Siting Element is based upon the traditional practice of simply collecting solid waste and disposal at landfills in the local vicinity. Therefore, currently many jurisdictions (such as the County of Los Angeles) are stating that existing local landfill space may reach capacity in the very near future.

LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

City of Santa Clarita Integrated Solid Waste Management Program

Subsequent to the Integrated Waste Management Act, additional legislation was passed to assist local jurisdictions in accomplishing the goals of AB 939. The California Solid Waste Re-Use and Recycling Access Act of 1991 (Sections 42900-42911 of the Public Resources Code) directed the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to draft a "model ordinance" relating to adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. If by September 1, 1994, a local agency did not adopt its own ordinance based on the CIWMB model, the CIWMB model took effect for that local agency. The City of Santa Clarita chose to use the CIWMB Model Ordinance by adopting City Resolution No. 93-97 in July 1993.

The Model Ordinance is used by the City as the basis for imposing recycling conditions on new development projects and on existing projects that add 30 percent or more to their existing floor area. The City of Santa Clarita has established a comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Program, which incorporates the hierarchy of preferred solid waste management practices as established by AB 939. These are, in order of priority: Source Reduction, Recycling, Composting, Transformation and Landfilling. City-sponsored programs intended to address these solid waste management practices include:

- Curbside residential and commercial recycling;
- Christmas tree recycling;
- Educational outreach;
- Yard trimming collection;
- Certified oil recycling collection centers;
- Participation in the Household Hazardous Waste Program;
- City Facilities Recycling Program;
- Procurement Policy;
- Battery Recycling;
- Used Motor Oil and Filter Recycling;
- Household – E-waste, Oil, and Universal Waste;

- River Rally; and
- Project Pollution Prevention Week.

City of Santa Clarita Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)

The SRRE describes policies and programs that are being implemented by the City to achieve the state's mandate of 50 percent waste disposal reductions.

City of Santa Clarita Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE)

The City's household hazardous waste management program, consisting of collection and public education/information services, has been formulated to serve residents throughout the City in a convenient and cost-effective manner. In addition to reducing the amount of waste that might otherwise be sent to a landfill as required by AB 939, these programs are important facets in the City's effort to clean up the solid waste stream. The City of Santa Clarita adopted its HHWE in 1991.

City of Santa Clarita Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE)

The City's NDFE identifies one proposed and one existing materials recovery facilities/transfer station that the City intends to utilize to implement its SRRE and meet the diversion requirements of AB 939. In addition, the City's NDFE also identifies the utilization of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill for diversion of yard trimmings. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill received approval to operate a composting facility and the composting operation was initiated in October 1996.

City of Santa Clarita Beyond 50 Percent Waste Reduction by 2000 Report

In July 1996, the City Council adopted the Beyond 50 Percent Waste Reduction by 2000 Report. The report identifies the current state of waste management service provided to residents. The report found that a franchise arrangement for Citywide refuse collection remains the most cost-effective alternative for the City to comply with the established waste reduction goal of 50 percent by year 2000. The City's 2006 Diversion Report preliminary diversion rate of 50 percent is under review by the CIWMB.[1]

City of Santa Clarita Construction and Demolition Ordinances

The City adopted Construction and Demolition Ordinance 05-9, June 28, 2005, and Ordinance 08-1, February 12, 2008. Ordinances 05-9 and 08-1 apply to all new construction projects valued over $500,000 and all tenant improvements valued at over $100,000. These ordinances require covered projects to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all inert materials (concrete, dirt, rock, and sand) and recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all other materials (wood, drywall, cardboard, metal, etc.) generated during a covered project. The City's *Municipal Code* Chapter 15.46, Construction and Demolition Materials Management, is consistent with Ordinance 05-9 and Ordinance 08-1. Covered projects shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 15.46 of City's *Municipal Code* through Conditions of Approval (COA), per Ordinance 05-9, and shall submit a Construction and

1 *Jurisdiction Diversion Rate Summary,* California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2006, www.ciwmb.ca.gov.

Demolition Materials Management Plan to the City's Building and Safety Division for review and approval by the Administrator or the Administrator's designee.

EXISTING SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL IN THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

Nine private haulers are franchised by the City of Santa Clarita Department of Public Works to collect residential, commercial and industrial waste in the City of Santa Clarita. These haulers operate under three franchise systems: one for commercial uses, one for temporary bin services, and one for residential uses.

In 2006, approximately 172,088 tons of solid waste were generated by uses in the City of Santa Clarita (refer to *Table 5.14-1*, *Landfills Summary*).[2] Approximately 78 percent (134,412 tons) of Santa Clarita's solid waste is sent to the Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill has been approved for expansion resulting in the extension of its closure date to 2019, assuming a maximum daily tonnage of 6,000 tons of solid waste. This landfill is classified as a major landfill, which is defined as a facility that receives more than 50,000 tons of solid waste per year. Additionally, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is classified as Class III since it is permitted to accept only non-hazardous wastes. The 11 landfills currently serving Santa Clarita have a total permitted capacity of 830 million tons and a remaining capacity of approximately 504 million tons.

As indicated in *Table 5.14-2*, *Daily Projected Solid Waste Generation for Project (No Recycling)*, the existing HMNMH campus produces approximately 9,403 lbs/day or 1,716 tons per year (tons/year) of solid waste. Therefore, the hospital produces approximately 1.0 percent of the City's solid waste disposed of per year (refer to *Table 5.14-1*).

5.14.2 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The City of Santa Clarita Local CEQA Guidelines (Resolution 05-38) adopted on April 26, 2005, as well as the City's General Plan and Municipal Code serve as the basis for identifying thresholds determining the significance of the environmental effects of a projects. Where thresholds are not specifically identified, the Initial Study checklist contained in Appendix A of this EIR relating to solid waste disposal have been utilized to formulate additional significance criteria in this section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if the following occurs:

- Would be served by a landfill with insufficient capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.

The proposed HMNMH Master Plan has been evaluated based on this standard. Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.

[2] *Jurisdiction Disposal and ADC by Facility,* California Integrated Waste Management Board, 2005, www.ciwmb.ca.gov.

Table 5.14-1
Landfills Summary

Facility	Amount Disposed from Santa Clarita (tons/year)[1]	Permitted Daily Capacity (tons/day)[2]	Permitted Total Capacity (cubic yards)[2]	Remaining Capacity (cubic yards)[2] / Dated Last Measured
Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) SLF	28	4,500	53,000,000	44,818,958 / 5.1.2006
Kettleman Hills - B18 Nonhaz Codisposal	403	8,000	10,700,000	6,000,000 / 10.4.2000
Antelope Valley Public Landfill	17,592	1,400	6,480,000	2,978,143 / 6.6.2001
Azusa Land Reclamation Company, Inc.	120	6,500	66,670,000	34,100,000 / 3.31.1996
Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center	1,933	1,700	26,665,000	19,088,739 / 2.28.2006
Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill	134,412	6,000	63,900,000	35,800,000 / 5.1.2003
Puente Hills Landfill #6	2,231	13,200	106,400,000	49,348,500 / 10.14.2006
Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill[3]	9,317	12,100	140,900,000	111,200,000 / 10.31.2007
Bradley Landfill West and West Extension	5,040	See Below[4]	See Below[4]	See Below[4]
Frank R., Bowerman Facility Landfill	7	8,500	127,000,000	59,411,872 / 12.1.2006
El Sobrante Landfill	205	10,000	184,930,000	118,573,540 / 4.30.2007
Simi Valley Landfill Recycling Center	800	3,000	43,500,000	23,201,173 / 3.31.2005
TOTAL	172,088	74,900	830,145,000	504,520,925

1 *Jurisdiction Disposal and ADC by Facility, Disposal during 2006 for Santa Clarita,* California Integrated Waste Management Board, www.ciwmb.ca.gov.
2 *Solid Waste Information System (SWIS)*, California Integrated Waste Management Board, http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/swis/Search.asp.
3 The City disposed of 9,317 tons of solid waste at the Sunshine Canyon SLF County Extension and Sunshine Canyon/North Valley in 2006. These landfills have combined to form the Sunshine City/County Landfill, which currently accepts solid waste under an operational permit issued by the California Integrated Waste Management Board on July 7, 2008.
4 As of May 12, 2008, Bradley Landfill West and West Extension is scheduled to close and currently only accepts green waste and clean fill dirt.
NA = Data not available.

5.14.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

SOLID WASTE GENERATED DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: Buildout of the proposed HMNMH Master Plan involves the net addition of approximately 327,363 square feet of medical office and hospital uses, which includes demolition of the 8,000 square feet existing Foundation and Administrative Office Building. Site preparation (vegetation removal and grading activities) and construction activities would generate typical construction debris, including wood, paper, glass, plastic, metals, cardboard, and green wastes.

Construction activities could also generate hazardous waste products. The proposed project would be subject to compliance with the City's Construction and Demolition Ordinances, which would require the project to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all inert materials (concrete, dirt, rock, and sand) and recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all other materials (wood, drywall, cardboard, metal, etc.) generated during the construction and demolition phase. The proposed project would be required to comply with standard Conditions of Approval, as well as submit a Construction and Demolition Materials Management Plan to the City's Environmental Services Division for review and approval by the Administrator or the Administrator's designee. Non-diverted construction and demolition waste would result in an incremental and intermittent increase in solid waste disposal at landfills and other waste disposal facilities within Los Angeles County. Regardless, as a consequence of the finite resources associated with solid waste disposal, construction impacts associated with development of the proposed HMNMH Master Plan would be significant and unavoidable. Because landfill capacity is a finite resource, mitigation measures to reduce the project impact to less than significant are not available. Thus, construction-related solid waste would further impact landfills with insufficient capacity and result in an exceedance of this significance threshold criteria.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are available.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Significant Unavoidable Impact.

SOLID WASTE GENERATED DURING PROJECT OPERATION

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: Buildout of the proposed HMNMH Master Plan would generate approximately 13,774 lbs/day or 2,514 tons/year of solid waste, which is approximately 47 percent more than the existing facility, as shown in *Table 5.14-2*. This quantity represents the solid waste generated for buildout conditions of the proposed project under a worst-case scenario without any recycling activities in place. However, the proposed project would be required to comply with the City's Ordinance, which requires providing adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in concert with Countywide efforts and programs to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills.

Table 5.14-2
Daily Projected Solid Waste Generation for Project (No Recycling)

Land Use/Gneration Factor	Support Facility (s.f.)	MOB (s.f.)	Hospital Uses (bed)
Existing HMNMH Campus	20,285	97,081	221
Growth Factor (lbs/sq ft/day)	0.006	N/A	N/A
Growth Factor (tons/sq ft/year)	N/A	0.0108	N/A
Growth Factor (lbs/bed/day)	N/A	N/A	16
Existing HMNMH Campus Total lbs/day			9,403
Existing HMNMH Campus Total tons/year			1,716
Proposed HMNMH Master Plan (New)	10,000	192,000	147
Growth Factor (lbs/sq ft/day)	0.006	N/A	N/A
Growth Factor (tons/sq ft/year)	N/A	0.0108	N/A
Growth Factor (lbs/bed/day)	N/A	N/A	16
Proposed HMNMH Master Plan (New) Total lbs/day			13,774
Proposed HMNMH Master Plan (New) Total tons/year			2,514
lb = pound s.f. = square feet 0.0005 tons = 1 lb 1 ton = 2,000 lbs California Integrated Waste Management Board, Estimated Solid Waste Generation Rates, http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WasteChar/WasteGenRates/ , last modified November 1, 2007, (accessed January 28, 2008).			

The proposed project would be required to comply with the City's Ordinance, which requires providing adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in concert with Countywide efforts and programs to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills. Also, the location of recycling/separation areas is required to comply with all applicable federal, public health, state or local laws relating to fire, building, access, transportation, circulation, or safety. Compliance with all applicable state and Los Angeles County regulations and procedures for the use, collection and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes is also mandated.

It can be assumed that the proposed project would meet the current recycling goals of the community and only generate approximately 1,257 tons/year upon buildout of the proposed HMNMH Master Plan, due to a mandate to divert at least 50 percent of potential waste disposal.

In addition, special medical waste is generated by hospitals, doctor offices, laboratories, and research institutions. Special medical wastes include infectious or potentially infectious materials that result from contact with persons or animals suspected or diagnosed as being or having been exposed to contagious disease organisms. Refer to Section 5.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, for further discussion regarding the disposal of special medical waste. Regardless, as a consequence of the finite resources associated with solid waste disposal, and despite the implementation of the mitigation measures, operational impacts would be significant and unavoidable. Thus, operational solid waste

would further impact landfills with insufficient capacity and result in an exceedance of this significance threshold criteria.

Mitigation Measures:

SW1 The location of recycling/separation areas shall be in proximity to dumpsters for non-recyclables, elevators, loading docks, and primary internal and external access points.

SW2 The location of recycling/separation areas shall be convenient for those persons who deposit, collect, and load the recyclable materials.

SW3 Recycling containers/bins shall be located so that they do not block access to each other.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Significant Unavoidable Impact.

5.14.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: Development associated with the proposed project and related cumulative projects would generate approximately 137 tons per day of solid waste, or 50,005 tons/year (refer to Appendix C for cumulative solid waste generation calculations). This quantity represents cumulative solid waste generation under a worst-case scenario without any recycling activities occurring. However, the proposed project and related cumulative projects would be required to comply with recycling requirements, in support of Countywide efforts and programs to reduce the volume of solid waste entering landfills.

Although the proposed project and related cumulative projects would generate approximately 50,005 tons/year, it is anticipated that the proposed project and related projects would meet the current recycling goals. As such, it is assumed that only approximately 25,003 tons/year of cumulative solid waste would require landfill disposal.

Regardless, as a consequence of the finite resources associated with solid waste disposal, and despite the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, cumulative impacts would be significant and unavoidable. Thus, cumulative solid waste impacts would further impact landfills with insufficient capacity and result in an exceedance of this significance threshold criteria.

Mitigation Measures: Refer to Mitigation Measures SW1 through SW3. No additional mitigation measures are available.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Significant Unavoidable Impact.

5.14.5 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project would result in significant unavoidable impacts to solid waste services during both construction and buildout conditions of the proposed project, and cumulative conditions for both construction and operations despite the imposition of mitigation measures.

If the City of Santa Clarita approves the HMNMH Master Plan, the City shall be required to adopt findings in accordance with Section 15091 of the *CEQA Guidelines* and prepare a Statement of Overriding Considerations in accordance with Section 15093 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.

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