

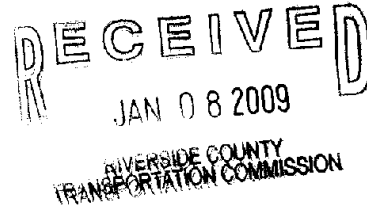


Riverside County
Waste Management Department

Hans W. Kernkamp, General Manager-Chief Engineer

December 18, 2008

Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor
P. O. Box 12008
Riverside, CA 92502 -2208



RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) for the Mid County Parkway Corridor Project (MCP)

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

The Riverside County Waste Management Department (RCWMD) has reviewed the above-mentioned DEIR/DEIS for the proposed 32-mile east-west regional transportation corridor in western Riverside County, located between Interstate 15 (I-15) to the west and State Route 79 (SR-79) to the east. The RCWMD has the following comments for your consideration:

1. Pursuant to an agreement, the El Sobrante Landfill represents a public/private partnership between the RCWMD and USA Waste of California, Inc. (USA Waste). USA Waste is the owner/operator of the landfill, while the RCWMD operates the scale house and implements a load check program. Although the RCWMD acknowledges that the RCTC's preferred alternative, Alternative 9 Temescal Wash Design Variation (TWS DV), is the least intrusive upon existing habitat conservation plans mainly due to avoiding impacts to the Lake Matthews Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Plan, it will however impact approximately 27-acres (DEIR pg. 3.17-77) of the El Sobrante MSHCP. These 27 acres, which were included in the 282 acres conveyed to the County in 2001 are protected with a conservation easement in favor of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

The DEIR/DEIS recognizes that in order for the preferred Alternative 9 TWS DV to be constructed, an amendment to the El Sobrante MSHCP and its Implementing Agreement (IA) is necessary (Mitigation Measure HCP-2). An amendment to the El Sobrante MSHCP would require approvals of all parties to the IA: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CDFG, the County of Riverside, and the permittee, USA Waste. An amendment to the El Sobrante MSHCP would be very costly in terms of additional studies, identifying land with similar biological values, legal fees, etc., and the time necessary to implement the amendment and navigate any legal challenges could lead to severe delays for the MCP.

The RCWMD recommends the selection of an alternative that does not require an amendment to the El Sobrante MSHCP or consideration of an alternative in design, which can avoid physical impacts to conserved lands.

2. As identified in the DEIR, pg. 4-16, construction of the MCP would, "...generate construction waste materials from demolished structures, vegetation, excess soil, concrete, rebar, and other similar materials...the construction contractors will be required to divert construction waste materials from landfills..." The DEIR does not quantitatively analyze the construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated by the MCP. Merely stating that construction contractors will be required to divert C&D waste, without identifying any mechanism to do so, is insufficient. The lack of a quantitative approach to identifying C&D waste, coupled with no mechanism to mandate C&D diversion (i.e., mitigation measure, contractual requirement, etc.) makes it impossible for the DEIR to conclude that the total amount of C&D waste will be insignificant. Therefore, the DEIR should include an analysis of C&D waste impacts, assessing the demands of the project versus available daily disposal capacity and identifying appropriate measures to recycle, reduce, and/or reuse C&D waste materials in order to conserve disposal capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DEIR. The RCWMD requests that any future drafts of the DEIR/DEIS be provided on CD for review and comment when they become available. Please call me at (951) 486-3351 if you have any questions regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,



Ryan Ross
Planner IV

RMR:DR:LBL/rmr

cc: Daimon De Frates, Senior District Manager, USA Waste of California, Inc.

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