



## Simi Valley Landfill & Recycling Center Modernization & Expansion Project

### Frequently Asked Questions

Waste Management has proposed the modernization and expansion of the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center (SVLRC) to consolidate operations, improve recycling programs, increase green energy production and extend the capacity of the facility beyond the 2027 closure date of Ventura County's two landfills.

#### What is Waste Management proposing?

- Build a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to improve recycling capabilities and assist the City of Simi Valley in reaching higher state mandated diversion goals
- Construct an Environmental Collection Center for local residents to drop off household hazardous waste materials, including electronics, paint, batteries and oil
- Expand the existing landfill gas-to-energy program to increase production of renewable energy by 150 percent, enough to power 6,250 homes
- Relieve congestion on the Easy St/Madera Corridor by removing more than 500 daily vehicle trips associated with the current location of GI Industries trucking operation
- Move WM/GI Industries hauling operations to the Simi Valley Landfill's new LEED certified buildings
- Expand the active landfill area from 185 acres to 371 acres for waste disposal
  - Nearly doubles the acreage available to serve needs of our customers
- Daily Tonnage Limits

Material Type	Current Permit	Proposal Permit
Trash	3,000 tons per day	6,000 tons per day
Recycling	6,250 tons per day	3,250 tons per day

- 6,000 tons per day is proposed to be the **maximum or peak** limit of trash the SVLRC can receive each day. The reallocation of tonnage is consistent with future population growth and community disposal and recycling needs
  - Simi Valley will continue have priority over any other community and county
- Expand the buffer area<sup>1</sup> surrounding the landfill from 112 acres to 516 acres
  - Increase the open space by 361%
  - Potential uses of a buffer area include: wildlife habitat, preserving surrounding hillsides and natural terrains

#### Why propose this *now*?

- The current design of the landfill allows us to fill forward towards the freeway by approximately 600 feet. WM has redesigned the landfill footprint for the operations to be built behind the landfill naturally shielded from view by surrounding ridges and existing landfill.

<sup>1</sup> A buffer area is open space surrounding the site of a landfill



- By redesigning the front part of the landfill, we lose up to 15 years of capacity that is currently permitted.
- State law mandates that all Counties must demonstrate 15 years of landfill capacity or have an alternate plan to manage their waste, which may include sending waste to landfills in other counties or states (at a higher cost)
- Without the SVLRC Modernization and Expansion project, Ventura County will not be able to demonstrate enough local capacity to meet minimum mandates within the next three years
- Within seven years, it is projected that Ventura County will be generating more waste than its two landfills are allowed to accept on a daily basis
  - Ventura County may become dependent on other counties for waste disposal at much higher rates
  - If the landfill reaches capacity and trash is transported out of Ventura County, service rates for Simi Valley residents are expected to increase significantly
- Modernizing & increasing recycling capabilities with the development of a state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facility (MRF) will help Simi Valley achieve AB939 state mandates
- A convenient Environmental Collection Center addresses the increasing need for local residents to drop off household hazardous wastes and electronics

### **Where does the trash at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center come from?**

- Seventy percent of all tons accepted at the SVLRC originate in Ventura County. The rest comes from surrounding communities including Santa Barbara, Malibu, Calabasas, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles.

### **Does Ventura County take in trash from Los Angeles?**

- Currently, less than 2% of the waste SVLRC takes in is from Los Angeles.
- The Ventura County Landfills have accepted municipal solid waste and recyclables from areas outside Ventura County for more than 30 years. In exchange, we rely on Los Angeles and other counties to dispose and manage old tires, liquid wastes, scrap automobiles, oils, and other industrial and hazardous wastes generated in our county.
- The proposed project guarantees priority for disposal of Ventura County's municipal solid waste and anticipates less than 7% of municipal solid waste generated in Los Angeles County may make its way to SVLRC.
- Local municipal waste disposal needs will continue to grow and SVLRC is committed to displace the out-of-county component of waste to meet all of the disposal needs of Ventura County up to its permitted limits.
- As with all critical infrastructures, such as utilities, hospitals, airports, transportation and jobs, landfills are also regional in serving the greater good. No single community can bear the costs to independently provide these critical components. With our reliance on other communities to meet our basic needs, it is only fair that we share the resources that we all rely on.
- The cost to construct proper and safe landfill infrastructure and environmental protection features has increased at an incredible rate, far beyond the rate of inflation, in recent years. A certain percentage of the rate that local communities pay for their service must cover those ever increasing costs. If only a small amount of waste or recyclables is received, then the amount required to defray the cost of infrastructure and environmental protection features would be much higher to individual customers and local communities.



- Today, Los Angeles County’s volume is used to defray the costs of infrastructure and help pay for the SVLRC fixed and variable costs. In turn, Simi Valley residents will continue to receive low residential services rates.

**How will the Project affect local traffic?**

- Traffic impacts are currently under evaluation through Ventura County’s Environmental Impact Report and any significant impacts must be mitigated by the project.
- Vehicle Count:

The following table presents a comparison of existing vs. projected vehicle traffic

<b>Simi Valley Landfill &amp; Recycling Center</b>	<b>Current Vehicles Per Day</b>	<b>Permitted Vehicles Per Day</b>	<b>Proposed Vehicles Per Day</b>	<b>Difference (Permitted vs. Proposed)</b>
Permitted Truck Traffic	500	822	892	70

- Consolidation of WM/GI Industries to the SVLRC will relocate existing employee and truck traffic to the landfill resulting in no increase in regional traffic. The proposed project allows growth of WM/GI Industries to add 100 trucks and 150 employees to accommodate local growth and service demand.
- Up to 28% of waste brought to SVLRC is to be delivered by Transfer Vehicles, such as those used by Del Norte Transfer Station in Oxnard, resulting in the following benefits:
  - ❖ Holds approximately 22 tons of trash
    - Comparable to approximately five vehicles with waste
  - ❖ Reduces the amount of vehicles on the road
  - ❖ Reduces air pollution

**How will your community benefit?**

- Changes the location of the trash disposal area to be further away from the community and enables the expanded landfill operations to be visually screened behind the existing vegetated slopes and hills.
- Relocates and consolidates Waste Management/GI Industries trucking operations to the landfill site, which will reduce Easy St/Madera corridor.
- Increases Waste Management’s “green power” gas-to-energy programs by 150% to power the equivalent of nearly 6,250 homes.
- Establishes the first U.S. Green Building Council LEED certified buildings at a landfill within the county.
- Incorporates construction of the Simi Valley Environmental Collection Center for the convenience of local residents to drop off household wastes prohibited from landfill disposal (eg. electronics, paints, batteries, oil, etc.).
- Keeps local residential service rates low for the extended life of the landfill.
- Ensures a long-term disposal facility for the Simi Valley community beyond the year 2050.



- Maintains more than 275 good-paying local jobs and contributes more than \$48 million to the local economy for the extended life of the landfill.
- Creates a buffer area within the proposed permit boundaries of over 500 acres to the North and East of the landfill for open space, hillside protection and wildlife habitat – This is almost 5 times the current permitted buffer area.
- Establishes WM's environmental leadership by providing an outdoor education area through the creation of a nature preserve as well as an indoor educational center for local community groups and schools.
- Modernizes and expands Waste Management's ability to process recyclables, including paper, cardboard, beverage containers, and other materials, through construction of a permanent recycling processing and transfer facility.
- Begins evaluation of new technologies inclusive of conversion of landfill gas to alternative fuels.

### **What are the environmental benefits of WM's project?**

- The Environmental Collection Center addresses the need for a convenient household hazardous waste and electronics drop off facility serving local residents.
- The SVLRC provides for the safe and secure handling of residential and business waste.
- Improves **recycling** opportunities and increases environmentally-friendly programs.
- Increases production of enough **green energy** to power 6,250 homes.
- Becoming one of the first landfills and recycling centers in the county to receive a U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification for sustainability
- Creates over 500 acres for open space and wildlife habitats

### **Why Waste Management?**

- WM is committed to Simi Valley and Ventura County and prides itself on being a good neighbor for over 35 years with a proven track record.
- WM/GI Industries was awarded the Best Market Area in the country for customer satisfaction
- WM has been recognized locally and nationally for its efforts in environmental stewardship.
- WM is a strong local company with the resources of a national industry leader. Our research and development keeps us on the cutting edge of environmentally sound waste disposal practices.
- WM has won numerous awards for environmental stewardship, including:
  - Climate Action Leader, California Climate Action Registry
  - Clean Air Leadership Award, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
  - President's Award, Wildlife Habitat Council
  - 2007 Wildlife Certification for SVLRC, Wildlife Habitat Council
  - Business of the Year Awards from Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Moorpark Chamber of Commerce
  - Charter Member in the National Environmental Achievement Track, U.S. EPA

Waste Management is committed to making a difference for our employees, our customers, the environment and the communities we serve. For more information about our operations and proposed project plans, please visit [www.KeepingVenturaCountyClean.com](http://www.KeepingVenturaCountyClean.com).