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**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**  
**L. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEM**  
**4. SOLID WASTE**

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The project site is located within an urbanized area with existing solid waste collection and disposal services. This section provides a discussion of the regulatory framework associated with solid waste disposal, the local and regional solid waste management system, estimated project and program solid waste generation, and the ability of existing collection and disposal facilities to meet projected program and cumulative demand.

**1. APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

**a. Solid Waste Disposal and Management Programs**

The California Integrated Solid Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939) passed in 1989 and 1990 requires that all Counties have an approved Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP). All Counties and Cities are required to implement strategies to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfill disposal through source reduction, recycling, and composting. Additionally, Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) established the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to provide effective and coordinated management of the state's solid waste system and authorized the CIWMB to monitor and enforce the mandates of AB 939. The Act established a hierarchy for integrated waste management that consists of: source reduction; recycling and composting; transformation; and environmentally safe disposal.

The CIWMP must demonstrate sufficient solid waste disposal capacity for at least fifteen years, or identify additional available capacity outside of the County's jurisdiction. Orange County's CIWMP, approved in 1996, contains future solid waste disposal demand based on the County population projections previously adopted by the County Board of Supervisors. The CIWMB's database shows that the Orange County landfill system has capacity in excess of thirty (30) years, which is well above the required fifteen-year capacity.

AB 939 further requires each City to conduct a Solid Waste Generation Study and prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to describe how it would reach the goals. The SRRE contains programs and policies for fulfillment of the goals of the Act, including diversion goals, and must be updated annually to account for changing market and infrastructure conditions. As projects and programs are implemented, the characteristics of the

waste stream, the capacities of the current solid waste disposal facilities, the operational status of those facilities are updated and upgraded, as appropriate. Cities and counties in California are required to submit annual reports to the CIWMB to update the Board on their respective jurisdiction's progress toward the goals of AB 939 goals.

The California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires each "development project" to provide an adequate storage area for collection and removal of recycle materials.

In response to AB 939, the City adopted a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) and a Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE) in April of 1992. The City is also preparing a Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE) identifying what to do with non-disposable wastes.

#### **b. City of Huntington Beach General Plan**

The City of Huntington Beach General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element define goals, policies, and programs related to the provision of solid waste collection and disposal services.

The following goal of the Public Facilities and Public Services Element is applicable to the project site and/or the proposed project:

**U 4:** Maintain solid waste collection and disposal services in accordance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), and pursue funding sources to reduce the cost of the collection and disposal services in the City.

The following specific policy of the Public Facilities and Public Services Element is applicable to the project site and/or the proposed project:

**U 4.4.1:** Maintain adequate solid waste collection for commercial, industrial, and residential development in accordance with State law.

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Private waste haulers are currently collecting municipal solid waste from industrial, office, commercial, and residential land uses in the majority of the cities and unincorporated areas of the County, including the City of Huntington Beach. The collected waste is hauled

directly to major municipal (Class III) landfills or waste-to-energy facilities. In some jurisdictions, the waste is first separated at transfer stations or resource recovery facilities.

Rainbow Disposal Company, Inc. (Rainbow Disposal) is under contract with the City of Huntington Beach to collect all solid waste generated by residential, commercial and industrial uses. A transfer station located in the City receives all collected waste and is sorted and processed through a materials recovery facility to remove the materials that can be recycled. The remaining solid waste is transported to a County landfill.

The City is under contract to the County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD) to commit all of its waste to the County landfill system (instead of a specific landfill) until the year 2007.<sup>65</sup> As shown in Table IV.L.4-1 on page 282, there are three Class III solid waste landfills in Orange County. These landfills are also accepting additional solid waste from outside Orange County. Under existing agreements with out-of-County jurisdictions and waste haulers, if the permitted daily tonnage at a landfill facility is exceeded due to cumulative development, the amount of waste being accepted from out-of-County would be reduced by a corresponding amount.<sup>66</sup> The Olinda Alpha Landfill 1, located in the City of Brea, is the closest facility to the project site and most likely would receive the waste generated at the project site.<sup>67</sup> This facility accepts construction/demolition, industrial, and mixed municipal waste and has a life expectancy of approximately 12 years.

Solid waste generated at all existing uses within the project site is currently collected on a weekly basis by Rainbow Disposal and disposed of at one of the three landfills serving the County. A minimal amount of solid waste is currently generated in Area A and primarily occurs when games are scheduled on the ballfield. Existing solid waste generation associated with Area B1 is 36 pounds per day for residential use and 153 pounds per day for the remaining uses for a daily total of 189 pounds (or 0.09 tons).<sup>68</sup> There is also additional solid waste generation associated with the Bus Maintenance Facility located on Area B2.

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<sup>65</sup> *Written Communication with Robert Richmond, Planner IV, Regulatory Compliance, Integrated Waste Management Department, August 21, 2000.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> *Generation factor of 4 pounds per day per dwelling unit and 5 pounds per day for every 1,000 square feet of commercial use (including restaurant and office). City of Huntington Beach, General Plan EIR, Table SW-1 Projected Solid Waste Generation, page 5.12.7-3.*

Table IV.L.4-1

## STATUS OF MAJOR LANDFILLS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Landfill Site	Owner/Operator	Permitted Peak Throughput (Tons/Day)	Remaining Capacity (Cubic Yards)	Estimated Closure Date
Frank R. Bowerman Landfill	County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Dept.	8,500	81,600,000	2024
Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill	County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Dept.	8,000	53,000,000	2013
Prima Deshecha Sanitary Landfill	County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Dept.	4,000	89,400,000	2040

Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board, California Waste Facilities, Sites, and Operations Database, June 2001.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### a. Significance Threshold

A significant impact to solid waste facilities would occur if the proposed project is determined to:

- Be inconsistent with adopted plans and policies.
- Result in an increase in demand for services that could not be met by existing or planned resources.
- Result in a need for the substantial expansion of existing or the construction of new facilities or the purchase of equipment.

#### b. Project Level Impacts

The proposed project would replace the vacant Rancho View School and ballfields on Area A with retail warehouse and restaurant uses, and associated surface parking and landscaping. Proposed development of Area A would include 159,300 square feet of commercial/retail and 9,000 of restaurant uses for a total of 168,300 square feet at buildout of Area A.

##### (1) Construction

During demolition, grading, and construction of Area A, site activities would generate construction and demolition-generated waste (C&D) such as wood, metal, concrete, and other

building material. C&D is heavy, inert material. IWMD has stated that this material creates significant problems when disposed of in landfills as the C&D debris does not decompose and takes up landfill space.<sup>69</sup> However, the majority of the C&D debris would be diverted from landfill space through recycling of wood, metal, concrete, and other building materials. The C&D debris would be diverted from landfill space through reuse on another site or through sale to fill and construction material dealers or brokers. The project applicant would ensure C&D debris recycling is implemented to the greatest extent feasible.

## (2) Operation

Based on proposed square footage, Area A would generate approximately 841 pounds (or 0.42 tons) per day<sup>70</sup> on a site where currently minimal solid waste is generated. By comparison, the City average daily solid waste disposal rate is approximately 1,845 tons per day.<sup>71</sup> The project's average daily disposal rate would be a 0.023 percent increase above the City's average disposal rate. IWMD indicated that the Orange County landfill system has capacity in excess of 30 years. In addition, the amount of out-of-County waste that is currently received at Orange County landfills can be reduced if daily tonnage limits are exceeded. Therefore, adequate landfill capacity is generally available for the proposed project.<sup>72</sup>

Additionally, the State of California requires that each city and county demonstrate a reduction of at least 50 percent in the amount of waste from that jurisdiction that had gone into landfills in the year 1990. The State requires that this level of reduction be sustained. The City diverts approximately 43 percent of the solid waste generated by the City.<sup>73</sup> Assuming that approximately 43 percent of the waste generated by the proposed project would be recyclable materials diverted from disposal at a landfill, the actual amount of solid waste that would be received at landfills after diversion would be approximately 362 pounds per day or 0.18 tons per day. This increase in solid waste generation represents a 0.01 percent increase above the City's average disposal rate of approximately 1,845 tons per day. Although this is a small portion, it would incrementally decrease available landfill capacity. This project impact is not considered significant, however, since the demand for services can be met through existing agreements with

<sup>69</sup> *Written Communication with Robert Richmond, Planner IV, Regulatory Compliance, Integrated Waste Management Department, August 21, 2000.*

<sup>70</sup> *Generation factor of 4 pounds per day per dwelling unit and 5 pounds per day for every 1,000 square feet of commercial use (including restaurant and office). City of Huntington Beach, General Plan EIR, Table SW-1 Projected Solid Waste Generation, page 5.12.7-3.*

<sup>71</sup> *City of Huntington Beach, General Plan EIR, page 5.12.7-1.*

<sup>72</sup> *Written Communication with Robert Richmond, Planner IV, Regulatory Compliance, Integrated Waste Management Department, August 21, 2000.*

<sup>73</sup> *Integrated Waste Management Department, [www.oc.ca.gov/iwmd/rcprogress.htm](http://www.oc.ca.gov/iwmd/rcprogress.htm), April 2002.*

other jurisdictions and waste haulers and implementation of solid waste policies and programs included in the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the City's General Plan, the SRRE and the HHWE.

Rainbow Disposal provides solid waste collection service to the City, including the project site. In addition to providing services to the existing uses on site, Rainbow Disposal has indicated that the suitable number of containers would be provided to the proposed uses on Area A, depending on total square footage and type of business. Rainbow Disposal has also indicated that implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact on waste hauling services.<sup>74</sup>

### **c. Program Level Impacts**

Development of Area B1 would allow for the intensification of the existing commercial/retail and restaurant uses from 30,575 square feet to approximately 74,400 square feet. The nine single-family residential units currently located on Area B1 would be removed. The existing Ocean View School District Bus and Maintenance Facility, located in Area B2, would continue its current operations at this location.

#### **(1) Construction**

During demolition, grading, and construction of Area B1, these activities would generate solid waste including wood, metal, concrete, and other building material. Construction activities would be coordinate with the recycling coordinator for the City to ensure C&D recycling is adequately addressed. No construction impacts would occur within Area B2.

#### **(2) Operation**

Development of Area B1 would result in an estimated generation of approximately 372 pounds per day of solid waste at project buildout.<sup>75</sup> This represents an increase of 183 pounds (or 0.09 tons) per day above current conditions. The total estimated solid waste generation with development of Area A and Area B1 would be 1,213 pounds (or 0.61 tons) per day. This represents a net increase of 1,024 pounds (0.51 tons) above the amount of solid waste currently generated in the program area. This net increase would be 0.028 percent above the City's average daily solid waste disposal rate of approximately 1,845 tons per day. The amount of solid

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<sup>74</sup> *Written Communication with Tim Skeber, Customer Service Manager, Rainbow Disposal, August 17, 2000.*

<sup>75</sup> *Generation Factor of 5 pounds per day for every 1,000 square feet. City of Huntington Beach, General Plan EIR, Table SW-1 Projected Solid Waste Generation, page 5.12.7-3.*

waste generated within Area B2 would remain unchanged from current conditions. IWMD indicated that the Orange County landfill system has capacity in excess of 30 years.<sup>76</sup> In addition, the amount of out-of-County waste that is currently received at Orange County landfills can be reduced if daily tonnage limits are exceeded. Therefore, adequate landfill capacity is generally available for the proposed program.<sup>77</sup>

The amount of solid waste disposed of at local landfills would be further reduced with the diversion of approximately 43 percent of the waste generated by the program development. This would reduce the overall net increase of solid waste generated from 1,024 pounds per day to 440 pounds (or 0.22 tons) per day. This net increase is 0.012 percent above the City's average daily solid waste disposal rate of approximately 1,845 tons per day. Although this is a small portion, it would incrementally decrease available landfill capacity. This project impact is not considered significant, however, since the demand for services can be met through existing agreements with other jurisdictions and waste haulers and implementation of solid waste policies and programs included in the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the City's General Plan, the SRRE and the HHWE.

Rainbow Disposal provides solid waste collection service to the City, including the project site. In addition to providing services to the existing uses on site, Rainbow Disposal has indicated that the suitable number of containers would be provided to the proposed uses on Area B1, depending on total square footage and type of business. Rainbow Disposal has also indicated that implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact on waste hauling services.<sup>78</sup>

#### 4. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Development associated with the related projects described in Section III.B., Related Projects, in combination with the proposed program, would cumulatively contribute to an incremental decrease in available landfill capacity. As previously stated, if permitted daily tonnage is exceeded at any landfill facility then the amount of out-of-County waste accepted at that facility would decrease proportionately. Also, each of the related projects would be individually subject to the County Integrated Waste Management and City review. Prior to development, each of the related projects would be required to demonstrate that adequate service

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<sup>76</sup> *Written Communication with Robert Richmond, Planner IV, Regulatory Compliance, Integrated Waste Management Department, August 21, 2000.*

<sup>77</sup> *Written Communication with Robert Richmond, Planner IV, Regulatory Compliance, Integrated Waste Management Department, August 21, 2000.*

<sup>78</sup> *Written Communication with Tim Skeber, Customer Service Manager, Rainbow Disposal, August 17, 2000.*

and facilities would be available. Therefore, implementation of the proposed program, in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects would not result in a cumulative impact to the provision of solid waste collection and disposal facilities.

## **5. STANDARD CITY POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

The project will be required to comply with standard conditions of approval for solid waste as follows:

1. All building spoils, such as unusable lumber, wire, pipe, and other surplus or unusable material shall be disposed of at an off-site facility equipped to handle them.

## **6. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE BEFORE MITIGATION**

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact to solid waste collection and disposal services. The proposed project in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects would not result in a cumulative impact to solid waste disposal services.

## **7. MITIGATION MEASURES**

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact to the provision of solid waste collection and disposal services and no mitigation measures would be required.

## **8. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact to solid waste collection and disposal services. The proposed project in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects would not result in a cumulative impact to solid waste disposal services.