

4.15.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Solid Waste Services

Athens Disposal Company (ADC) provides solid waste disposal services for the City of Azusa. The City's solid waste is collected by ADC and taken to the City of Industry materials recovery facility (MRF), where it is sorted. Paper, glass, plastics, and metals are recovered and recycled at the MRF, and the remaining solid waste is hauled to one of the solid waste sites included in **Table 4.15.2-1, City of Azusa 2013 Solid Waste Disposal Sites.**¹

¹ City of Azusa Website, trash service, <http://www.ci.azusa.ca.us/FAQ.aspx?TID=22>

**Table 4.15.2-1
City of Azusa 2013 Solid Waste Disposal Sites**

Facility	Instate Ton¹	Transform Ton²	Remaining Capacity
Antelope Valley Public Landfill	190	-	20,400,000 cubic yards
Azusa Land Reclamation Co. Landfill	2,983	-	51,512,201 cubic yards
Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill	130	-	22,400,000 cubic yards
Commerce Refuse to Energy Facility ³	-	123	-
Covanta Stanislaus, Inc. ⁴	-	2	-
El Sobrante Landfill	2,980	-	145,530,000 tons
Frank R. Bowerman Sanitary Landfill	69	-	205,000,000 cubic yards
Kettleman Hills B18 Nonhaz Codisposal	6	-	6,000,000 cubic yards
Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center	5	-	14,514,648 cubic yards
McKittrick Waste Treatment Site	1	-	841,498 cubic yards
Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill	3,362	-	67,520,000 cubic yards
Olinda Alpha Sanitary Landfill	448	-	38,578,383 cubic yards
Puente Hills Landfill ⁵	25,993	-	-
San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill	409	-	13,605,488 cubic yards
Simi Valley Landfill & Recycling Center	167	-	119,600,000 cubic yards
Southeast Resource Recovery Facility ⁶	-	10	-
Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill	19	-	96,800,000 cubic yards
Victorville Sanitary Landfill	5	-	81,510,000 cubic yards
Yearly Total	36,767.85	135	

Source: Cal Recycle, Solid Waste Jurisdiction Profile for Azusa, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/Viewer.aspx?P=OriginJurisdictionIDs%3d31%26ReportYear%3d2013%26ReportName%3dReportEDRSJurisDisposalByFacility>, and Cal Recycle, SWIS Facility/Site Search, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/Search.aspx>, accessed February 25, 2015

¹ Instate Ton: Total instate is the total amount of waste generated from within California and includes transformation waste.

² Transform Ton: "Transformation" means incineration, pyrolysis, gasification, or biological conversion other than composting.

³ The Commerce Refuse to Energy Facility accepts 1,000 tons of solid waste/day. The facility converts refuse into power for up to 20,000 homes. The waste to energy facility has a daily maximum capacity but there is no foreseeable closure date.

⁴ The Covanta Stanislaus Facility accepts 3,200 tons of solid waste/day. The facility is a waste to energy facility and can provide 22.5 megawatts of renewable energy per day. The waste to energy facility has a daily maximum capacity but there is no foreseeable closure date.

⁵ The Puente Hills Landfill closed in October 2013.

⁶ The Southeast Resource Recovery Facility is an incinerator that burns refuse under controlled conditions. The facility recovers recyclable materials before and after the refuse is incinerated. The facility can accept 2,240 tons of solid waste per day; no closure date has been set for the facility.

Solid Waste Generation

In 2013, the City disposed of 36,767.85 tons of solid waste.² As shown in **Table 4.15.2-2, Azusa TOD Specific Plan Area Existing Development Solid Waste Generation**, existing development in the specific

² Cal Recycle, Solid Waste Jurisdiction Profile for Azusa, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/Viewer.aspx?P=OriginJurisdictionIDs%3d31%26ReportYear%3d2013%26ReportName%3dReportEDRSJurisDisposalByFacility>

plan area generates approximately 2,339.4 tons of solid waste annually. A majority of this waste is disposed of at Class III or unclassified landfills.³

**Table 4.15.2-2
Azusa TOD Specific Plan Area Existing Development Solid Waste Generation**

Land Use	Existing Development ¹	Generation Factor ²	Daily Generation (lbs/day)	Annual Generation (tons/year)
Retail	322,558 sf	2.5 lbs/1,000 sf/day	806.4	147.2
Services ³	110,903 sf	3.12 lbs/100 sf/day	3,460.2	631.5
Office	198,198 sf	6 lbs/1,000 sf/day	1,189.2	217
Lodging	126 rooms ⁴	2 lbs/room/day	252	46
Institutional ⁴	52,029 sf	7 lbs/1,000 sf/day	364.2	66.5
Civic ⁵	96,357 sf	6 lbs/1,000 sf/day	578.1	105.5
Residential ⁶	447	7.8 lbs/SFR/day ⁷	3,486.6	636.3
	298	5.31 lbs/MFR/day	1,582.38	288.8
	207	5.31 lbs/mobile home unit/day	1,099.17	200.6
Total			12,818.25	2,339.4

Source: Impact Sciences, March 2015

Notes lbs= pounds; sf= square feet

¹ The Specific Plan district's existing development does not include development within the areas of no change

² Cal Recycle, Estimated Solid Waste Generation and Disposal Rates

³ Includes museums, art galleries, theaters, recreational services, health clubs, and repair services

⁴ Based on 44,116 square feet of lodging in the City and the average hotel room size of 350 square feet. (44,116/350=126).

⁵ Office generation rate was used as a proxy for Civic

⁶ See Appendix A of the Water Supply Assessment for the methodology used to determine the number of single-family, multi-family, and mobile home units

⁷ Single-family and multi-family generation rates were used to determine the solid waste generation rate for each use; Multi-family generation rate was used as proxy for Mobile Home

Hazardous Materials Collection and Disposal

Certain uses and activities generate hazardous waste that cannot be disposed of at Class III or unclassified landfills, and instead must be disposed of in Class I Landfills.⁴ The California Hazardous Waste Control Law (Health and Safety Code Section 25100 through Section 25249) requires that these hazardous materials be transported and disposed of or treated at a licensed facility. The disposal and transport of hazardous materials is complicated by the fact that there are many forms of hazardous

³ Class III Landfills accept nonhazardous solid waste. Unclassified landfills accept inert/construction related waste, including sand, drywall, and concrete.

⁴ Class I Landfills accept hazardous waste.

materials. Operations that use hazardous materials and/or generate hazardous waste are responsible for the disposal of the waste.

There are several Class I and II landfills that exist in Southern and Central California that can accept hazardous waste generated within the City. Each is identified briefly below.

- Laidlaw Landfill, Buttonwillow, Kern County, California: This facility accepts hazardous and non-hazardous waste and is permitted as a Class I landfill. The facility has no restrictions for the amount of waste that can be accepted on a daily basis.
- Kettleman Hills Landfill, Kettleman City, Kings County, California: This is a Class I permitted landfill that accepts hazardous and non-hazardous waste with no capacity restrictions.
- McKittrick Waste Treatment Site, McKittrick, Kern County, California: This facility is a Class II permitted landfill that accepts hazardous and non-hazardous waste. The facility has a capacity restriction of 412 cubic meters daily.

4.15.2.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Federal

Federal Agencies and Regulations

40 CFR, Part 258 Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) establishes minimum location standards for siting municipal solid waste landfills. Because California laws and regulations governing the approval of solid waste landfills meet the requirements of Subtitle D, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) delegated the enforcement responsibility to the State of California.

State

Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act of 1972

The Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act of 1972 resulted in the creation of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). When it was established, the CIWMB was responsible for the disposal, handling, and reclamation of solid waste. Under this Act, the CIWMB (1) created a state solid waste management and resource recovery policy; (2) developed minimum standards for solid waste handling and disposal; and (3) approved county Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMP).

California Integrated Waste Management Act

As many of the landfills in the state are approaching capacity and the siting of new landfills becomes increasingly difficult, the need for source reduction, recycling, and composting has become readily apparent. In response to this increasing solid waste problem, in September 1989 the state assembly passed Assembly Bill 939, known as the California Integrated Waste Management Act. This statute emphasizes conservation of natural resources through the reduction, recycling and reuse of solid waste. Assembly Bill 939 required cities and counties in the state to divert 25 percent of their solid waste stream from landfills by 1995 and 50 percent by year 2000, or face potential fines of millions of dollars per year. On June 30, 2008, State Assembly Amended Senate Bill 1252 to include further waste diversion goals of 60 percent by the year 2015 and 75 percent by the year 2025.⁵ The California Integrated Waste Management Act also requires that all cities conduct a Solid Waste Generation Study and prepare a Source Reduction Recycling Element.

AB 939 established the current organization, structure, and mission of CalRecycle. The purpose was to direct attention to the increasing waste stream and decreasing landfill capacity, and to mandate a reduction of waste being disposed. With CalRecycle's oversight a disposal reporting system was established, facility and program planning was required, and cities and counties began to address waste problems.

California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

The management of solid waste is governed by regulations established by the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle). CalRecycle currently administers programs formerly managed by the CIWMB and Division of Recycling. CalRecycle delegates local permitting, enforcement, and inspection responsibilities to Local Enforcement Agencies. In 1997, some of the regulations adopted by the State Water Quality Control Board pertaining to landfills (Title 23, Chapter 15) were incorporated with CIWMB regulations (Title 14) to form Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations

California Green Building Code

The purpose of this code is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts having a reduced negative impact or positive environmental impact and encouraging sustainable construction practices in the following categories:

⁵ CWIMB, *Senate Bill 1252 Amendment*, June 30, 2008.

- Planning and design
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency and conservation
- Material conservation and resource efficiency
- Environmental quality

Local

County of Los Angeles Solid Waste Management Action Plan

In 1988, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors approved the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Action Plan to provide long-range management of the solid waste generated within the County. This plan includes such approaches as source reduction, recycling and composting programs, household hazardous waste management programs and public education awareness programs. The plan concludes that land filling will remain an integral part of the waste management system and calls for the establishment of 50 years of in-County permitted landfill capacity, as well as the County's support for the development of disposal facilities out of the County.

Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) requires that each county prepare a countywide siting element, which identifies how the county and the cities within the county will address the need for 15 years of disposal transformation capacity to safely handle solid waste generated in the county, which cannot be reduced, recycled, or composted. The County of Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element (CSE) establishes goals, policies, and guidelines for proper planning and siting of solid waste transformation and land disposal facilities on a county-wide basis. The existing CSE was approved in 1998. The County of Los Angeles is currently working on a revision to the existing CSE.

Section 5.4, Alternative Methods for Extending the Life of Existing Class III Landfills, of the CSE, describes the various measures that could be used to optimize the use of existing Class III landfills, and thus extend their life. These measures include the use of alternative materials for daily cover, among others.

According to the CSE, as landfills continue to reach their design capacity and close, there is an increasing need for regional transfer/MRF facilities that are located close to points of waste generation to efficiently

transport solid waste to landfill facilities outside of the County. These facilities are essential for the cities in the County of Los Angeles and the unincorporated County communities to be able to properly manage solid waste in accordance with the requirements of AB 939.

City of Azusa Source Reduction and Recycling Element

As required under AB 939, each city and county is required to divert 60 percent of its municipal solid waste from landfill disposal by the year 2015 and 75 percent by the year 2025. To assure compliance with these goals, AB 939 requires each city and county to prepare and adopt a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE). The SRRE must describe existing municipal solid waste generation, disposal, and diversion quantities by waste type, and must describe programs that will be implemented to meet the 66 percent and 75 percent diversion goals.

Per the City's SRRE (conditionally approved by the CIWMB on February 22, 1995), the City intends to divert, through recycling, the maximum quantity of recyclable material technically feasible. The City has incorporated a number of recycling programs for residential, commercial, and industrial uses, which include transferring all waste to the MRF. The SRRE provides for monitoring and evaluation programs to be instituted to ensure their effectiveness. The franchise waste hauler, recycling centers, materials recovery facility, and landfills report the types and quantities of materials diverted and recycled at their respective facilities, to the City on a monthly basis.

City of Azusa Non-Disposal Facility Element

The Non-Disposal Facility Element, adopted August 15, 1994, was developed in order to meet the requirements of AB 939. This element identifies the Non-Disposal Facilities to be used by the City in order to assist in reaching the diversion mandates of Public Resources Code Section 41780. The Non-Disposal Facility Element further identifies the type of facility, estimated amount of the waste sent to the facility, and the anticipated diversion rate or expected diversion rate.

City of Azusa General Plan

The City's General Plan is primarily a policy document that sets goals concerning the community and gives direction to growth and development. In addition, it outlines the programs that were developed to accomplish the goals and policies of the General Plan. City policies pertaining to utilities, including solid waste, are included in the Built Environment Chapter of the General Plan. Solid Waste policies relevant to the Azusa Transit Oriented District (TOD) Specific Plan include:

Policy 5.3 Monitor reduction and recycling programs to ensure proper implementation and achievement of mandated solid waste reduction and diversion goals. Revise and replace programs that do not achieve their intended purpose.

City of Azusa Municipal Code

Chapter 58 of the City's Municipal Code addresses all aspects of solid waste handling, including, but not limited to, frequency of solid waste collection, means of collection, transportation, level of service, charges and fees, and nature, location and extent of solid waste handling services. Of primary importance is the development of regulations that comply with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, as contained in the California Public Resources Code, sections 40000 et seq. Such regulations should encourage cities to reduce, recycle, and reuse solid wastes to the maximum extent feasible in an efficient and cost-effective manner in order to conserve water, energy and other natural resources, to protect the environment, and to implement integrated waste management programs required and encouraged by the state.

4.15.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds for determining the significance of impacts related to solid waste resources are contained in the environmental checklist form contained in Appendix G of the most recent update of the *State CEQA Statutes and Guidelines*. Adoption and/or implementation of the Azusa TOD Specific Plan could result in significant adverse impacts to solid waste resources, if any of the following could occur:

- Threshold SW-1** **Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?**
- Threshold SW-2** **Would the project comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

Impacts Analysis

Threshold SW-1 **Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?**

Construction

The Azusa TOD Specific Plan contemplates the addition of 840 multi-family residential units, 150 hotel rooms, and 403,000 square feet of retail, personal services, and office uses within the specific plan area. Construction activities associated with the future development would generate construction related solid waste including wood, paper, metal, plastic, cardboard, and green wastes. In addition, demolition of existing structures in the specific plan area could result in the creation of hazardous waste such as asbestos and lead based paints.

Future projects included under the Azusa TOD Specific Plan would be required to recycle/divert 50 percent of the construction waste, pursuant to the requirements of AB 939. The remainder would be disposed of in Class III landfill or a mixed debris recycling facility which recycles 50 percent of all waste received. Hazardous materials would be disposed of at one of the hazardous material facilities discussed above. Further, individual projects would be required to evaluate construction related solid waste impacts before construction of the project commences to ensure existing Class III landfills and/or mixed debris recycling facilities can accommodate the projected amount of construction waste. Therefore, construction related solid waste impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

As shown in **Table 4.15.2-3, Azusa TOD Specific Plan Solid Waste Generation**, with no recycling activities in place, buildout of the project would generate an additional 1,227 annual tons of solid waste. Assuming that the City meets the 2015 60 percent diversion rate required by SB 1252, the total amount of solid waste generated by the net new development proposed under the Azusa TOD Specific Plan would be 490.8 tons per year. This would represent an approximately 20 percent increase in the amount of solid waste generated per year. As of 2011 (the most recent data available), the City was meeting AB 939's 50 percent diversion rate.⁶

⁶ CalRecycle, Countywide, Region-wide, and State-wide Jurisdiction Diversion/Disposal Progress Report, <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Igcentral/Reports/jurisdiction/diversiondisposal.aspx>, accessed March 27, 2015

**Table 4.15.2-3
Azusa TOD Specific Plan Solid Waste Generation**

Land Use	Net New Development	Generation Factor¹	Daily Generation (lbs/day)	Annual Generation (tons/year)
Retail	226,000 sf	2.5 lbs/1,000 sf/day	565	103.1
Services ²	84,000 sf	3.12 lbs/100 sf/day	840	153.3
Office	93,000 sf	6 lbs/1,000 sf/day	558	101.8
Lodging	150 rooms	2 lbs/room/day	300	54.8
Multi-family	840 units	5.31 lbs/DU/day	4,460.4	814
		Total	6,723.4	1,227
		Total w/60 percent diversion rate	2,689.36	490.8

Source: Impact Sciences, March 2015

Notes: Services land use category includes: restaurants, banks, personal services

Institutional land use category includes: religious facilities and mortuaries

sf=square feet, DU = dwelling unit

¹ Cal Recycle, *Estimated Solid Waste Generation and Disposal Rates*, March 2015.

² Includes museums, art galleries, theaters, recreational services, health clubs, and repair services

As discussed above, ADC transports the City's solid waste to the MRF located in the City of Industry. After all recyclable materials are removed from the solid mixed materials waste, the solid waste is transferred to a local solid waste facility. **Table 4.15.2-1, City of Azusa 2013 Solid Waste Disposal Sites**, lists the solid waste facilities which accepted solid waste from the City in 2013, including the number of tons that were accepted, and the facility's remaining capacity.⁷

The solid waste facilities included in **Table 4.15.2-1** would be able to accommodate the projected 1,227 annual tons of solid waste generated upon buildout of the Azusa TOD Specific Plan. While solid waste landfills would eventually reach their maximum capacity, the City of Azusa is working to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills, as well as locate new solid waste facilities and/or ways to dispose of solid waste. This includes transporting all solid waste to the MRF (to ensure all recyclable materials are diverted from landfills) providing recycling program information with residential utility bills, promoting grasscycling and xeriscape during the City's Smart Gardening workshops (to reduce green waste), providing free compost and worms to residents who attend the Smart Gardening workshops (to reduce food waste), supporting school and non-profit recycling fundraisers, and providing green waste receptacles to ensure that yard waste is not disposed of in landfills and instead repurposed

⁷ Solid Waste Disposal for 2014 was not available at the time this document was written.

for landscaping needs.⁸ In addition, similar to existing development, new development proposed under the Azusa TOD Specific Plan would be required to meet the state's current diversion rate of 60 percent and 75 percent diversion rate beginning in 2025.

Hazardous waste generation and disposal during buildout of the Azusa TOD Specific Plan would be handled and disposed of in accordance with all appropriate state and federal laws. Because of the many laws and regulations associated with the disposal of hazardous waste, it would have to be determined at the time of disposal where any certain hazardous waste would be taken. At this time, hazardous wastes cannot be disposed of within Los Angeles County. However, hazardous debris generated during operation can be accommodated by the permitted Class I and II landfills currently in operation within southern and central California. Therefore, impacts from operational solid waste disposal would be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold SW-2 Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste

During construction and operation, future projects under the Azusa TOD Specific Plan would be required to comply with all federal, State, and local solid waste regulations, including the 2013 Green Building Standards Code, and AB 939 waste diversion requirements. The 2013 Green Building Standards Code aims to improve the health, safety, and general welfare of the public by incorporating design and construction measures which result in waste reduction by promoting material conservation and the efficient use of resources. As discussed above, the most recent data published by CalRecycle shows that the City met the diversion rate required by AB 939 and diverted at least 50 percent of its waste in 2011. Thus impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

⁸ Grasscycling is the natural process of leaving grass clippings on the lawn after it has been mowed. The clippings quickly decompose, returning the nutrients to the soil. This can reduce water and fertilizer requirements, mowing time, the cost of green waste collection, and the cost to the MRF processing waste.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

4.15.2.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

As shown in **Table 4.15.2-4** above, several regional landfills have sufficient capacity to serve the City's anticipated waste disposal needs. Similar to projects proposed under the Azusa TOD Specific Plan, related projects would be required to evaluate the project's solid waste impacts (including hazardous waste) prior to the start of any construction activities and mitigate significant impacts when possible. During operation, related projects would be required to comply with state diversion rates and all federal, state, and local solid waste legislation.

While solid waste impacts would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis, the County of Los Angeles (County) has identified strategies for maintaining adequate disposal capacity through 2027.⁹ In addition, the County continues to ensure that current diversion rates are met (while continuing to increase the County-wide diversion rate), to guarantee that adequate disposal capacity is available in future years.

Implementation of each jurisdiction's SRRE measures would be required on a project-by-project basis. Implementation of recycling measures and the development of additional MRF facilities would increase the amount of diverted solid waste through recovery and consolidation. However, the County has acknowledged that existing facilities within the County's jurisdiction will reach capacity and disposal facilities outside of the County need to be determined.

All cumulative development within the project vicinity and Los Angeles County would be required to comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. This includes compliance with the Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act and AB 939, which requires a 50 percent diversion of all solid waste from disposal in local landfills. Upon compliance with existing standards related to solid waste, project impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

⁹ Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, *Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan, 2012 Annual Report*

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.