

Highway 59 Landfill Valley Fill Project
Notice of Public Hearing

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority
Thursday, May 19, 2016
3:00 PM
City of Merced
Council Chambers
678 West 18th Street
Merced, California

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (MCRWMA) invites you to attend a public hearing on the Highway 59 Landfill Valley Fill Project (Valley Fill Project). The purpose of the meeting is for MCRWMA, as lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to consider the reasonably foreseeable and potentially significant adverse environmental effects of the Valley Fill Project, as identified in the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearing House No. 2014061081), and consider certification of the Final EIR as adequate under CEQA. If found to be adequate, and after certification, the MCRWMA will consider approval of the Valley Fill Project and adoption of the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

This public hearing will also serve to consider removal of Mitigation Measures 4.1 and 4.2 as included in the 1996 *Highway 59 Landfill Expansion EIR* (1996 EIR). Mitigation Measures 4.1 and 4.2 in the 1996 EIR required dedication of additional right-of-way and construction of acceleration and deceleration lanes to accommodate safe turning movements under cumulative (future) conditions. However, the traffic volumes anticipated in the 1996 EIR, while considered reasonable and appropriate at the time of preparation of that analysis, are now understood to have overestimated potential volumes along SR 59. Because traffic volumes projected in the 1996 EIR are significantly higher than what has materialized, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.1 and 4.2 adopted as part of the 1996 EIR is no longer considered necessary for the purposes of mitigating traffic hazard impacts and such mitigation measures are being considered for removal.

The Final EIR is available for public review online at <http://www.mcagov.org/233/Valley-Fill-Project> and at Highway 59 Landfill (7040 North Highway 59, Merced, California 95348). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5(a), a copy of the Final EIR has also been provided to all commenting public agencies at least 10 days prior to consideration of certification of the Final EIR. Copies of the Final EIR will also be available at the public hearing.

Questions about the public hearing should be directed to Mr. Jerry Lawrie, MCRWMA Environmental Resource Manager, at (209) 723-4481 ext. 20.