

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill?

Gregory Canyon, Limited is proposing a non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility to serve waste generated in or near North County San Diego.

Where is Gregory Canyon?

The proposed landfill site is located within an approximately 1,770 acre parcel located in northern San Diego County north and south of State Route 76, approximately three miles east of Interstate 15 and two miles southwest of the community of Pala. The site is crossed by the San Luis Rey River. The 183-acre landfill footprint would be in the largest canyon on the site, south of State Route 76, along the western slope of Gregory Mountain. The entire project development comprises approximately 308 acres. The remaining area on the landfill property will become permanent open space.

Who owns the Gregory Canyon property?

The landfill site is owned by Gregory Canyon Limited, the project applicant.

Who makes the decision whether a landfill can operate at this site?

The applicant still needs separate approvals from several state and federal agencies for the proposed landfill, including:

- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
- California Department of Fish and Game
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (including consultation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service).

Why is a landfill proposed next to my property?

The only action being considered in this document is whether or not to issue a permit to Gregory Canyon, Limited at Gregory Canyon. There is no proposed landfill at the Gopher Canyon, Merriam Mountain, or Aspen Road sites.

If the current County of San Diego Siting Element does not include 3 of the off-site alternatives included in the Gregory Canyon Landfill draft EIS, why are these alternatives being considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Corps to compare the Applicant's proposed action to off-site alternatives. Gopher Canyon, Merriam Mountain, and Aspen Road sites are alternatives because they were identified as potential landfill sites by the County years ago. We are in the pre-application phase regarding East Otay Mesa and Sycamore Canyon landfills. Sycamore Canyon

landfill is an existing landfill being proposed for expansion. The Corps has not received an application for the proposed East Otay Mesa Landfill; however, there have been pre-application meetings with the applicant.

Why doesn't the draft EIS list a preferred alternative?

Within a draft EIS, there is no requirement for the federal government to select a preferred alternative. We believe this will facilitate public comment and allow for a better analysis.

Several other landfill sites have expanded their capacity recently, why do we still need this one?

The County of San Diego is required by State law to demonstrate 15 years of landfill capacity. As of the printing of the EIS, the most current information was that the County does not currently have that capacity.

What does the Corps have to do with landfills?

The Army Corps of Engineers does not regulate the approval of landfills. The Corps issues Department of the Army permits for dredge or fill into waters of the US. The Corps made a determination that the San Luis Rey River and Gregory Canyon main stem are within the jurisdiction of the Corps. Therefore, the Corps is analyzing the permit application in order to make a decision whether or not to issue a permit to fill waters of the US.

Some people have been fighting this project for years. Why does it keep resurfacing?

The project applicant has a legal right to seek permits for a landfill on this site, and has been pursuing required permits continuously.

How can the public provide input on the proposed project?

The draft EIS was released on December 12, 2012 and the 60 day public comment period will end on February 12, 2013. A public hearing will be held on January 31, 2013.

What is the next step after the draft EIS?

We are beginning the analysis required under the Clean Water Act using the 404(b)(1) guidelines. These guidelines include assessing public interest factors as well as an examination of cost, logistics and technology. In the 404(b)(1) analysis, we consider the following public interest factors: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and needs and welfare of the people.

How should I provide comments on the EIS?

Comments should be submitted via email to gregorycanyonEIS-SPL@usace.army.mil or via mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Regulatory Division, Carlsbad Field Office, Attention: Gregory Canyon, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 105, Carlsbad, CA 92011.