April 19, 2024

Senator Steve Padilla  
1021 O Street, Suite 6640  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

Dear Senator Padilla,

Thank you for your letter requesting information on San Diego County’s 2022 Five-Year Review Report for the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. Below is information that I hope helps respond to your inquiry. This information was prepared by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), with review from my office.

1. **Does San Diego County have sufficient landfill capacity to meet the region’s anticipated needs through at least 2053?**

   As you letter notes, by law, all California counties must maintain a Siting Element (SE), which reports a minimum of 15 years of combined permitted disposal capacity (Public Resources Code Section 41700 et seq.). At five-year intervals, each county evaluates its Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP), which includes the SE, to determine if these planning documents are still accurate or should be revised. The findings of this evaluation are submitted to CalRecycle in a CIWMP Five-Year Review Report.

   On June 30, 2022, CalRecycle received San Diego County’s fifth Five-Year Review Report since the approval of San Diego’s CIWMP on June 25, 1997. The report included detailed disposal capacity projections through 2053, and concluded the County of San Diego has sufficient landfill capacity to accommodate disposal for the next 15 years (2022-2037), as required by statute. The County’s disposal capacity projections through 2053 are expected to be supported by reduced landfill disposal rates in the region through increased conservation and recycling activities (for both traditional and organic waste diversion), expansion of compost and construction and demolition (C&D) recycling facilities, and implementation of mandatory recycling ordinances, including edible food recovery.

   On August 29, 2022, CalRecycle notified the County that its Five-Year Review Report was complete and that it met the regulatory and statutory requirements. On September 20, 2022, CalRecycle approved San Diego County’s 2022 Five-Year Review Report indicating no revisions to the County’s planning documents were necessary at that time. San Diego County’s next Five-Year Review Report is due to CalRecycle June 2028.
2. **Does this analysis of the region’s landfill needs account for construction debris generated from ongoing development and infrastructure projects?**

Yes, the analysis in the County’s 2022 Five-Year Review Report included disposal of all solid waste, including construction debris.

3. **What level of review and analysis does Cal Recycle perform when considering a county’s Five-Year Review Report for approval?**

CalRecycle’s evaluation of a Five-Year Review Report is based on the requirements specified in Title 14, CCR Section 18788, and includes reviewing:

- Changes in demographics in the county;
- Changes in quantities of waste within the county;
- Changes in funding sources for administration of the Siting Element and Plan;
- Changes in administrative responsibilities;
- Changes and schedules of programs being implemented;
- Changes in available markets for recyclable materials; and
- Any changes to the implementation schedule.

CalRecycle reviews Five-Year Review Reports to determine whether any of the above listed changes in the jurisdiction could impact their anticipated waste quantities and management strategies and require a revision to one or more of their planning documents. If a revision is necessary, CalRecycle Local Assistance staff will review the required revision schedule for completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness (with respect to the specified amendment guidelines and procedures). This process is outlined on [CalRecycle’s Five-Year CIWMP/RAIWMP Review Report Preparation and Guidelines Page](#).

Thank you for your inquiry in this matter. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Yana Garcia
Secretary for Environmental Protection