



## Prima Deshecha Landfill Increase in Daily Tonnage Project Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is the purpose of the public information meeting?**

**A:** The public information meeting is being held to explain proposed operational changes at the Prima Deshecha Landfill, to give community members an opportunity to learn about the project and to share comments on its potential environmental impacts. OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) has prepared a detailed environmental study, called a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR), to evaluate the potential effects of increasing the amount of waste the landfill can accept each day. At the meeting, OCWR will explain the proposed changes, summarize the studies in the environmental report, highlight key findings and environmental protections, and describe how and when the public can submit comments. The meeting will take place on February 17, 2026, and is part of the County's standard environmental review process under California law. In addition to the meeting, the public may submit written comments during the official 45-day public review period, which runs from February 2 through March 19, 2026. All comments regarding environmental issues received during this time will be reviewed and addressed in the final environmental report before any decisions are made.

### **Q: What is the project?**

**A:** The project would allow the landfill to accept up to 8,000 tons of waste per day, compared to the current limit of 4,000 tons per day. The increase would happen gradually over time rather than all at once. Waste would continue to be disposed of only in existing, approved disposal areas within the landfill. The project would also allow up to 36 emergency days per year, during which more than 8,000 tons could be accepted. These situations could occur if another County landfill is temporarily closed or if a local or statewide emergency is declared. The project is limited to a change in daily tonnage acceptance limits only. No expansion of the landfill, buildings, roadways, or other construction is proposed. In short, the project changes the amount of waste that can be accepted per day, but not where the landfill is located or how it is physically built.

### **Q: Is the landfill expanding?**

**A:** No. The landfill is not expanding. The property boundaries will stay the same, the landfill footprint and disposal areas will remain unchanged, and no new land will be used for waste disposal. No new landfill facilities are required for this project. Because more waste could be delivered each day, some operational changes may occur, such as more refuse truck trips, more equipment operating on site, and additional employees. Existing facilities at the landfill are already designed to handle these types of operational changes.

### **Q: What was studied in the environmental report?**

**A:** The environmental report evaluated whether increasing daily waste deliveries could cause new or greater impacts to the environment or nearby communities. Under California law, the study examined many environmental topics, including air quality, public health risks, odors, greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, noise, traffic and transportation, biological resources, water quality, land use, and other environmental factors. Detailed technical studies were prepared for the topics most likely to be affected, including air quality, health risk, odor, greenhouse gases, energy use, and noise. If impacts were identified, the report includes mitigation measures, which are specific actions that must be taken to reduce or minimize those impacts. All environmental protection measures and requirements from previous approvals for the landfill will remain in effect.

### **Q: How could this affect nearby communities?**

**A:** If the project is approved, nearby communities could notice more trucks traveling to and from the landfill and more activity on site from equipment and employees.

Based on the studies, no significant increase in noise, odors, or public health risk is expected for nearby homes, schools, or other sensitive locations. The studies also found that regional air quality and greenhouse gas emissions would increase due to additional vehicle trips. Even after applying all feasible mitigation measures, these regional impacts would remain significant under state standards. Traffic near the landfill would increase, but not to a level considered significant under current California transportation guidelines, which focus on overall vehicle travel rather than congestion at specific intersections. A separate traffic explanation document, called a “white paper,” is posted on the OCWR website for anyone who would like more details about how traffic was evaluated.

**Q: How can the public review the report and provide comments?**

**A:** There will be several opportunities for the public to review and comment on the environmental report throughout the CEQA process:

- **Public Review Period (February 2, 2026 – March 19, 2026)**

During this time, the public can review the full draft EIR online at: [www.oclandfills.com/PrimaSubsequentEIR](http://www.oclandfills.com/PrimaSubsequentEIR).

Printed copies will also be available at the San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente Libraries. A virtual public meeting will be held on February 17, 2026, to explain the report. Comments can only be submitted by mail or by email.

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All written comments addressing environmental issues received by March 19, 2026, will be reviewed and responded to in the Final Environmental Report.

- **Board of Supervisors Meeting (Estimated summer 2026)**

After the final EIR is completed, the Orange County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider whether to approve the project. Meeting details and public notices will be posted on the OCWR website. Members of the public will be able to attend and provide comments before the Board makes a final decision.