

Mesquite Regional Landfill Project

SITE INFORMATION

Location:	Imperial County, 5 miles northeast of Glamis on Route 78
Purchase price:	\$44 million
Maximum tonnage:	20,000 tons per day of municipal solid waste
Tonnage reservation:	1,000 tons per day reserved exclusively for Imperial County
Landfill capacity:	600 million tons
Project life:	Approximately 100 years
Wasteshed:	Permitted to receive non-hazardous (Class III) municipal solid waste from Los Angeles, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange, and San Diego Counties
Total site area:	4,250 acres
Landfill refuse footprint:	2,290 acres
Precipitation:	4 inches per year
Evaporation:	100 inches per year
Depth to Groundwater:	140 to 300 feet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The landfill is located in Imperial County, approximately 200 miles east of Los Angeles along the Union Pacific Railroad adjacent to the Mesquite Gold Mine. A 5-mile rail spur is being constructed to connect the landfill to the Union Pacific Railroad mainline. With the completion of the railyard and rail spur at the end of 2011, the Mesquite Regional Landfill became California's first operational landfill able to receive waste via rail. The arid desert climate, distance from groundwater, proximity to the railroad, and remoteness from residential developments make the site an ideal location for a regional waste-by-rail landfill.

The waste-by-rail system currently being developed is an intermodal system. At the materials recovery or transfer facilities, waste would be loaded into fully enclosed and sealed containers. The containers would then be trucked to a rail yard to be placed onto rail cars. The loaded train would haul the containers over the Union Pacific mainline to the rail yard located at the landfill. From there, the containers would be loaded onto trucks and transported to the landfill for disposal. After the solid waste is disposed off at the landfill, the empty containers would be loaded onto the train at the intermodal yard for the return trip.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Mesquite Regional Landfill has many innovative and state-of-the-art environmental control systems. The landfill's existing environmental protection features include:

- Groundwater protection
- Landfill gas recovery
- Covering and compacting refuse



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WASTE-BY-RAIL



- Dust and litter control
- Screening of unacceptable wastes
- Desert tortoise protection

PROJECT STATUS

Development of the as a landfill site is proceeding under the following schedule:

Sanitation Districts' purchase:	December 2002
Master planning:	Mid 2003 to Beginning 2005
Infrastructure design:	Beginning 2005 to End 2006
Construction of landfill infrastructure:	Beginning 2007 to End 2008
Completion of Intermodal Yard & Rail Spur:	End of 2011



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