

Proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill Fact Sheet

Gregory Canyon is a pristine undeveloped canyon on the banks of the San Luis Rey River in rural San Diego County. Approximately 20 years ago, the County of San Diego conducted several public landfill site selection processes to determine the best location for a new landfill in San Diego County. In each process, Gregory Canyon was proposed by its property owner, and rejected as a landfill site. In 1994, Gregory Canyon Ltd., the landfill proponents, abandoned the County's site selection process and used a deceptive countywide ballot initiative to authorize a landfill on the site if all permits were obtained for the project.

Because this is an inappropriate site for a landfill, after 15 years, the proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill has not obtained any of its permits. It is time to pull the plug on the proposed project as an inappropriate site for a landfill:

- **Threatens Groundwater:** The proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill would be located on a fractured bedrock aquifer and threatens existing and future water supplies. Municipalities, including the City of Oceanside, rely on the same water source that runs past and beneath the landfill site. When the landfill liner leaks, it will contaminate drinking water for all downstream users.
- **Threatens Surface Water:** Construction of the landfill would impact at least two blue-lined streams causing the loss of a tributary to the San Luis Rey River, and place the San Luis Rey River at risk of impacts from landslides, leachate spills from trucks, contaminated storm runoff and leaking liners.
- **Threatens Imported Water Supplies:** Two major San Diego County Water Authority pipelines bisect the landfill. These pipelines provide the main supply of imported water to the San Diego area. Gregory Canyon Ltd. is obligated to relocate these pipelines but has refused to do so.
- **Desecrates Cultural and Sacred Sites:** The landfill would be built on "Chokla" and near Medicine Rock, two sites that are sacred to Native Americans in Southern California. "Chokla" is one of the homes and resting places of Takwiic, an important spiritual figure to all Luiseño people. Medicine Rock is the site of ceremonies and religious gatherings. Building a landfill at Gregory Canyon would desecrate "Chokla" and Medicine Rock and forever destroy a place of spiritual significance. The County's final EIR admits that the impacts to these sites cannot be mitigated.
- **Fails Landfill Siting Criteria:** The proposed Gregory Canyon landfill site is located partly in the 100-year floodplain; will result in the extinction of endangered species on the site; is within 1,000 ft of important archeological sites, Gregory Mountain and Medicine Rock; and two major aqueducts are within 200 ft of the proposed landfill. There is a reason these siting criteria were developed – they should not be ignored.
- **No Water Supply for Project:** The proposed project needs 73 million gallons of water a year to start construction. Gregory Canyon Ltd. has not identified a source for the water supply.

- **Impacts Endangered Species Habitat:** The site includes and is adjacent to occupied habitat for at least 39 sensitive species and critical habitat for the endangered least Bell's vireo, arroyo toad and southwest willow flycatcher and the threatened California gnatcatcher. The site has been designated as an important wildlife movement area in the draft San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program. The final EIR admits that construction and operation of the proposed landfill would result in the "taking" of endangered arroyo toads.
- **Impacts Air Quality:** The final EIR for the proposed landfill admits that it will cause significant and unmitigatable impacts to air quality.

These same concerns were raised by public officials during the landfill siting process 20 years ago which resulted in the rejection of the site as inappropriate for a landfill. Each of them is important to all permitting decisions regarding the landfill.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

Water Quality Permitting: Gregory Canyon Ltd. now is trying to obtain waste discharge requirements (WDRs) from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. It is imperative that all the very precious existing and future local water supply be protected from any potential leakage from the proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill. If a leak occurred at Gregory Canyon it would endanger public drinking water for hundreds of thousands of San Diego County residents. The draft WDRs admit that there is no way to effectively monitor leaks to the fractured bedrock aquifer beneath the proposed landfill.

The mission statement of the RWQCB is developing and enforcing water quality objectives and implementing plans that will best protect the area's waters while recognizing our local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Issuance of WDRs allowing the operation of the Gregory Canyon Landfill would fly in the face of this mission statement. Do you want this to be our legacy? We are asking for your support to get the RWQCB to protect San Diego County's existing and future water supply by denying the waste discharge permit for the proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill.

Provide your opposition to:

Richard Wright, Chair
San Diego County Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Ct #100
San Diego, CA 92123