

the Bureau of Land Management and the County of Imperial for the proposed Mesquite Regional Class III Landfill. The proposed federal action analyzes the environmental effects of a land exchange for approximately 1,750 acres, rights of way for a railroad spur and a gas pipeline plus an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

The Draft EIS/EIR was released on April 8, 1994, with a 90 day public review period. Two public hearings were held during the public comment period to receive verbal testimony regarding the Draft document's adequacy or accuracy. The first hearing was held at 7 p.m. PDT, Wednesday, May 25, 1994, at the El Centro Community Center, 375 South First Street, El Centro, California 92243. The second hearing was held at 7 p.m. PDT, Thursday, May 26, 1994, at the Desert Expo Center, Fine Arts Building, 46-350 Arabia Street, Indio, California 92201. Written comments were accepted through July 6, 1994. Responses to all public comments and statements given at the various public hearings are included as part of the Final EIS/EIR. Public comments were considered during preparation of the Final EIS/EIR.

**DATES:** For Public Comments: A 30-day public review period has been established for this document. Written comments concerning the adequacy or accuracy of the Final EIS/EIR must be filed no later than August 14, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments must be filed no later than August 14, 1995, and should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Zale, Multi-Resources Staff Chief, Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Resource Area, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California, 92243.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Gold Fields Mining Co. (Gold Fields), Western Waste Industries, and S.P. Environmental Systems have formed a (Partnership) that would own and develop the proposed landfill located contiguous to the site of the currently operating Mesquite Gold Mine and Ore Processing Facility (Mesquite Mine) in eastern Imperial County. The proposed project would include the unloading and loading of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) residue containers, placement of MSW into the landfill, rail and equipment maintenance, landfill gas recovery and destruction by flaring or utilization of energy recovery techniques, leachate collection and processing and waste water treatment. Temporary storage of recyclable

materials from originating transportation operations (in accordance with AB939) would also be provided.

The proposed project would involve 4,250 acres, of which 2,290 acres would be utilized for the landfill footprint and ancillary facilities. The proposed landfill is designed to accommodate up to 600 million tons of MSW residue and would have an operational life of 100 years. MSW would be collected from population centers in Southern California, including Imperial County, by local collection vehicles and taken to existing or future transfer stations/material recovery facilities (MRFs) where it would be sorted and processed to remove recyclables, hazardous wastes in accordance with AB939. From these locations, MSW residue would be transferred to railroad loading intermodals where it would be loaded for rail haulage to the Mesquite Regional Landfill project site. Truck transfer of Imperial County MSW residue could also occur (based on future decisions made by local officials) after processing at local transfer stations/MRFs. The estimated rate of growth of daily MSW volumes would be 4,000 tons per day (tpd) for Year 1 of operations, increasing up to 20,000 tpd after Year 7. The estimated daily number of trains that would be required would be one train during Year 1 (4,000 tpd), increasing to 5 trains after Year 7 (20,000 tpd). The proposed maximum daily volume of MSW residue would be 20,000 tons per day averaged over a two week, 12 day period. The actual rate of growth and operational life of the landfill will depend upon market conditions for MSW disposal in communities that choose to use the regional landfill.

In addition to the No Action Alternative, four alternatives to the proposed action are considered in the Final EIS/EIR and include: Smaller Landfill Footprint (Alternative I); Decreased Disposal Rate (Alternative II); Alternative Mesquite Regional Landfill Site (Alternative III); and Larger Project (increased maximum disposal rate and larger landfill footprint) (Alternative IV). The Final EIS/EIR analyzes the effects of the proposed action and alternatives on such environmental issues including but not limited to: air quality, social and economic impacts, ground and surface water quality, endangered and other special status plants and animals, cultural or historical and visual resources.

Dated: June 23, 1995.

**G. Ben Koski,**

*Area Manager.*

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[AZ-024-05-1430-01; AZA-12731]

**Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Arizona**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The following public lands in Maricopa County, Arizona, have been examined and found suitable for classification for conveyance to the Deer Valley Unified School District under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869, *et seq.*). The Deer Valley Unified School District proposes to use the lands for a school facility and community recreational facilities.

**Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona**

T. 5 N., R. 3 E.,

Sec. 12, lots 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Containing 60.10 acres more or less.

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Conveyance of these lands is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest.

The patent, when issued, will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and all regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

4. Those rights for power line purposes granted to the Arizona Public Service Company by Right-of-way AZA-16829.

5. Those rights for telephone line purposes granted to U.S. West Communications Inc. by Right-of-Way AZA-17050.

6. Those rights for access road purposes granted to the Maricopa County Highway Department by Right-of-way AZA-22667.

7. Those rights for access road purposes granted to the Maricopa County Highway Department by Right-of-way AZA-23666.