

**Initial Study and
Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration
For
Chatsworth Reservoir
Wetland and Riparian Mitigation Program**



Project Applicant:
Browning Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, CA 91342
Contact: David Hauser, General Manager
(818) 833-6507

Prepared for
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
1200 W. 7th Street, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: David Attaway, Environmental Supervisor
(213) 928-9130

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April 2008

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(Article I, City CEQA Guidelines)

FORM RP 7-31-02

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: Department of Recreation and Parks, 1200 W. 7th Street, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90017		COUNCIL DISTRICT: 12
PROJECT TITLE: CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR—Wetland and Riparian Mitigation Program		CASE NUMBER:
PROJECT LOCATION: 8565 N. Capistrano Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91304		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc. (BFI) proposes to establish an approximate 44-acre conservation easement within the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) Chatsworth Reservoir property to mitigate for the loss of riparian and wetland habitats resulting from its Sunshine Canyon Landfill Closure and Extension projects near Sylmar, California. The Chatsworth Reservoir property covers 1,318 acres in the northwestern portion of the San Fernando Valley in the City of Los Angeles, 411 acres of which comprises the former water supply reservoir; the remaining acreage consists largely of surrounding undeveloped land. The conservation easement (mitigation property) would be located immediately to the west of the reservoir levee and would contain both riparian and wetland habitats, approximately seven acres of which are existing habitat, and approximately 37 acres of which will be created and restored by BFI in compliance with its regulatory permitting requirements. BFI will compensate LADWP for the right to use a portion of the reservoir property to create the 44-acre conservation easement area. LADWP will transfer the conservation easement area to the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to ensure its preservation in perpetuity. In addition, up to 96 acres of adjoining reservoir property will also be transferred to RAP for open space and potential future public parkland. Once the conservation easement is transferred to RAP, BFI will design and construct the mitigation project and maintain and monitor it for five years, providing progress reports during this period to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game. Once BFI receives written approval from these agencies that their mitigation commitments and permit requirements have been met, the conservation easement area will then be maintained by RAP. At this time RAP plans to maintain the property in its natural state; there are no plans to open the area to public access.		
NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT IF OTHER THAN CITY AGENCY: Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc., 14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, CA 91342		
FINDING: The Department of Recreation and Parks of the City of Los Angeles has determined that this project will not have significant effect on the environment for the following reasons: SEE ATTACHED INITIAL STUDY		
SEE ATTACHED SHEET(S) FOR ANY MITIGATION MEASURES IMPOSED		
Any written objections received during the public review period are attached together with the response of the lead City Agency.		
THE INITIAL STUDY PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT IS ATTACHED		
NAME OF PERSON PREPARING THIS FORM: David Attaway	TITLE: Environmental Supervisor	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (213) 928-9130
ADDRESS: Department of Recreation and Parks 1200 W. 7th Street, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90017	SIGNATURE (OFFICIAL): 	DATE: 4/01/08