

James C. Kenney
Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
(505) 470-6161
James.kenney@env.nm.gov

RE: NMED Broadway Transfer Station Permit – SW 24-08 (P)

Dear Secretary Kenney:

My name is Jimmy Beal, and I reside in the South Valley/Mountain View community, which is currently being impacted by the proposed Broadway Transfer Station Permit, SW 24-08 (P).

I respectfully urge the New Mexico Environment Department and Bernalillo County to deny, or at minimum seriously reconsider, the permit application submitted by Universal Waste Systems.

This issue extends far beyond trash collection. It concerns the cumulative environmental and public health impacts imposed on an already overburdened community. Residents in this area already endure heavy truck traffic, diesel exhaust, industrial activity, dust, noise, and ongoing air quality concerns. The addition of a large waste transfer station on Broadway would substantially intensify these impacts on nearby neighborhoods, schools, small farms, acequia users, and local businesses.

One of the most significant concerns involves water protection and public health. The proposed facility would reportedly rely on a private well for operations, including the misting of waste materials. Residents are deeply concerned about groundwater monitoring, contamination risks, and potential long-term health consequences. The well is also located in close proximity to a storm diversion channel that ultimately connects to the Rio Grande. Any spill, runoff, fire suppression discharge, or contaminated stormwater raises legitimate concerns regarding impacts to both groundwater resources and the river system.

Residents are additionally alarmed due to the major fire at a nearby recycling facility that received widespread media attention. That incident demonstrated precisely why this community is concerned about fire hazards, smoke, toxic emissions, emergency response capability, and the risks associated with concentrated waste and recycling operations located near homes and agricultural properties.

Transfer stations inherently generate continuous truck traffic, odors, blowing litter, noise, pests, and increased roadway safety risks. Once a permit is approved, nearby residents are forced to live with those consequences on a daily basis.

I respectfully request that decision makers carefully examine the following concerns:

- Traffic congestion and roadway safety impacts on Broadway and surrounding streets
- Air quality impacts from diesel trucks, smoke, and dust
- Odor control and litter containment measures
- Fire prevention protocols and emergency response planning
- Groundwater monitoring and protection of the private well
- Stormwater runoff management and protection of the Rio Grande
- Property value impacts to nearby homes and businesses
- Environmental justice concerns affecting the South Valley community

The South Valley deserves the same level of environmental protection afforded to any other part of Albuquerque. Residents should not be expected to absorb disproportionate industrial impacts simply because they live in this community.

I also respectfully request full transparency throughout this process, including independent monitoring, enforceable operating conditions, meaningful community oversight, and strict compliance measures should this project proceed in any form.

Our neighborhoods should not become a sacrifice zone. Residents deserve clean air, safe roads, protection of groundwater and the Rio Grande, the quiet enjoyment of their property, and preservation of the agricultural and residential character of the South Valley. In addition, this proposed transfer station would likely negatively affect surrounding residential property values and interfere with residents' reasonable use and enjoyment of their homes and properties.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these serious community concerns.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Beal
521 Shirk Lane SW
Albuquerque, NM
C: (575) 644-0863