

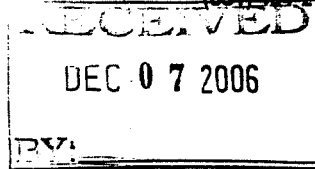


THOMAS L. BOLICH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2385 TDD (831) 454-2123



AGENDA: DECEMBER 5, 2006

November 29, 2006

APPROVED AND FILED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DATE: December 5, 2006
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY Sharon Mitchell DEPUTY

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON LONG RANGE RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Members of the Board:

In 2001, the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (Task Force), composed of County and City elected officials or their representatives, undertook a study to identify the long range resource recovery and waste management needs for all the county jurisdictions. While this was a joint project with all city jurisdictions and the County represented, the study was paramount to the unincorporated county's pressing need for new facilities to replace the Buena Vista Landfill that was slated to reach capacity in less than 15 years. In 2002, the Task Force formed a Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG), composed of citizens appointed by each elected body, to conduct the first phase of this study work. The first phase of this work was the site selection process to identify potential locations for a variety of resource recovery and waste management facilities. The Task Force directed the CAG to focus the site selection process first on potential landfill sites within the county, with the reasoning that new landfills would clearly be the most difficult type of identified facility types to site.

In late 2004, the CAG's initial siting study for potential landfill sites was brought to the Task Force for consideration and after two lengthy public hearings and significant public opposition to new landfill sites anywhere in Santa Cruz County, the Task Force elected to defer any further consideration of new landfills. Your Board and the Task Force instead directed County Public Works staff to refocus the long range resource recovery and waste management planning study on non-disposal facilities and expanded waste diversion activities. In addition, your Board directed Public Works to develop and initiate a number of proactive programs to further extend the life of the Buena Vista Landfill, such as implementation of a new construction and demolition waste sorting operation, adoption of a mandatory recycling ordinance, start-up of a small-scale pilot food composting project, establishment of new guiding principles for future waste management decisions and a diversion goal of 75 percent by the year 2010, implementation of new waste handling practices at the landfill designed to maximize the use of our limited remaining space, and negotiation for transport of our Ben Lomond Transfer Station (BLTS) waste to the

Monterey Regional Waste Management District or other out-of-county landfill. All of these added activities are designed to increase diversion and provide some added time for the key decisions regarding long range facilities planning.

On August 2, 2005, your Board adopted a Zero Waste resolution defining the County's long range goal of eliminating waste through proactive waste diversion programs and education. As a result, the Task Force and your Board approved a Request for Proposal to select a consultant to assist with evaluating the long range waste management needs for our community and to address our Zero Waste objectives. HDR/Brown, Vence and Associates (BVA) was selected through this competitive process. Since early 2006, BVA has been working with staff to define our future facility needs with the emphasis on resource recovery, recycling and reuse. BVA's work includes defining processing facility types, functions and operational considerations, updating criteria used in locating these future facilities, evaluating the draft non-disposal facility studies already completed by the CAG, preparing economic models and defining project related timing issues associated with the Buena Vista Landfill's remaining life. BVA is just completing the draft report for the first phase of the resource recovery and waste management study. Public Works will be reviewing the draft document with the Planning Department, County Administrative Office and County Counsel for a final report to your Board in January 2007.

The study is looking at a number of different types of processing options that may be considered as part of a sustainable long-term integrated system to support this essential public utility service. As stated above, the emphasis is on resource recovery and minimizing the amount of residual material that would require landfilling or other waste processing operations. The study includes facility options to replace the aging Buena Vista Landfill and improve future services such as:

- Eco or resource recovery park for public drop off of sorted recyclables, resale of re-usable items and construction materials, and public/school education programs
- Larger scale municipal yardwaste/woodwaste processing and composting facility to serve all county jurisdictions and support countywide food waste collection
- Permanent corporation yard and curbside recyclables processing facility for future county franchise haulers
- Permanent, large scale construction and demolition recycling facility
- Bulky materials processing site for concrete, asphalt, and scrap metal
- Shipping or transfer facility for any residual wastes not recovered through one of the facilities above
- Conversion facility (new technologies) for production of various types of fuels from residual waste

The long range planning study is being conducted in three phases. Each step in this study is designed to provide the level of information necessary to begin focusing on the needed facility resources and most favorable options, culminating in environmental review and final facility(s) selection and development.

1. Identify service and processing needs and facility types, identify potential facility locations, prepare preliminary facility sizing, seek jurisdictional and public review and comment, and add/remove/modify potential project options.

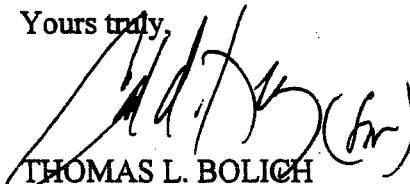
2. Finalize list of potential facilities and locations for further study, prepare economic models for development and operations of each facility type and location, prepare preliminary facility layouts and identify major impacts/mitigation, and secure commitments on the levels of participation by each jurisdiction.
3. Prepare initial studies, initiate environmental review for the selected facilities and locations, select final facility(s) and locations, develop selected project(s) and secure financing.

After we have completed our internal review of the draft report from BVA, we will return to your Board on January 23, 2007, with a preliminary set of recommendations for moving the study forward to the second and more detailed phase. Public Works, in conjunction with the Task Force, will also be distributing information through the local media and scheduling public forums early next year to solicit public input on the future facility needs for our community. It is our hope that with your Board's input and feedback from the other participating jurisdictions and general public, we can begin to focus in on the necessary components of an integrated system that will be most favorable to the community and meet our long term objectives.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Accept and file this report on long range resource recovery and waste management planning.
2. Direct Public Works to return on or before January 23, 2007, with the final recommendations to move forward to the next phase of the long range resource recovery and waste management planning study.


Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH
Director of Public Works

TLB:RPM:bbs

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

Copy to: Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
William Merry, Monterey Regional Waste Management District
Michael Gross, Green Waste Recovery, Inc.
Public Works Department