

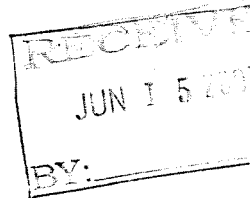


THOMAS L. BOLICH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

# 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: JUNE 12, 2007

May 31, 2007

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

SUBJECT: LONG RANGE RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT  
PLANNING

APPROVED AND FILED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DATE: June 12, 2007  
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD  
BY: Sharon Mitchell DEPUTY

### Members of the Board:

On May 15, 2007, your Board received a presentation by HDR/Brown, Vence and Associates (HDR/BVA) and Public Works on the Long Range Resource Recovery and Waste Management Plan. This was the first in a series of deliverable products from HDR/BVA and focused on identification of the long range facility needs for our community to replace our declining landfill capacity. A longer version of this presentation was also given to the community in four meetings held throughout the county. The presentation provided an overview of the various resource recovery and waste processing components that will be required to both replace the aging Buena Vista Landfill and to advance the "Zero Waste" objectives adopted by your Board and the four cities in our county. We collectively refer to these replacement facilities as our "Zero Waste EcoPark" which would include a reuse and resale center, regional composting operation, materials recovery facilities for both curbside recycling and construction and demolition materials, a transfer station to move residual waste to an out-of-county landfill or other waste conversion facility, and other bulky material processing operations (i.e., concrete, asphalt, scrap metal). In addition, the presentation looked further ahead to a fully sustainable system that would eventually eliminate the need for any landfilling and suggested maintaining space at the Zero Waste EcoPark for a future waste conversion facility (emerging technology).

Your Board directed Public Works to return on June 12, 2007, with a report on the facility development plans and siting options. Attached you will find the planning and siting report prepared by HDR/BVA. This report includes a brief overview of resource recovery alternatives and the EcoPark approach. The report further summarizes and draws upon prior facility planning and siting studies considered by the Board and the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (IWMLTF) in the early to mid 1990s, as well as more recent work completed by the IWMLTF's citizen advisory group. HDR/BVA combined their own evaluation of facility development and siting options with this prior work to arrive at a set of recommended options for consideration by the public, your Board, the IWMLTF and participating cities. The report also outlines other potential sites that were considered and the basis for removing these locations from further evaluation.

Today you will hear a brief presentation by HDR/BVA on the planning process and the candidate sites. The goal of this process is to finalize the list of sites and site combinations that your Board would like to move forward to environmental review. Of particular importance is the recommended option of utilizing the remaining undeveloped Buena Vista Landfill, Module 5 area and adjacent lands, in lieu of developing all new facilities in another location. This alternative would reduce the amount of land acquisition needed for these new facilities and continue to use some of the existing landfill infrastructure. To facilitate this option, environmental review would need to be started this year to allow adequate time to complete a project in advance of the landfill running out of space. Work is already underway to evaluate the remaining life of the landfill under this scenario, without building the last landfill disposal area. By end of summer, we will have more specific details on the timing of this alternative, but we are conservatively estimating that if we were to prematurely close the landfill to accommodate this option, the project would need to be completed in a five to six-year window.

Under the Buena Vista Landfill options, we would exercise the full extent of the waste disposal agreement your Board recently approved on April 17, 2007, with the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) and haul all the County Service Area 9C refuse to the MRWMD landfill in Marina. This agreement is available to the County for up to 30 years and is structured to include all of the County Service Area 9C waste shed if we elect to exercise this provision. This option would not have been available without the waste disposal agreement with the MRWMD.


Public Works will hold another series of public meetings over the summer to receive public feedback on these options. In addition, we will schedule meetings with various community stakeholders and involved regulatory agencies (i.e. Coastal Commission, Integrated Waste Management Board) to solicit feedback on the proposed facilities and locations. Based on the feedback we receive today from your Board, stakeholders and the public over the next three months, we will return on or before September 18, 2007 with a final set of recommended Zero Waste EcoPark sites to move forward to environmental review.

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

1. Consider this report on the Long Range Resources Recovery and Waste Management Plan.
2. Direct Public Works to conduct public presentations in each supervisorial district on the proposed development plans and siting options for the Zero Waste EcoPark facilities.

3. Direct Public Works to return on or before September 18, 2007, with a list of final recommended Zero Waste EcoPark facilities site(s) for environmental review.

Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH  
Director of Public Works

TLB:RPM:mh

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



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County Administrative Officer

Copy to: Mr. Charles Lester, California Coastal Commission  
Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force  
Mr. William Merry, Monterey Regional Waste Management District  
Planning Department  
County Counsel  
Environmental Health  
Public Works