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SEPT Board Packet



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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THOMAS L. BOLICH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

RECEIVED  
AUG 29 2008  
BY:

AGENDA: AUGUST 26, 2008

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

August 19, 2008

APPROVED AND FILED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: 8/26/08  
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD

SUBJECT: ZERO WASTE ECOPARK STATUS REPORT

BY: Alicia Muriel DEPUTY

Members of the Board:

On March 18, 2008, your Board received a project description and economic analysis for a proposed Zero Waste EcoPark to be located at the Buena Vista Landfill. On that date your Board accepted the project description and directed Public Works and the Planning Department to take all necessary steps to initiate environmental review on the proposed Zero Waste EcoPark and to report back on August 26, 2008.

### Background

The EcoPark would include the following new facilities: a transfer station to move residual waste to an out-of-county landfill, a reuse and resale center, materials recovery facilities for processing both curbside recycling and construction and demolition materials, a corporation yard for the County's franchised refuse hauler and a regional composting operation, as well as some of the anticipated mitigation measures and project enhancements such as an educational center with a focus on marine debris awareness, an educational walk, and creation of a new riparian habitat zone. The EcoPark proposal also includes a set-aside area for possible future development of a waste conversion facility to handle residues from the County's diversion activities and potentially eliminate the need for any landfilling. The specific waste conversion technology that might be employed at such a facility has yet to be decided upon and is therefore not included in the plan.

The proposed project would utilize the last undeveloped landfill cell, Module 5 (about seven acres), and require the proposed acquisition of a 26-acre parcel located just north of the property. The project would also require early closure of the Buena Vista Landfill, approximately eight to nine years prior to the current planned closure date.

The project description includes several alternative sites for the EcoPark and stand-alone composting operations in addition to the 26-acre proposed acquisition and the existing landfill, as evaluated and ranked in the final siting report presented to your Board on September 18, 2007. Under these alternative EcoPark project site scenarios, the Buena Vista Landfill would remain operational until it reaches full capacity. These sites will be included as alternatives for evaluation in the environmental review process.

The proposed regional organics composting operation at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) Marina Landfill, as discussed in our March 18, 2008 report to your Board, will be evaluated as the preferred project option for the purposes of the EcoPark's environmental review (EIR) process. However, we will still include other local Santa Cruz county sites as possible project alternative options for the purposes of the EcoPark's environmental review of composting facility alternatives in the event the joint project with the MRWMD does not come to fruition. The scope of the EcoPark project will be significantly reduced as a result of this decision and the economies of scale for the MRWMD regional compost site should provide cost benefits as well.

We believe the overall project schedule provided to your Board on March 18, 2008 is still valid. The Real Property section of Public Works is currently acquiring the necessary adjacent property access rights for the EIR process. It is anticipated that the selection and hiring of the EIR consultant will take 2 to 3 months and completion of the EIR through certification will require 18 months. A detailed schedule will be developed and submitted to your Board once the EIR consultant selection process is completed.

#### Permits and Required Approvals

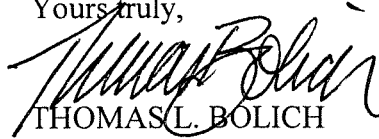
Public Works and the Planning Department have determined that the following permit and other approvals would be necessary for this project to move forward:

1. Amendment to existing Commercial Development Permit/Coastal Zone Permit on Parcel 1 to allow construction of:
  - A. Solid Waste Transfer Station
  - B. Construction and Demolition Waste Material Recovery Facility
2. Local Coast Plan Amendment on Parcel 2:
  - A. Revise policy text regarding conversion of commercial agricultural land
  - B. Change land use designation from Agriculture to Public Facility
3. Rezoning, Parcel 2: Rezone from CA (Commerical Agriculture) to PF (Public Facility)
4. Coastal Zone Permit/Commercial Development Permit on Parcel 2, to allow construction of:
  - A. Public Access Recycle and Reuse Facility
  - B. Curbside Recycle Material Recovery Facility
  - C. Public Education Marine Debris Awareness Facility
  - D. Franchise Hauler Corporation Yard
  - E. Possible Future Waste Conversion Facility
5. Riparian Exception on Parcel 2 to allow construction of Public Access Educational Boardwalk across newly established riparian area
6. Environmental Impact Assessment, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process

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

1. Accept and file this report on the status of the proposed Zero Waste EcoPark.
2. Direct Public Works to return on or before November 25, 2008, with a report on the progress of this project.

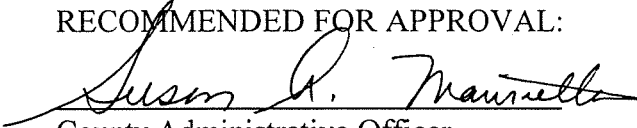
Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH  
Director of Public Works

TLB:DDG:lh

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

- Copy to:
- Charles Lester, California Coastal Commission (w/a)
  - Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (w/a)
  - William Merry, Monterey Regional Waste Management District (w/a)
  - HDR Engineering, Inc. (w/a)
  - Susan McCabe (w/a)
  - Greenwaste Recovery (w/a)
  - Planning Department (w/a)
  - County Counsel (w/a)
  - Environmental Health (w/a)
  - Public Works Directors for Cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Scotts Valley and Watsonville
  - Pajaro Valley Coalition from Environmental Justice
  - Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
  - Natural Resources Defense Council