



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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2007 OCT 11 PM 2:19

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: October 23, 2007
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme: 20 Min. on 11/6/7
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

1023-11

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Interim Director, 568-3010 *pmc*
Director(s) *for sm*
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Public Works Deputy Director, 882-3603
SUBJECT: Construction & Demolition Waste Management Policies OCT 23 2007

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions: Set a Public Hearing for November 6, 2007 for 20 minutes to consider a proposed construction and demolition debris recycling program, as follows:

- a) Direct Public Works to revise Chapter 17 of the County Code and its associated Rules & Regulations to require construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated in the unincorporated area be recycled at a minimum of 50%.
- b) Direct the staff of Planning & Development to update both the Thresholds & Guidelines Manual and the Standard Conditions with the assistance of Public Works staff to incorporate the recycling of C&D waste.
- c) Direct Public Works to revise the Rules & Regulations of Chapter 17 to require permitted Unscheduled Haulers to recycle a minimum of 50% of waste collected on an annual basis.

Summary Text:

The management of C&D waste is an increasing concern across the state of California and currently accounts for 31% of all waste generated by the communities in the unincorporated regions of the County of Santa Barbara. As of 2004, 64% of all solid waste generated in the unincorporated areas of the County of Santa Barbara was diverted for recycling or re-use (as certified by the California Integrated Waste Management Board). Our recycling success began with the County Source Reduction and Recycling Element adopted by the Board of Supervisors in February 1992, and has consistently been improved by additional recycling programs. Despite these achievements, landfill space is still limited.

In order to preserve limited landfill space, our policies must be changed as our community's waste changes. New construction, especially remodeling and demolition, represents the greatest challenge to maintaining existing diversion rates. To meet this challenge, the County needs to update and streamline Planning & Development policies that concern waste generation to include C&D waste. There is also a need to formally recognize and integrate the important role of C&D recycling that the Permitted Unscheduled Haulers provide to the community. Finally, we need to ensure that existing C&D recycling facilities are not overwhelmed by large scale development projects and force local projects to landfill recyclable material.

To address these needs, Public Works staff recommends:

1. An umbrella diversion requirement of all C&D debris to be recycled at a minimum of 50%,
2. Requiring all permitted unscheduled haulers to recycle a minimum of 50% of all material collected, and
3. Adding C&D recycling requirements to the Solid Waste Master Plan required by Planning & Development's Standard Conditions.

The Public Works Department does not anticipate any of the proposed changes will require any new FTEs. All drafts of proposed changes to both the Thresholds & Guidelines Manual and the Standard Conditions have been written with the purpose of streamlining existing policies making it easier for the community to understand and use.

Background:

In 2003, the Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group recommended C&D recycling ordinances be adopted due to the rapid increase in C&D waste generation. This recommendation coincided with a review of outdated waste management policies contained in County Planning & Development's Threshold & Guidelines Manual and the Standard Conditions.

In an effort to streamline, update and improve C&D waste management policies, the Public Works staff recommends the following three point strategy to be approved by the Board of Supervisors:

1. Umbrella C&D Diversion Requirement

Even though C&D accounts for 31% of our total waste generated, there are no requirements for its diversion. We would propose that C&D waste is identified in Chapter 17 of the County Code as a specific waste source that must be diverted at a rate of at least 50%.

2. Recycling C&D Waste for Small Projects through Unscheduled Haulers

The largest source of C&D waste is not from new development, but from the demolition and remodeling of existing buildings. The most common method of collecting waste from these types of projects is by roll-off containers, which are regulated through the County's Unscheduled Waste Hauling Permit. Currently there is no requirement for unscheduled haulers to recycle. Public Works staff proposes that the Rules & Regulations of Chapter 17 be revised to require Permitted Unscheduled Haulers to recycle 50% of all of the waste they collect on an annual basis. It should also be noted that most unscheduled haulers already recycle above the 50% threshold and this policy would guarantee that all haulers would be maintaining best waste management practices.

3. Recycling C&D Waste for Large Projects through the Solid Waste Management Plan

The current Thresholds & Guidelines Manual does not have any reference to C&D waste. The only waste considered to have an impact on community resources is the waste produced during operations (a.k.a. occupancy). This oversight is included in the Standard Conditions as well. Large scale remodeling and demolition projects are the biggest threat to our C&D recycling rates and overall County diversion rates. This is because most local C&D recyclers are approaching their processing capacity (especially those communities serviced by the Tajiguas Landfill) and several large projects happening at once could overwhelm the system. By including waste generated during construction in a Solid Waste Management Plan (required of large projects under Planning & Development's Standard Conditions) we can safeguard against C&D waste being sent directly to a landfill. The Public Works staff expects a Solid Waste Management Plan to be required for less than 10 permitted projects per year.

The development of this three point strategy has included numerous meetings and discussions with a large variety of stakeholders including: local contractors, contractor associations, C&D recyclers, non-profit environmental groups and all Unscheduled Waste Hauling Permit holders.

Performance Measure:

None

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: Proposed modifications to the County Code, Planning & Development's Thresholds & Guidelines Manual, and Planning & Development's Standard Conditions will not have a fiscal impact on the County.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

None

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