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Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: Marc Chytilo <marc@lomcsb.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 4:46 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Ghizzoni, Michael; McGolpin, Scott; Schleich, Mark
Subject: Item D-1 3-20-18 Tajiguas
Attachments: GCC to BOS 3-19-18.pdf

Clerk – please forward this to the Board

Thank you

Marc

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

March 19, 2018

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

By email to
sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

RE: Tajiguas Debris Processing and Stockpiling Project – Agenda Item #D-1, March 20, 2018

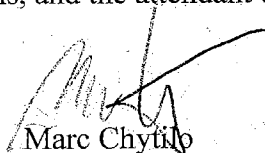
Dear Chair Williams and Supervisors,

This office represents the Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC), a non-governmental organization committed to the protection and preservation of the Gaviota Coast.

Management of the large volumes of debris from the Montecito debris flows following the Thomas Fire have strained our community in many ways. GCC supports the County's efforts to use the Tajiguas Landfill site to process and stockpile this debris to avoid expanding the site's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) capacity. Once sorted, the components of the debris have considerable present and future value. Converting trees and plant materials in the debris to mulch and compost has multiple benefits, and stockpiling rocks and soils, rather than permanently disposing of these materials, allows use of these materials in the future for resiliency enhancement and other projects.

While the Staff Report is short on details, we understand that the stockpiling will occur in the upper canyon at a stockpile site identified in the 2002 reconfiguration project. We also have been told that the site will only be accessed during dry weather, and not at night. These critical aspects of the project should be codified as operational conditions to minimize the risk of crushing transient red-legged frogs. We understand that no substantial amounts of MSW are expected to be accepted, so the remaining life of the landfill should not be affected. Based on these facts as provided by County staff, GCC supports the proposed ordinance allowing processing and stockpiling of debris from the Montecito debris flows for \$55/ton, reflecting the operational cost of using Tajiguas Landfill without the closure cost increment.

Given the level of public interest in both Tajiguas Landfill issues and the County's approach to debris management, we ask that County staff be more forthcoming with the specifics of proposals like these. Since the County is exempt from permit, the Staff Report provides an important informational function in describing the locations for stockpiling and processing of waste, the volumes involved, the timing and duration of operations, and the attendant environmental protections that respond to the site's sensitive resources.



Marc Chytilo
For Gaviota Coast Conservancy