



Santa Barbara County Solid Waste
Local Task Force

Facilitating Cooperation and Communication Between Communities

Chair:

Mark Schleich
County of
Santa Barbara

July 25, 2002

Members:

Bill Albrecht
City of Buellton

Perry Ferguson
Community
Representative

Pat Higgins
HSS, industry
Representative

Fred Kovol
Community
Representative

Patrick Maloy
Vandenberg
Air Force Base

Bill Noble
City of
Santa Maria

Tom Rowe
City of Solvang

Homer Smith
City of
Santa Barbara

Jerry Smith
Montecito
Sanitary District

Claudia Stine
City of Lompoc

Frank Usher
City of
Guadalupe

Steve Wagner
City of
Carpinteria

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Letter of support for the proposed expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill

Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the Local Solid Waste Task Force for the proposed expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill. The Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Task Force was created in 1990 as required by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, and pursuant to section 18761 of Title 14 of the California Code.

The LTF finds that the proposed expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill is consistent with the Santa Barbara Countywide Siting Element, which was adopted by your Board in 1998. Furthermore, the proposed expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill will not impede or impair any jurisdiction's ability to achieve the waste diversion goals of 50%.

The Tajiguas landfill is an important community resource that provides solid waste disposal capacity for residents of the South Coast and the Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys, including the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang, and Buellton. The Local Solid Waste Task Force recognizes the critical role an expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill plays in the development of future solid waste management systems to provide residents of Santa Barbara County with safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound waste management.

Voted and unanimously approved by:

Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Local Task Force

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA



Dan B. Secord, M.D.
Councilmember

City Hall
De La Guerra Plaza
(805) 564-5319

Mailing address:
Post Office Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

Fax: (805) 564-5475
e-mail: drdan@rain.org

CALIFORNIA

Ms. Imelda Cragin
109 East Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, California
93101

Dear Imelda,

As a member of the Solid Waste Task Group, I studied the Tajiguas EIR including the responses to questions submitted by the public.

In the final document I noted the care and respect afforded in the answers. Having read a few EIRs over the years, and think this represents very good work. The questions were thoroughly studied and answered fully. Mark Schleich tells me you had a role in crafting the answers and I wanted to thank you for the obvious quality of the staff work.

Best regards,

Dan B. Secord, M.D.

Memorandum

Date: August 1, 2002
To: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John Patton
Director
Planning and Development



Staff Contact: Brian R. Baca
Engineering Geologist

Subject: **Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project, 01-EIR-5:**
Clarification of the Project Description regarding the western slope borrow area.

CC: Phil Demery, Public Works
Alan Seltzer, Co. Counsel
David McDermott, Co. Counsel

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum is provided to clarify the project description presented in Environmental Impact Report 01-EIR-5 regarding the use of borrow soil from the slope located immediately west of the existing landfill waste accumulation. For background information, a discussion of the local permitting requirements as they relate to the Coastal Zone and Inland portions of the site is provided.

DISCUSSION

Local Permitting Requirements:

Outside of the Coastal Zone

The portion of the Tajiguas Landfill located outside of the Coastal Zone is not subject to the requirement of a local land use permit pursuant to Section 35-201.2 of the County of Santa Barbara Article III Zoning Ordinance. This section specifically exempts "development by the County of Santa Barbara or any district of which the Board of Supervisors is the governing body" from the permit requirements of the zoning ordinance.

Inside the Coastal Zone

As previously determined, projects or activities that are within the scope of the existing historic landfill facility are not subject to the permit requirements of the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance. Examples of recent activities at the landfill determined to be exempt from Article II permit requirements include the bench fill project and the new onsite sedimentation basin. The status of the existing landfill as it pertains to the Coastal Zone is further discussed below.

The Tajiguas Landfill was installed and began operating in 1966, prior to the enactment of the Coastal Act, the passage of the California Environmental Quality Act and the onset of State regulation of landfills through the Solid Waste Management Act. Therefore, the only potentially applicable regulation was the County of Santa Barbara Zoning Ordinance #661. The Tajiguas Landfill, a County public works facility, was not subject to a County permit requirement because Ordinance #661 specifically states that it is not applicable to *“the County of Santa Barbara or any district of which the Board of Supervisors is the governing body.”* Thus, the landfill became a legal facility with no established limits of operation within the boundaries of the original landfill property (APN 081-150-019).

In 1978, the landfill received a Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) from the State of California. The 1978 SWFP imposed a 400-foot elevation limit on the landfill but otherwise did not affect the permit status of the facility. Landfill activity (i.e. waste placement) within the parcel and below 400 feet in elevation was (and is) a continuation of the historic operation of the original landfill. This landfill activity is not subject to Coastal Zone permit requirements. The 1988 SWFP expanded the height limit to 500 feet throughout the landfill, including the coastal zone. However, no Coastal Development Permit to allow the increase in height within the coastal zone portion of the landfill has been requested or issued. In fact, a component of the proposed expansion project calls for the relocation of some refuse currently buried within the coastal zone to achieve conformance with the elevation limit included in the 1978 permit.

Use of borrow soil from the western slope:

Because of the differing permit requirements within the Coastal Zone and Inland areas, the Public Works Department proposes to clarify the project description to specify the location from where borrow soil would be obtained for cover activities for the proposed expanded landfill. The project description would be amended to state the following:

“Soil used for landfill cover activities in the portion of the proposed landfill expansion area located outside of the historic limits of the existing landfill shall only be obtained from areas outside of the coastal zone.”

The slope west of the existing waste accumulation (the “western slope”) has been a part of the landfill facility and a borrow source for refuse cover material since the beginning of waste disposal at the site in 1966. Thus, its future use as final cover within the limits of the historic landfill is considered part of the ongoing operation of an existing historic facility. No environmental review or Coastal Development Permit is required for such ongoing operations of an existing legal facility. No Land Use Permit would be required in the Inland (non-Coastal) area in any case pursuant to the cited section of the Article III Zoning Ordinance discussed above.

Adequate soil resources are available outside the coastal zone to meet the regulatory requirements for cover soil on the portion of the proposed expanded landfill that would be located outside the limits of the historic landfill facility. A sufficient volume of soil is similarly available from coastal and non-coastal areas for cover material needed for the historic landfill site. Thus, the clarification of the project description proposed above is feasible and would preclude the requirement for a Coastal Development Permit for borrow activities involving the western slope.
