

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
AGENDA BOARD LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 07/02/03  
**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** July 15, 2003  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 1 hour  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phillip M. Demery, Director  
Public Works

**STAFF** Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, 882-3603  
**CONTACT:** John McInnes, Innovative Programs Manager, 568-3552

**SUBJECT:** Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group  
All Supervisorial Districts.

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors receive a presentation on the work of the Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (Est. Time: 30min, Staff)

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1, An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community, and our organizational values regarding collaboration and partnering.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

In June 2001, your Board and the Santa Barbara City Council established the Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (Task Group) for the purpose of providing a forum to discuss and plan long-term solid waste management strategies and facilities. Your Board and the Santa Barbara City Council passed identical resolutions (County resolution #01-90) finding and declaring that it is in the public interest to continue to work cooperatively to explore a means to formalize a continued long-term relationship regarding solid waste issues. In April 2002, your Board, along with the Santa Barbara City Council, passed resolutions (County resolution #02-146) to continue working together, and to invite other jurisdictions to participate in the process. As a result, the Task Group now consists of elected representatives from all of the County's incorporated cities, the County, and the Sanitation Districts, further enhancing the possibilities for regional cooperation.

In December 2001, the Task Group adopted six Guiding Principles:

*1. Local Control*

Local decision-making bodies need to retain their authority to set rates and control the waste flow and the waste management systems to meet their respective community goals.

2. *Regional Services*

A multi-jurisdictional partnered approach is needed, which allows varying levels of community participation in a solid waste management system. It creates opportunities to optimize services regionally, including consistency of services and rates, economies of scale, effective use of sites and facilities, and other community goals.

3. *Waste Diversion*

To meet or exceed legal mandates by recovery of resources from the waste stream and reducing dependency on landfilling.

4. *Economic Efficiencies*

Balancing the achievement of respective community goals while recognizing the need for responsible fiscal management and fiscal constraints.

5. *Reliability*

A commitment to provide high-quality, consistent and dependable long-term waste management services.

6. *Flexibility*

An integrated system is needed, which is flexible to accommodate both advances in technologies and various levels of jurisdictional participation in system components.

The Task Group also adopted bylaws and created a multiple level organizational structure to support the process and provide opportunities for involvement of all interested stakeholders. The organizational structure consists of a Project Team, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and several ad-hoc committees called Subgroups.

The Project Team consists of County and City of Santa Barbara staff and provides logistical support to the Task Group. Examples of support include developing agendas, producing meeting minutes and maintaining the Task Group's web site ([www.countyofsb.org/pwd/swud](http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/swud)).

The TAC, formed in March 2002, is responsible for overseeing the research and development of waste management options and preparing and submitting comprehensive and integrated solutions to the Task Group. The TAC consists of 14 members, including representatives from each of the incorporated cities, the County, Vandenberg Air Force Base, The Sanitation Districts Association, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). The TAC adopted By-laws in May 2002, and meets on a monthly basis to coordinate the work of its Subgroups. Meetings of the TAC are open to the public and participation by members of the public, environmental organizations, and solid waste experts are encouraged. The TAC regularly reports to the Task Group.

Six Subgroups, or ad-hoc committees, were created in May 2002. They serve as the research arm of the TAC and are exploring several management options for specific waste streams or issue areas. To guide their efforts, each Subgroup developed the following purpose statements, which were approved by the TAC and Task Group:

- *Biosolids Subgroup*

Evaluate opportunities for the short and long-term processing and marketing of biosolids that are environmentally responsible, reliable and subject to local control.

- *Green Waste Subgroup*  
The purpose of the Green Waste Management Subgroup is to identify and analyze critical issues and areas of concern regarding the generation, collection, transportation, processing and marketing of residential and commercial green and wood waste in Santa Barbara County, and to recommend short, medium and long-term management options that offer the highest and best use of this resource at the least cost to the rate-payer.
- *Commercial Recycling Subgroup*  
The Commercial Recycling Subgroup shall develop and implement cost-effective commercial recycling and food waste diversion programs tailored to each business type, keeping in mind the MJSWTG guiding principles.
- *Construction and Demolition Recycling Subgroup*  
The C&D Management Subgroup shall identify and recommend cost-effective programs for recycling construction, demolition, and other similar type materials, keeping in mind geographic, economic, and environmental issues in addition to the remaining Guiding Principles as established by the Task Group.
- *Other Regulated Waste Subgroup*  
Identify regional challenges and develop comprehensive approaches for the appropriate management and disposal of special regulated wastes.
- *Alternatives to Disposal Subgroup*  
The Alternatives to Disposal Subgroup shall identify and evaluate the feasibility of solid waste conversion technologies that provide alternatives to waste disposal in Santa Barbara County.
- *Short and Long-Term Disposal Options Subgroup*  
The Short/Long Term Solid Waste Disposal Subgroup shall identify needs and develop short and long-term disposal proposals for submittal to the Technical Advisory Committee.

The Subgroups also developed detailed work plans to support their respective purposes. Similar to the purpose statements, the work plans were approved by the TAC and Task Group.

For the last year, the Subgroups have carried out their approved work plans, providing timely updates to the TAC and Task Group at their regularly scheduled meetings. The Subgroups are now in the final stages of completing their work and all of their recommendations could be forwarded to the TAC by the end of September 2003. Based on this information, the TAC will develop comprehensive and integrated system scenarios for the Task Group's consideration in 2004. These systems will include a detailed description of all long-term countywide solid waste management strategies and facilities.

The Task Group is convened on a monthly basis in Solvang and all meetings are open to the public. The Task Group maintains a meeting notification list of more than 100 interested community members and has sent letters to various local groups encouraging their participation. Evening community meetings have also been held by Subgroups to promote public involvement. It is anticipated that this outreach will continue as

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the Task Group develops its final recommendations for a long-term countywide solid waste management system.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

No mandates or service levels are affected by this action.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None with this action.

**Special Instructions:**

None.