



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: July 10, 2007
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Interim Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Public Works Deputy Director, 882-3603

SUBJECT: Update on County's Current and Future Waste Management Efforts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

Set a Public Hearing for July 17, 2007 for 30 minutes to receive an update on the County's current and future waste management efforts.

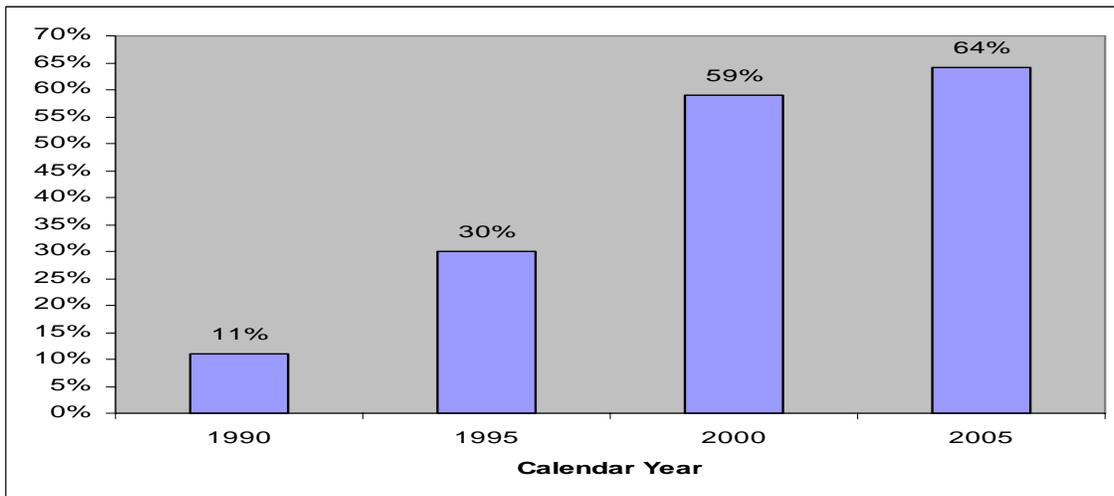
Summary Text: Over the years, the County has provided a valuable regional service to South Coast jurisdictions for the management of solid waste. The County has sorted recyclables, processes green waste, collects and manages hazardous and universal waste, and operates the region's landfill. Bi-lingual educational campaigns have been implemented continually to make the public aware of the opportunities available to them to recycle. The operation of these programs and facilities continue to change each year in response to new regulations, evolving technologies, and community needs.

Looking to the future, the Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group prepared a long-term solid waste management plan for Santa Barbara County, which included plans for three separate wastesheds: Santa Maria Valley, Lompoc Valley, and the South Coast including the Santa Ynez Valley. One area of interest was the siting of a conversion technology at the Tajiguas Landfill for managing South Coast waste in the long-term. Recently, leaders on the South Coast met and expressed concern with diminishing landfill space and the need to step up the evaluation of an alternative to landfilling. New technologies are available that would further process waste to remove recyclables and convert the majority of the remaining material into synthetic fuels, electricity or other usable products. Costs associated with a conversion facility would be funded by users, most likely South Coast and Santa Ynez residents and businesses. Under the direction of the Board, and working in cooperation with the City of Santa Barbara, the County has issued a Request for Proposals for a project manager to analyze potential

facility options for the region and present results to area governing bodies. If directed, the project manager could be involved in the future selection of a specific technology for construction on the South Coast.

Background:

The County has been very proactive and successful in implementing a wide range of recycling programs countywide. Each program has been tailored to meet the needs of the targeted community. The County was certified at a rate of 64% diversion for the year 2004, the most recent year reviewed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, surpassing the state mandate of 50% diversion. Below is a chart illustrating the County's progress to date.



The County's continuing recycling success can be attributed to the implementation of innovative programs, cooperative partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors, and a responsive public. For comparison purposes, the County's diversion level is in the top 10% of all jurisdictions in the state. There are still several small-scale programs that the County may implement to increase the quantity of resources diverted from landfills, such as the possible collection and composting of manure from Santa Ynez ranchettes, and the implementation of a construction and demolition debris recycling program. However, in order to better utilize resources still being buried, conserve valuable landfill space, and plan for the communities' future solid waste management needs, the County will need to participate in the evaluation of future regional waste diversion facilities.

In June 2001, your Board and the Santa Barbara City Council established the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (Task Group) for the purpose of providing a forum to discuss and plan long-term solid waste management programs and facilities. The Task Group was further expanded in April 2002 and now includes elected officials from all other County jurisdictions and a representative from the Sanitary Districts. The Task Group formed a Technical Advisory Council (TAC) and directed the TAC to develop a long-term solid waste management plan that incorporated seven priority areas of interest. One of the areas of interest was the evaluation of technologies that further recover recyclables from the wastestream and convert the remaining trash into marketable products such as synthetic fuels or electricity thus reducing future dependence on landfills and providing a local green energy source. Interest in this area has grown nationwide over the last five years as communities recognize the benefits associated with these emerging technologies.

A conversion technology subgroup was formed by the TAC which conducted an extensive evaluation of applicable technologies including facility costs and revenues, demonstrated ability, and capability of meeting health, safety and environmental standards. A short list of seven technology vendors was identified that could offer feasible facilities for Santa Barbara County. This evaluation was completed in late 2003. In February 2004, the Task Group unanimously approved a conceptual long-term solid waste management plan for the County, which included a recommendation for the development of a waste conversion facility to serve South Coast jurisdictions. All of the participating jurisdictions, including your Board, subsequently approved the Plan in April 2004.

The South Coast jurisdictions expressed an interest in continuing to monitor the emergence of the conversion technologies and changes have occurred over the last few years. At a meeting in early 2007, several elected officials from the County and the City of Santa Barbara expressed concern over the region's long-term solid waste management needs and the diminishing space at the Tajiguas Landfill. There was unanimous interest among the attendees to step up evaluating the possibility of constructing a conversion technology at the county-owned Tajiguas Landfill. The elected officials suggested hiring a project manager to pick up where the conversion technology subgroup left off and update the data collected to reflect recent changes in the industry.

In February 2007, County and City of Santa Barbara staff was authorized by their governing bodies to solicit proposals for a project manager to assist with the region's efforts to further evaluate the potential for siting a conversion technology facility on the South Coast. County and City staff worked cooperatively to develop and distribute a Request For Proposals to interested consultants and responses are due July 2, 2007. It is anticipated that the County and the City of Santa Barbara will share in the cost of funding this effort. Once a consultant has been selected, staff will return to your Board to request authorization to enter into an agreement with the selected project manager.

The scope of the proposed project, as defined in the RFP, is as follows:

- Refine project objectives/alternatives
- Develop evaluation criteria
- Evaluate existing technologies

Once these tasks have been completed, the County and City will review the results and determine their interest in further pursuing the selection of a conversion technology to serve the South Coast waste management needs. If there is continued interest, a legal mechanism will be prepared to define the governance of the new facility as well as the participating jurisdictions. Additionally, an extensive public outreach campaign would be developed and launched. If successful, the goal of the project would be to develop a facility that presents a long-term waste management option, minimizes the environmental impact of waste disposal, is financially stable, maintains a humane working environment for employees, maximizes recycling rates for participating jurisdictions, and potentially generates green energy for our community.

Performance Measure:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: This Board item is an update only. In a previous Board action authorizing staff to solicit proposals for a project manager to assist with the evaluation of a waste conversion technology to service the South Coast, it was highlighted that the funds necessary to fund the effort will be known after responses to the RFP are received. The contract and cost will be brought back to your Board for approval. The County and the City of Santa Barbara will be funding this effort jointly and the funds contributed by the County will come from the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division Enterprise Fund.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

None

Authored by: Leslie Wells, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, ext. 3611.