

# Rescind Resolution Related to Ceasing Burial of Solid Waste at Tajiguas Landfill

Tuesday, December 5, 2023



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**Resource Recovery &  
Waste Management Division**

*Innovative Environmental Solutions*

# Landfill History

- Current waste footprint is 118 acres within 357 acre permitted operational area, 23.3 mcy
- Constructed in 1967
- Expanded in 1987
- Expanded in 2002
- Reconfiguration 2009
- ReSource Center (MRF, ADF and CMU) approved in 2017

# ReSource Center Project

- ReSource Center Project:
  - Required to comply with state law
  - Of alternatives considered, was environmentally superior
  - The most cost effective alternative
  - Expected to operate after landfill capacity is reached
- GCC filed suit against the ReSource Center project
- Settlement Agreement and Resolution
  - Cease waste burial at 23.3 mcy (assumed approx. fill date of 2038)
  - Provide funding to GCC for various activities
  - Allowed recreational uses of Baron Ranch
  - Seek future landfill alternatives outside the Gaviota Coast

# Current Situation

- Landfill space will be used up by 2026 and not 2038 as originally anticipated
- Cost model was based on landfill use through 2038
- A limited capacity increase within the existing permitted operational area and within the Comprehensive Plan designated Waste Disposal Facility Overlay area can be implemented to reach 2038

# Limited Capacity Increase Project

- Required to meet financial obligations
  - Environmentally superior compared to hauling (~1,820 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E/yr more)
  - Only cost alternative (16% increase is outside range of 5% cost model)
- GCC-derived Term Sheet in 2022
  - Non-opposition if landfill closes by 2038 by establishing a conservation easement on landfill property outside approved footprint
  - A new resolution ceasing landfilling in 2038
  - Sell Baron Ranch development rights
  - GCC use of Baron Ranch

# Reasons to Rescind Resolution 18-150

- Landfill life is shorter than expected (two years remaining)
- Enables use of landfill to coincide with debt service period
- Is necessary to be consistent with the economic model for revenue and expenses
- The proposed increase is within the existing permitted operational area and within the Comprehensive Plan designated Waste Disposal Facility Overlay area

# Findings

- County is in compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement
- Rescinding the resolution does not violate the terms of the Settlement Agreement
- County may not contract away either its police power or its legislative authority and retains the final authority to take subsequent actions

