



From: Kate Connell <connell.kateclare@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:00 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Oppose expansion of Tajiguas landfill

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- I am in agreement with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and **Oppose the Expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill.**

Thank you,

Kate Connell

- **Environmental Harm:** The expansion increases the landfill's footprint upward and outward, disturbing critical habitats for endangered species like the Crotch's Bumblebee and California Red-legged frog. It also threatens rare plants like the Santa Barbara Honeysuckle and California Brittlebush scrub. The expansion perpetuates decades of environmental harm to sensitive coastal areas and citizens, including Pila Creek, Baron Ranch, Arroyo Hondo, and the Arroyo Quemada neighborhood.
- **Unmet Diversion Goals & Public Health Concerns:** Despite promises of diverting 60% of organic waste, the current ReSource Center is failing miserably. Its actual diversion rate is only 31.35%, exhausting landfill capacity and leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and intolerable odors from poorly processed organic waste.
- **Financial Burden on Ratepayers:** The expansion is a costly Band-Aid solution. The underperforming ReSource Center has already cost ratepayers an estimated \$250 million, and the expansion won't fix its problems.
- **Lack of Transparency:** The County needs to be upfront about the ReSource Center's failures and the true costs of the expansion. We deserve regular reports on finances and operations to ensure responsible decision-making.

Our Vision:

- **Protect Sensitive Ecosystems:** Establish conservation easements on unprotected areas of the landfill property and adjacent Baron Ranch, creating a wildlife corridor, mitigating impacts to and safeguarding endangered species.
- **Fix the ReSource Center:** The County's investment in the ReSource Center has fallen far short of expectations. Despite a hefty \$250 million price tag, it continues to divert roughly the same amount of waste as before its construction. This is unacceptable.

We need a solution that prioritizes public health and environmental well-being. Implementing source-separated waste streams is crucial. This system keeps different waste types separate,

allowing for cleaner and more efficient processing. The result? Higher quality compost and fewer harmful emissions impacting residents of Arroyo Quemada and visitors to Arroyo Hondo and Baron Ranch.

The County must fix the ReSource Center now. It's time to stop wasting ratepayer money and start creating a responsible waste management system that protects our community and environment.

- **Establish Transparency**

and accountability. We deserve to know how our waste is being handled and where our dollars are going.

- **Regular Public Reporting:** The County must publish clear and accessible reports on the ReSource Center's performance and finances. This will allow residents to track its progress and identify areas for improvement.
- **Independent Oversight Committee:** An independent committee of solid waste experts should be established. This committee will provide unbiased recommendations on how to improve the ReSource Center's efficiency, effectiveness, and environmental impact. By demanding transparency and independent oversight, we can ensure the ReSource Center operates in the best interests of our community and environment.

This comprehensive approach:

- Minimizes environmental impact
- Promotes long-term sustainability
- Reduces reliance on landfills
- Saves ratepayer dollars
- Creates a cleaner, healthier community

From: Michelle Yankee <myankee@cityofsantamaria.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:33 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Scott McGolpin; Jeanette Gonzales-Knight; Marty Wilder; Travis Spier; Shad Springer
Subject: Tajiguas Landfill Capacity Increase Project City of Santa Maria Letter of Support
Attachments: Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill Capacity Increase Project Support.pdf

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Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

Please accept the attached letter of support on behalf of the City of Santa Maria Director of Utilities, Shad Springer.

Many thanks for your time,

Michelle

Michelle R. Yankee
Utilities Department ■ Administrative Assistant
Phone ■ 805.925.0951, Ext. 7211





CITY OF SANTA MARIA
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
Business Services • Regulatory Compliance
Solid Waste Services • Water Resources

2065 EAST MAIN STREET • SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 93454-8026 • 805-925-0951, EXT. 7270 • FAX 805-928-7240

March 6, 2024

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

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO
sbcob@countyofsb.org

SUBJECT: TAJIGUAS SANITARY LANDFILL CAPACITY INCREASE PROJECT

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the City of Santa Maria Utilities Department, I am providing this letter in support of the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill Capacity Increase Project. The City of Santa Maria supports efforts to promote fiscally and environmentally responsible management of the waste from the residents of Santa Barbara County by using locally available disposal capacity within Santa Barbara County. Using locally available disposal capacity reduces the adverse air quality, greenhouse gas, and traffic impacts associated with transporting and disposing of locally generated waste to out-of-county landfills (with round trip distances of over 100 miles to Los Angeles County facilities), promotes local employment opportunities, and allows transparency for our community's waste at facilities that are local and publicly owned and operated.

There are currently three sites in Santa Barbara County that accept waste for disposal: the City of Lompoc, the City of Santa Maria, and the County of Santa Barbara's Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill. Each of these facilities are currently constrained regarding the long-term community needs for disposal, as shown in the included table. The City of Lompoc Sanitary Landfill (LSL) is managed by the City of Lompoc. The current permit limits LSL to 2,400 tons per week⁶, and approximately 770 tons per week⁶ is being used by its current customers. The waste currently being disposed of at Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill is approximately 3,488 tons per week⁸. The combined total of 4,258 tons per week would greatly exceed the LSL permitted tons of 2,400 per week⁶.

The City of Santa Maria Regional Landfill (SMRL) is managed by the City of Santa Maria. SMRL has limitations on the allowed tonnage received per week. The current permit limit for waste disposed at the Santa Maria Regional Landfill is 6,006 tons per week,⁴ and approximately 2,548 tons per week¹ is being used by its current customers. The waste currently being disposed of at Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill equals approximately 3,488 tons per week.⁸ The combined total of 6,036 tons per week would slightly exceed the SMRL permitted tons of 6,006 per week. Therefore, without approval of the Tajiguas Sanitary

Landfill Capacity Increase Project, the only short-term option would be the undesirable option of disposing of, at least, a portion of the waste generated in Santa Barbara County at a location outside the county.

Facility	Areas Served	Permitted (tons/wk)	Average Weekly Tonnage	Remaining Capacity (cy) per current SWFP (as of date)	Closure Date (per SWFP/Application)
Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill (TSL)	Unincorporated areas of South County, Santa Ynez Valley, and Cuyama Valley, and the Cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang	9,000 (1500 tons/day) ⁵	3,488 ⁸	1,944,330 ⁷	March 2028 ⁷
City of Santa Maria Landfill (SMRL)	City of Santa Maria and nearby unincorporated areas	6,006 ⁴	2,548 ¹	1,373,080 (Sept 1, 2021) ¹	March 2028 ¹
City of Lompoc Sanitary Landfill (LSL)	City of Lompoc and nearby unincorporated areas	2,400 (400 tons/day) ⁶	770 ⁶	1,139,600 (July 1, 2020) ⁶	January 2036 ⁶

Notes:

1. Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Application for City of Santa Maria Landfill (City of Santa Maria, October 2021)
2. Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) Quarterly Reports for Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill (Santa Barbara County, 2023)
3. Financial Assurances Mechanisms Letter to CalRecycle for Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Costs of Santa Barbara County Landfills, (Santa Barbara County, May 22, 2023)
4. Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) for City of Santa Maria Landfill (March 8, 2022)
5. Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) for Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill (February 2, 2017). 9,000 tons/wk is derived from permitted 1,500 tons/day x 6 day week.
6. Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Application for City of Lompoc Sanitary Landfill (January 21, 2021)
7. Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Application for Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill (Santa Barbara County, September 2023)
8. 2023 LEA Quarterly Tonnage Reports for Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill (Santa Barbara County, 2023)

To address the long-term needs for disposal within Santa Barbara County, the City of Santa Maria is developing the Santa Maria Integrated Waste Management Facility. This facility could be developed to also have capacity for waste from areas currently served by the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill, as well as the Lompoc Sanitary Landfill. However, the Santa Maria Integrated Waste Management Facility is currently in the planning and environmental review phase and will not be ready to receive waste by 2026 (the anticipated date that the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill current permitted capacity is reached).

Due to current constraints at the Lompoc Sanitary Landfill and the SMRL, the best, short-term option to accommodate waste from within Santa Barbara County is the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill Capacity Increase Project. The project is necessary to continue to achieve the important goal of disposal capacity within Santa Barbara County, to avoid the impacts of disposing of the community's waste out of county, provide local employment, and to bridge the gap to future waste management opportunities.

We look forward to working with the County of Santa Barbara to collaborate on continuing to provide disposal capacity within the county to meet the community's future waste, recovery, and disposal needs.



SHAD SPRINGER, P.E., MPA
Director of Utilities

C: Scott McGolpin mcolpin@countyofsb.org
Jeanette Gonzales-Knight jgonzal@countyofsb.org
Marty Wilder mwilder@countyofsb.org
Travis Spier tspier@countyofsb.org

SS/my

Sarah Mayer

From: Sue Hollingsworth <sue.hollingsworth.new@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:41 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Tajiguas expansion - NO

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Hello Supervisors -

What is going on with the colossal failure of the ReStore processing at Tajiguas Landfill???

As a taxpayer, I am appalled that we have paid \$250 million for a sorting system that does not function as promised. Please do NOT take any steps to authorize expansion of the landfill. Instead, please launch a TRANSPARENT investigation into what went wrong, and how to correct it. Your decision on proposed expansion has implications for the environment, and for incompetency and possibly even corruption in local government.

Thank you.

Sue Hollingsworth
1046 Miramonte Dr
Santa Barbara

Sarah Mayer

From: benhamra@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:29 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Waste Disposal

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Kicking the can one more time is not a solution. A careful and unbiased study needs to be done that will benefit future *generations of a populace fortunate enough to call Santa Barbara home*. By *unbiased*, I mean that the selection process must follow the money and make sure that those conducting the study must, in addition to being experienced in waste management, not be "beholding" to some one or entity that holds their purse strings.

robert benham
1010 Newton Road
93103

Sarah Mayer

From: Sue Mellor <sbsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: No on Tajiguas Landfill Expansion

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I understand the costly ReSource center is not doing its job. Get this going smoothly and effectively before you consider any expansion. The perimeter of the landfill is adversely affected and needs to be protected.... not carved into. With the ever increasing population of our county we need a long term and environmentally sound landfill and not just a bigger and stinkery one! Sue Mellor, Santa Barbara