



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: May 6, 2008  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: 30 min on 5/13  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

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

**SUBJECT:** Update on Evaluation of Conversion Technology

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

- A) Set a public hearing for May 13, 2008 for 30 minutes for the following:
1. Receive report entitled "Evaluation of Municipal Solid Waste Conversion Technologies" prepared by Alternative Resources, Incorporated hired by the County to evaluate the feasibility of siting a conversion technology facility at the Tajiguas Landfill.
  2. Approve the list of eight vendors recommended in the report (attached).
  3. Direct staff to:
    - i. Begin drafting a Request For Proposals to solicit project proposals from the short-listed conversion technology vendors;
    - ii. Direct staff to conduct outreach presentations to potential participating jurisdictions and interested community groups;
    - iii. Direct staff to hold a public forum for elected officials and staff to discuss potential legal arrangements for governing the facility; and
    - iv. Return to your board in August / September with the results of the presentations and public forum.

**Summary Text:**

In July 2007, staff provided a solid waste management update to your Board including the more recent interest in updating the County's information on the potential siting of a conversion technology (CT) facility at the Tajiguas Landfill. Conversion technology facilities 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. The benefits of this type of facility include providing a long-term waste management facility, minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal, provide financial stability, maximize recycling rates for participating jurisdictions, and potentially generate green energy for our community.

In October 2007, your Board approved a contract with Alternative Resources, Incorporated (ARI) to prepare a feasibility study for siting a CT facility at the Tajiguas Landfill. This project was a joint effort with the City of Santa Barbara who agreed to pay for half of the consultant's work. Staff returned in January 2008 for Board approval of proposed goals and criteria that would be used as the guiding principles to evaluate and screen potential technology vendors.

Since that time, ARI, with the assistance of Public Works staff, has accomplished the following:

1. Identified possible vendors;
2. Developed and distributed a Request For Information;
3. Evaluated information received; and
4. Developed a Feasibility Report that identifies eight possible vendors to establish conversion technology facilities at the Tajiguas Landfill.

This number of interested and capable vendors illustrates that there are several feasible alternatives available and should allow a competitive procurement process. Attached is an Executive Summary of the report as well as the list of the eight short-listed vendors. A copy of the full report is available at the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division or on [www.conversiontechnologystudy.com](http://www.conversiontechnologystudy.com).

The next steps for the project include:

1. Receive the completed feasibility report;
2. Direct staff to:
  - a. Begin drafting a Request for Proposals;
  - b. Direct staff to conduct outreach presentations to potential participating jurisdictions and interested community groups;
  - c. Direct staff to hold a public forum for elected officials and staff to discuss potential legal arrangements for governing the facility; and
  - d. Return to your board in August / September with the results of the presentations and public forum.

**Background:**

The Tajiguas Landfill currently provides disposal services for the cities of Buellton, Solvang, Goleta, and Santa Barbara as well as the unincorporated South Coast, Santa Ynez, and New Cuyama Valleys. Despite the region's aggressive and successful recycling efforts, space at the landfill is diminishing and there is the need for a regional long-term solid waste management plan. In February 2004, a long-term plan was developed and adopted by area jurisdictions that included the development of a waste conversion facility. Concern over reduced disposal capacity and the recent interest in better utilizing resources, and the potential for creating a local energy source led to your Board requesting that Public Works staff work with the City of Santa Barbara to evaluate the feasibility of siting a conversion technology (CT) at the Tajiguas Landfill. The benefits of this type of facility include providing a long-term waste management facility, minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal, provide financial stability, maximize recycling rates for participating jurisdictions, and potentially generate green energy for our community.

In October 2007, the City Council of Santa Barbara and the County Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI) to proceed with the evaluation of CT to be established on the South Coast, most likely at the Tajiguas Landfill. ARI, working with select County and City of Santa Barbara elected officials and staff, drafted goals that were used as guiding principles in the evaluation process. ARI also drafted evaluation criteria that were used to screen potential technologies for suitability at the Tajiguas Landfill while considering the goals of our community. In developing the proposed goals and criteria, ARI based its work on the October 2003 MJSWTG CT Subgroup Report. ARI refined and updated this work with input from staff and experience gained from similar efforts undertaken in other jurisdictions.

During this same time period, staff from the County and City of Santa Barbara conducted a comprehensive outreach effort speaking directly to over 40 community organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions including the City Councils of Goleta, Buellton and Solvang. The purpose of the effort was to make the community more aware of the current rates of waste generation and the need for a long-term management plan and how CT may fit in the plan. In addition, the potential benefits of further processing recyclables and converting waste to an energy source were explained.

ARI subsequently developed a list of 24 potential vendors based on known technologies as well as vendors that have participated in recent procurement efforts in other jurisdictions such as Los Angeles and New York City. A Request for Information was prepared and sent to these vendors requesting information to ensure their ability to meet the City and County's screening criteria. Eleven of the 24 vendors responded and eight of the eleven respondents met the established criteria. There are vendors representing anaerobic digestion, thermal processing, and other conversion technologies. Each of the vendors met all of the criteria and expressed their ability to achieve 70-100% diversion at a rate of less than \$100 per ton (an assumed cost to dispose at an alternative facility in the future). Due to the breadth of vendor types and capabilities, staff believes there are feasible alternatives that could result from a competitive procurement process.

The next steps include presenting the results of the feasibility report to interested members of the community and other jurisdictions that could potentially participate in the development of the facility. In addition, staff, with the assistance of ARI, will be preparing and conducting public forums with select elected officials and staff to discuss legal options for the future management and ownership of the facility. Simultaneously, ARI will begin drafting segments of the Request for Proposals to identify a potential vendor for the construction of the facility. Staff proposes to return to your Board in August / September to provide an update on the results of these efforts.

**Performance Measure:**

None

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative: In October 2007, your Board approved a contract not-to-exceed \$147,400 awarded to Alternative Resources, Incorporated. Included in the scope of service was the cost to prepare a feasibility study as well as draft a Request for Proposals for the procurement of a conversion technology facility at the Tajiguas Landfill. The first phase of the project has been completed (preparation of the report) and the recommendation is for ARI to proceed with the second phase of the project (preparation of draft RFP). This portion is still within the initial scope and will require no additional allocation of funds.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

None

**Attachments:**

Report summary entitled "Evaluation of Municipal Solid Waste Conversion Technologies".

**Authored by:** Leslie Wells, Program Manager, Resource Recovery & Waste Management, ext 3611.

**cc:**