



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: December 5, 2006
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Phil Demery, Public Works Department 568-3010
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division
882-3603
SUBJECT: Tajiguas Landfill - Phased Closure

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Direct staff to proceed with phased closure of portions of the Tajiguas landfill;
- B) Approve changes in the Project Description for the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project including:
 - B1: Elimination of the Coastal Zone Southeast Corner Modifications; and
 - B2: Reconfiguration of the North Slope Borrow/Stockpile area;

C) Accept the Addendum dated November 8, 2006 to 01-EIR-05 prepared pursuant to Section 15164 of the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Attachment C).

Summary:

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division is proposing to begin phased closure of portions of the Tajiguas Landfill (Attachment A). Phased closure would involve placement of a soil cover (cap) over the existing landfill, reconstruction of the landfill gas collection system, drainage improvements, and revegetation. As a component of the phased closure Resource Recovery and Waste Management requests the Board's approval to proceed with landfill closure without relocating waste from the southeast corner of the site ("Southeast Corner Modification").

The Southeast Corner Modification would have removed and relocated waste from the southeast corner of the landfill (located within the Coastal Zone). It was originally proposed as a part of the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project to address a perceived inconsistency with the Coastal Plan and the County's Coastal Zoning Ordinance regarding the height of the permitted landfilling activities. Documentation reviewed after 01-EIR-05 was certified demonstrates that waste placed in the southeast corner does not conflict Coastal Plan policies or the Coastal Zoning Ordinance. Elimination of the Southeast Corner Modification has been evaluated in an Addendum prepared to the Final Environmental Impact Report (01-EIR-05) for the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project. The

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Addendum documents that leaving the waste in place will reduce environmental impacts and health and safety issues associated with removal and relocation of the waste.

In addition to eliminating the Southeast Corner Modification, Board approval is requested for a minor change in the configuration of the North Slope borrow/stockpile area. This change in the configuration of the borrow area has also been analyzed in the Addendum to 01-EIR-05 and no new impacts or change in impact levels would occur.

Background:

The Tajiguas Landfill has been operation since 1967 for disposal of municipal solid waste. The original landfill predates adoption of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Coastal Act. On August 13, 2002 the Board of Supervisors certified an EIR (01-EIR-05) for, and approved, the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project (front canyon expansion). This project consists of horizontal and vertical expansion of the landfill outside of the Coastal Zone providing 8.2 million cubic yards of additional capacity. The first phases of the expansion are currently under construction.

Phased Closure

As waste disposal activities have ended in several areas of the Tajiguas site (including the Coastal Zone), the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division would like to begin phased closure of the landfill. Phased closure would include preparation of plans for grading and final cover or the filled areas, reconstruction of the environmental control systems (landfill gas and leachate), drainage control and revegetation. Phased closure activities would take advantage of final soil cover material made available from the construction of phases of the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project.

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division and County Counsel retained Mr. Whit Manley, a partner in the law firm of Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley LLP, to review the Tajiguas Landfill permit history with particular attention to historically permitted landfill activities within the coastal zone. Mr. Manley has extensive CEQA and land use planning experience including authorship of a well respected guide to CEQA. Mr. Manley's analysis of the Tajiguas Landfill's permit history is included as Attachment B. Based on an exhaustive review of the documentation Mr. Manley concludes that placement of waste in the southeast corner of the landfill is in compliance with all applicable permits. County Counsel, the Planning Development Department, the Public Works Department, and the Environmental Health Services Division of the Public Health Department (acting as the Local Enforcement Agency for the California Integrated Waste Management Board) concur with the permit analysis conducted by Mr. Manley. Additional CEQA review was also conducted to address the proposed change. Pursuant to CEQA section 15164, an Addendum to 01-EIR-05 was prepared (Attachment C). The analysis conducted in the Addendum indicates that leaving the waste in place would not create any new significant impacts and would in fact eliminate significant but mitigable (Class II), and/or adverse but less than significant (Class III), impacts in the following issue areas: geology, water resources, noise, nuisance impacts, and health and safety.

With resolution of the Southeast Corner Modification, Resource Recovery can proceed with phased closure of this and other areas of the landfill. Impacts associated with landfill closure activities are addressed in 01-EIR-05 and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, no further environmental review is required for phased closure to begin. If your Board approves this recommendation, the next step will be for the Division to submit a revised Final Closure Plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Modification to the North Slope Borrow/Stockpile Area

A minor modification to the boundary of the North Slope borrow/stockpile area is required to accommodate stockpiled material from the construction of the composite liner system. The composite liner is a state of the art

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system designed to protect underlying groundwater. The existing north slope borrow/stockpile area occupies approximately 19 acres in the northern area of the landfill in an area composed of chaparral and oak woodland. The revised borrow/stockpile area would be approximately 19 acres and would be located just east of the existing borrow/stockpile area and would partially overlap it. Slopes, geological formations, and biological resources are similar in the two areas. The change in the boundary was analyzed in the attached Addendum to 01-EIR-05 and no new impacts or change in impact levels would occur as a result of the new configuration.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facility impacts associated with the Board's action to accept the CEQA Addendum. The anticipated cost of the revised Final Closure Plan is \$50,000.

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Resource Recovery and Waste Management will file a Notice of Determination following the Board's action on the project.

Minute Order: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division
Attention: Joddi Leipner and Mark Schleich

Attachments: (list all)

Attachment A – Approximate Boundary of Landfill Area Proposed for Phased Closure

Attachment B – Memorandum from Whit Manley dated October 13, 2006

Attachment C – Addendum to 01-EIR-05 dated November 8, 2006

Authored by:

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CC:

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