

Lenzi, Chelsea

Subject: FW: Salt Marsh Sediment---BOS agenda item for 9-11-2018

From: Lauren Hanson <laurenhanson@cox.net>

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To: "Wolf, Janet" <jwolf@countyofsb.org>, janet wolf <jwolf@sbcbos2.org>

Cc: "O'Gorman, Mary" <mogorman@countyofsb.org>

Subject: Salt Marsh Sediment---BOS agenda item for 9-11-2018

Dear Supervisor Wolf,

I am writing regarding the proposed trucking of Carpinteria Salt Marsh sediment to County property on Cathedral Oaks.

I am a board member of the Goleta Water District, but I am not writing in that capacity. I am writing as a resident of the Second District who is concerned about more debris material being brought from elsewhere for disposal in the middle of the Goleta Valley.

As you well know, thousands of truckloads of Montecito Debris Flow material came here, to the Foothill Closed Landfill next to the Transfer Station. The community received those mountains of material with some trepidation, but with, I believe, an overwhelming spirit of wanting to help after an unimaginable tragedy. Crushed mattresses, single shoes, mangled bicycle wheels, enormous uprooted trees---those are just some of the things that came here in truckloads of mud and rocks, all silent reminders of what happened that night in Montecito.

It is not clear to me what is in that material, in terms of possible contaminants; I do not know if testing was done on what came here or is currently being done on any of it. I don't know what's in the dust that has swirled from that site since the first deliveries. Much of the material has been removed in the past months, but large plateaus and mounds remain, atop the windswept Foothill Closed Landfill.

Now, an additional 10,000 cubic yards, or approximately one thousand additional truckloads of material, if I'm reading the board letter correctly, is being proposed for disposal right across the street.

I have questions and comments:

1. What is in this Salt Marsh sediment? Has it been tested for contaminants, including any from the Debris Flow?
2. The materials for the BOS item mention a possible recipient site as turning down the material for being too salty. How will that salinity affect the location being proposed here?
3. Has any environmental review been done on putting a mountain of salty soil into a place that is not, in fact, a salt marsh?

4. Is it known what effects there could be from run-off from this material into the adjacent creeks? Will there be a way to assure that, in the event of torrential rains, there is no debris flow of this stuff through the Goleta Valley?
5. Is it known what effects there could be on adjacent vegetation and on the wildland animals that live in the area?
6. The foothills of the Goleta Valley, where this site is located, are considered a prime area for recharge of the groundwater basin. Will there be some effort to assure that the salt from this material does not leech into the ground on site, or through run-off into creeks?
7. Should there be infiltration of salts and other contaminants into the basin, is there any analysis to assure that there will not be a significant effect on the water quality of the groundwater basin?
8. The board letter mentions selling or giving away this material as "fill." What does that mean? If it is too salty, no one will be able to use it as topsoil. Would it be appropriately identified as "useless for gardens or landscape"? How much demand is there for useless soil? If virtually none, then this stuff will not actually be going anywhere, and this location will not be a "temporary stockpile." Doesn't that really mean that the material will probably have to be moved again, at County expense? Another thousand truck trips?
9. Shouldn't neighbors get an official notice, in a timely way, so they can appropriately be heard on this?
10. Shouldn't questions such as these be answered before a decision is made about bringing this material here?
11. Better still: Given that there seem to be other sites actually equipped to deal with this type of material, wouldn't it make more sense for the County to use available funds to properly dispose of it now, rather than going a single step further with what seems like a very casually considered project?

I very much appreciate your efforts to address this matter and for getting it before the Board of Supervisors for scrutiny. I hope your board colleagues will follow your lead in coming to a good decision that appropriately prepares the Carpinteria Salt Marsh for winter while also respecting the concerns of the Goleta Valley and the environmental integrity of this area.

Sincerely yours,

Lauren Hanson