



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.:
For Agenda Of: March 20, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 10 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5 vote

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department
Director(s) Scott D. McGolpin, P.E. Director x3010
Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich, P.E. Deputy Director x3605

SUBJECT: Adoption of Urgency Ordinance for Interim Authorization of New Tip Fee for Disaster Debris at Tajiguas Landfill, Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Pursuant to Government Code sections 66017, 25123 and 25131, adopt an Urgency Ordinance as an interim authorization for a \$55/ton tip fee at Tajiguas Landfill for receipt, sorting and temporary storage of mixed dirt, rock and trees to expedite removal of private residential property debris in order to protect against the current and immediate threat to the public health, welfare and safety issues resulting from the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flows;
- b) Read the title and waive further reading of the Urgency Ordinance;
- c) Determine that adoption of the Urgency Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c); and,
- d) Waive the Notice of Exemption 6-day posting requirement for good cause pursuant to County CEQA Guidelines section V.D.2.

Summary Text:

Attached for the Board's consideration is an urgency ordinance of the County of Santa Barbara to authorize a new tip fee of \$55 per ton at the Tajiguas Landfill for mixed dirt, rocks and trees to mitigate current and immediate threats to life, public health, welfare and safety by expediting actions to clear

residential debris. Adoption of the ordinance requires a four-fifths vote by the Board. Once adopted, the urgency ordinance will be in effect for 30 days, and the ordinance may be extended two times for 30 days each. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c), the adoption of the Urgency Ordinance is exempt from CEQA as an action necessary to prevent an emergency from additional storms and mitigate for the existing state and federally declared emergency.

Background:

As you are aware, portions of southern Santa Barbara County continue to be under a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration as a result of the Thomas Fire and the subsequent mud debris flow event that affected the Montecito area. In addition, recent research has shown that a significant threat continues to be posed to the areas affected by the fire with future rain events. The County has worked to clear the sedimentation basins, creek channels, and roadways. However, there continues to be a risk to the Montecito community due to mixed dirt, rock and trees located on private residential property deposited by the debris flows. Due to the nature of the debris material (mud/dirt, rocks and trees), it is not required to be deposited in a landfill. Significant effort has been undertaken by County staff to identify existing outlets for these materials including developing a Material Exchange website to facilitate the transfer of these resources from one property to another. Efforts have included outreach to private facilities as well as working with planning departments within our region. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, there is limited local capacity for managing this material.

The County identified this deficiency and has been working with the State of California through CalEPA and CalRecycle to expand the landfill capacity for debris from this emergency. However, as portions of the County continue to be under a Major Disaster Declaration as well as a Proclamation of Local Emergency, a more immediate solution to the shortage of debris management infrastructure is needed to avoid the illegal dumping of this material and expedite the removal of debris from private property. As such, Public Works has prepared an interim solution to accept mixed debris material (mud/dirt, rocks and trees and no structural debris) at the Tajiguas Landfill at a rate of \$55 per ton. The debris will be processed into different material types and the rocks and trees will be beneficially reused and the dirt will be stockpiled for future landfill activities. There is a limit to the amount of space that is available for this type of activity so more long term solutions will continue to be evaluated and potentially brought to the Board for future consideration in light of the potential for future disaster events in the community. Although the mixed loads of dirt, rocks and trees resulting from the Thomas Fire and debris flows precipitated the proposal of this new tip fee of \$55 per ton, all mixed loads of dirt, rock and trees from any location will be charged the same tip fee as this is the full cost recovery for processing this type of material.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c), the adoption of the Urgency Ordinance is exempt from CEQA as an action necessary to prevent an emergency from additional storms and mitigate for the existing state and federally declared emergency.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The above described emergency services are not currently included in the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of Public Works' (Resource Recovery) FY 17/18 budget. An engineer's estimate has been made for the proposed services and it is anticipated that at \$55 per ton, the cost to provide the service will be covered by the tip fee revenue. Resource Recovery is able to charge less than the current \$99 per ton fee for municipal solid waste because the material by its nature is not required to be

landfilled. The cost to minimally process and reuse the material on or off site costs less than the current landfill tip fee of \$99 per ton.

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The cost to provide the emergency debris management services is expected to be covered by the proposed \$55 per ton tipping fee for debris material. The costs and revenues for this service will be housed in the Resource Recovery Enterprise Fund 1930.

Special Instructions:

Please send an executed copy of the ordinance and a Minute Order to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, attn: Leslie Wells. Following Board approval, Clerk of the Board to please post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, Attn: Joddi Leipner.

Prior to April 4, Clerk of the Board to please post a summary of the urgency ordinance together with the names of the members of the Board voting for and against the same in the Santa Barbara News-Press, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Santa Barbara in compliance with Government Code Section 25124.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Tip Fee for Debris Disposal at Tajiguas Landfill for Debris Resulting from the Thomas Fire and Debris Flows – Urgency Ordinance

Attachment B: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Leslie Wells, Program Manager, Resource Recovery & Waste Management, ext. 3611.