

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 6/20/05
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 7/05/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Public Works Department

STAFF CONTACTS: Mark A Schleich, Deputy Director, Resource Recovery &
Waste Management
John McInnes, Innovative Programs Manager

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task
Group Waste Conversion Policy Statement
First, Second and Third Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group's Waste Conversion Policy Statement.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1, An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community, and Goal No. 2, A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In June 2001, your Board and the Santa Barbara City Council established the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (Task Group) for the purpose of providing a forum to discuss and plan long-term solid waste management strategies and facilities. Your Board and the Santa Barbara City Council passed identical resolutions (County resolution #01-90) finding and declaring that it is in the public interest to continue to work cooperatively to explore a means to formalize a continued long-term relationship regarding solid waste issues. In April 2002, your Board, along with the Santa Barbara City Council, passed resolutions (County resolution #02-146) to

continue working together, and to invite other jurisdictions to participate in the process. As a result, the Task Group consists of elected representatives from all of the County's incorporated cities, the County, and the Sanitation Districts, further enhancing the possibilities for regional cooperation.

On February 23, 2004, the Task Group unanimously approved a conceptual long-term solid waste management plan (Plan) for Santa Barbara County. The Plan's Executive Summary is attached. The Plan reflects more than two years of research and investigation by the Task Group's Technical Advisory Committee and calls for the development of several new programs and facilities that are designed to meet the reported solid waste needs of all participating communities. All of the participating jurisdictions, including your Board, subsequently approved the Plan in April 2004.

One of the components of the Plan is the development of a material recovery and waste conversion facility. Such a facility would utilize sophisticated processing systems and thermo chemical, biochemical or biological technologies to process waste that is currently landfilled. Specifically, the facility would:

1. Extract recyclable materials that have not been recovered by conventional recycling programs; and
2. Convert mixed organic wastes and plastics into marketable products such as synthetic fuels or electricity.

As a result, over ninety percent of the waste currently buried would be returned to the economic mainstream and demand for long-term disposal capacity would be significantly reduced.

Due to the associated benefits, the Task Group conducted an extensive investigation of applicable conversion technologies, which included each technology's projected cost and revenues, demonstrated ability, end-product(s) marketability, capability of meeting health, safety and environmental standards, etc. The investigation was structured in a competitive process format (Request for Information), which yielded a "short-list" of seven technology vendors that appear to offer feasible systems for application in Santa Barbara County.

Before detailed requests for proposals are solicited from the short-listed vendors, the Task Group has determined that detailed vendor-specific air emissions data must be obtained in order to provide jurisdictions with a level of confidence that such a facility could meet all related health and safety requirements. At the Task Group's direction, staff (in conjunction with Air Pollution Control District staff), requested the short-listed vendors to provide detailed air emissions data. The majority of vendors indicated a willingness to provide the information, yet, made clear that gathering the data could cost each vendor between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Since the vendors would assume the costs of gathering the data, many requested that the Task Group and its member jurisdictions reaffirm their interest in developing such a facility.

In response to the vendors' requests, the Task Group approved the following policy statement on February 28, 2005:

A waste conversion facility is the preferred policy alternative for the management of mixed solid waste in the long-term providing that:

- 1. The facility does not impede or impair the success of existing or planned source separation recycling programs.*
- 2. The facility is environmentally sound and can meet all Federal, State and local permitting requirements.*
- 3. An acceptable site can be determined for the facility.*
- 4. The facility is economically feasible when compared to further expansion of the landfill or shipping waste to an alternate disposal location.*

Further, the Task Group recommended that each of the jurisdictions who might ultimately participate in the facility (i.e., the County and cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton) consider adopting the policy. Accordingly, information has been forwarded to each of the jurisdictions and the City of Buellton approved the policy statement on April 28, 2005. As the policy is consistent with the Task Group's countywide plan, which your Board adopted on April 27, 2004, staff is recommending that your Board adopt the Task Group's approved policy statement.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no changes with programs or service levels with this action.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None with this action.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a Minute Order approving the Recommendation to the attention of John McInnes, Ext. 3552 of the Public Works Administration Division.