



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:** 12/5/2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, P.E., Director, (805) 568-3010  
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Deputy Director, Interim  
(805) 882-3605

**SUBJECT:** Rescind Resolution 18-150 Related to Ceasing Burial of Residuals and Solid Waste at the Tajiguas Landfill when the Landfill Reaches Permitted Capacity and to Seek other Residual Disposal Options; Third Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Rescind Resolution 18-150 adopted by the Board on June 19, 2018 that resolved to cease burial of residuals and solid waste at the Tajiguas Landfill when the landfill reaches permitted capacity and to seek other residual disposal options; and
- b) Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5) as the recommended action is a general policy and an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda in order to rescind Resolution 18-150 adopted by the Board on June 19, 2018. That resolution established a policy to limit landfill disposal to the permitted volume of 23,300,000 cubic yards; to not seek an expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill other than for emergency debris; to begin seeking locations other than the Gaviota Coast for solid waste residual disposal and/or contracting with other existing landfills when certain capacity was reached; and to limit the use of Baron Ranch primarily to open space, recreation, and agricultural uses. The reason for the recommended action to rescind is

because the current permitted volume was recently determined to only provide landfilling service through March 2026 and not through approximately 2038, which is the date of the retirement of debt service for the construction of the Tajiguas ReSource Center. The Public Works Department is proposing a limited capacity increase within the existing permitted operational area and within the Comprehensive Plan designated Waste Disposal Facility Overlay area that will increase the capacity to 29,400,000 cubic yards and extend the landfill life to approximately 2038. This expansion to 2038 is consistent with the financial model adopted for the planning of operations and consistent with the agreements with the cities partnering on the ReSource Center. This action, therefore, rescinds the Resolution 18-150 in order to allow the landfill service life to be commensurate with the ReSource Center debt servicing as intended.

**Background:**

On June 18, 2018, the Board entered into a Conditional Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy that required the County to adopt a resolution (Resolution 18-150) regarding certain future landfilling activities at the Tajiguas Landfill and the use of the Baron Ranch property. The resolution established a policy to cease landfilling operations of the Tajiguas Landfill when the permitted capacity of 23,300,000 cubic yards was reached; not seek further expansion except for emergency debris; begin a process to seek other solid waste disposal options when 7 years of remaining disposal capacity is reached based on the County's annual report to CalRecycle, and to limit the use of Baron Ranch primarily to open space, recreational, and agricultural uses. Rescinding the resolution does not violate the terms of the Settlement Agreement because the County may not properly contract away either its police power or its legislative authority and, therefore retains the final authority to take subsequent actions related to the Settlement Agreement and Resolution 18-150.

Unfortunately, delays in the construction and operation of the Tajiguas ReSource Center due to the coastal zone boundary discrepancy and litigation, effects of equipment material deliveries and changes in the amount and composition of solid waste resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, and delays in completing construction and startup of full operation has reduced the Tajiguas Landfill service life compared to projections made during the project's approval. It is anticipated that even with the additional diversion associated with the ReSource Center, the permitted capacity of 23,300,000 cubic yards will likely be exhausted by approximately March 2026. This is significantly sooner than the originally anticipated date of 2038, which coincides with the retirement of debt service for the construction of the ReSource Center. Having the Tajiguas Landfill in operation during the debt service period avoids the ratepayer burden of paying debt service for the ReSource Center simultaneously with the cost for transportation and disposal of bypass waste and residual waste (post-ReSource Center processing) at an alternative landfill. After debt service retirement, the revenue used to pay debt service may then be used to fund the hauling of waste to other landfills in Los Angeles County or northern Santa Barbara County.

To allow landfill service life to coincide with completion of debt service as originally intended and to avoid an increased financial burden to ratepayers of off-site transportation and waste disposal concurrent with debt service, staff is evaluating a limited capacity increase project that only minimally changes the fill limits within the existing permitted 357-acre operational area. Environmental review and coordination with associated regulatory agencies for this project are in progress. The action to approve the capacity increase project and certification of the CEQA Subsequent Environmental Impact Report will be brought to the Board in early 2024. However, in order to pursue the project and allow for its

consideration under CEQA to be based on its own merits, staff recommends rescinding the Resolution 18-150 this time.

Rescinding Resolution 18-150 is not considered a project under CEQA as it is an administrative action and does not authorize changes to Tajiguas Landfill capacity. Approval of the capacity increase is subject to CEQA review, approval by the Board of Supervisors and permitting by various regulatory agencies.

**Financial Impacts:**

There are no cost impacts associated with this action.

**Staffing Impacts:**

There are no staffing impacts with this action.

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, Attn: Dalia Khan

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution 18-150

**Authored By:**

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