



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: October 15, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010 ^{DS} CS
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, Interim Deputy Director, ^{DS} JGK
(805) 882-3605
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Reduction Report; All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive the attached Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Reduction Report; and
- b) Determine that the receipt of the report does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 (b)(5) (organizational or administrative activities of governments).

Summary Text:

The attached Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Reduction Report summarizes solid waste generation and disposal trends at the national, state, and local levels, while also highlighting the County’s existing programs and potential new initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of waste ending up in local landfills.

Background:

In March 2024, the Public Works Department’s Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) sought the Board’s approval for the Tajiguas Landfill Capacity Increase Project. The project will provide an additional 6.1 million cubic yards of capacity and is projected to extend the landfill’s lifespan to 2038. During the departmental hearing, members of the Board requested that staff return with a waste reduction report detailing efforts to minimize local waste generation and disposal. The Board also requested that staff identify ways in which the County can lead by example.

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As outlined in the attached report, RRWMD operates numerous facilities and programs that divert as much material from landfill disposal as possible. These efforts have earned the County recognition as a waste reduction leader at both the state and national levels, along with several prestigious awards, including both a gold and silver Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Excellence Award for Integrated Waste Management, a Merit Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). Looking ahead, the County's new ReSource Center will continue to play a pivotal role in helping the community divert even more material from landfill disposal.

Additionally, continued advocacy and support for product stewardship initiatives and statewide waste reduction legislation will help our region further reduce the amount of waste heading to local landfills. Examples of such legislation include SB 707 (Newman), which would create a product stewardship program for textiles; AB 2236 (Bauer-Kahan) and SB 1053 (Blakespear), which would close the loopholes in the State's existing plastic grocery bag ban; SB 1066 (Blakespear), which would create an extended producer responsibility program for pyrotechnic distress flares; SB 1143 (Allen), which would expand California's paint product stewardship program; and SB 1280 (Laird), which would phase out the sale of single-use one-pound propane cylinders and transition California to reusable cylinders.

Internally, the report highlights the Santa Barbara County Green Business Program, which helps departments reduce their solid waste footprint while also making improvements in energy and water conservation, pollution prevention, toxics reduction, and employee commute practices. RRWMD has been collaborating with the Green Business Program Coordinator, as well as colleagues in the General Services Department and Community Services Department, to develop a plan for certifying more County offices and facilities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Expenditures and staffing to continue implementing waste reduction programs are included in the Resource Recovery and Waste Management's Enterprise Fund 1930, Program 1950's annual budget.

Staffing Impacts:

This report will not result in any new staffing impacts.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Reduction Report, September 2024

Authored by:

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