



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: 1/23/2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

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: Resolution to Cease Burial of Waste at the Tajiguas Landfill as of January 1, 2039;
Third Supervisorial District

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) Adopt a resolution that revises the Board's policy to cease use of the Tajiguas Landfill for disposal of municipal solid waste as of January 1, 2039 and replaces Resolution 18-150 adopted by the Board on June 19, 2018;
- b) Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5) as the recommended actions are general policy and organizational or administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and approve the posting of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to authorize adoption of the attached resolution, which would clarify that the use of the Tajiguas Landfill for disposal of municipal solid waste would cease upon retirement of debt service for the ReSource Center in 2038. This action replaces Resolution 18-150 that created a policy to cease use of Tajiguas Landfill at 23,300,000 cubic yards. At the time of the adoption of Resolution 18-150, it was anticipated that the prior permitted volume was sufficient to continue landfilling operations to approximate the time period required to retire the debt service that funded the

Tajiguas ReSource Center. The resolution revises the policy to establish the landfill useful life as intended. In addition, staff is negotiating with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy to address potential land use restrictions on the landfill that precludes future landfilling as of January 1, 2039.

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 the Tajiguas Landfill and Baron Ranch. 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 seven 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.

However, 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 existing permitted capacity of 23,300,000 cubic yards will likely be exhausted by March 2026. This is significantly sooner than the originally anticipated date range of 2036 to 2038 that approximates the retirement of debt service for the construction of the ReSource Center at the end of 2038. Having the Landfill in operation during the debt service period is financially necessary to avoid the ratepayer burden of paying debt service for the ReSource Center simultaneously with 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 may be used to site a replacement landfill at an alternate location, enhance the Resource Center with future technology yet to be developed to minimize residual waste, or fund the hauling of waste to neighboring landfills.

To allow landfill service life to coincide with completion of debt service and to avoid financial impacts 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. However, implementation of the capacity increase requires revision to the resolution adopted in 2018 prior to approving the project and certifying the CEQA Subsequent Environmental Impact Report. Because the proposed capacity increase is located within the permitted use area and because the County has satisfied the conditions of the Conditional Settlement Agreement, it is the recommendation of staff to adopt a replacement resolution that updates the capacity based on the date of debt service retirement in 2038 at which time the County would cease burial of waste at the Tajiguas Landfill. As discussed in the resolution, the County will begin seeking alternatives for residual waste disposal when seven years of capacity countywide remains, based on the annual CalRecycle report, that would review new landfilling opportunities or other alternatives such as long-distance trucking.

As also discussed in the Resolution, staff is negotiating with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy to address potential land use restrictions on the landfill that would preclude future landfilling as of January 1, 2039.

Updating the resolution is not considered a project under CEQA as this action is an administrative activity that does not authorize changes to the Landfill capacity. Approval of the capacity increase is subject to CEQA review, approval by the Board of Supervisors and permits from various regulatory agencies, and will be presented at a later hearing.

Financial Impacts:

There are no cost impacts associated with this action.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts with this action.

Special Instructions:

Please send an executed copy of the Resolution and a Minute Order to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, Attn: Dalia Khan.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Resolution 18-150

Attachment B - Replacement Resolution

Attachment C - Notice of Exemption

Authored By:

Martin Wilder, P.E.- Deputy Director, Interim