



**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: December 8, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: NA
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, P.E., Director, ext. 3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, P.E., Deputy Director, ext. 3605

SUBJECT: Update on County Solid Waste Management Programs and Facilities
All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

Public Health Department
Community Service Department – Parks Division

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the update from the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of Public Works on County solid waste management programs and facilities.

Summary Text:

In response to statewide solid waste management regulations and the needs of the community, the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (Division) of the County's Public Works Department, has implemented a variety of programs and facilities to provide a comprehensive waste management system for the region. There have been recent regulatory changes that significantly impact the way waste will be managed in the future and the Division has prepared an update to your Board to demonstrate how the County and the communities it serves will comply with these regulations.

Background:

The management of municipal solid waste in the state of California shifted significantly in 1989 with the passage of AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act, which required each jurisdiction to ensure that 25% of the waste material generated in a community be diverted from landfilling through supporting behavior to reduce the generation of waste (source reduction), and recycling and composting of waste material. This requirement increased to the diversion of 50% of waste by 2000 with the related

fine of \$10,000 per day if the 50% threshold was not reached or a good faith effort was not made for program implementation. Since 1989, a wide variety of additional waste-related regulations have been passed touching on:

- Widening the definition of waste considered hazardous and banning them from disposal in a landfill,
- Mandatory collection of recyclables from businesses and schools,
- Mandatory recycling at large venues and events,
- Mandatory recycling of construction and demolition debris,
- Statewide diversion goal of 75%, and
- Greenhouse gas emission reductions

County Waste Management Programs and Facilities

In response to these regulations as well as community interest in recovering materials for reuse or recycling, the Division has implemented a myriad of waste management programs in our community falling in the categories of municipal solid waste collection, recycling and organics programs, hazardous waste collection, public information and education, community clean up, regional coordination, open space/restoration areas, and waste management facilities. Some of these programs such as mandatory commercial recycling and electronics recycling were implemented by the County before the state regulations were enacted.

Attached is the inaugural annual report for the Division showing the performance measurements for these programs and County waste management facilities for Fiscal Year 2014/15. The state has adjusted how a jurisdiction's waste diversion performance is measured but using the historical method, the County unincorporated area and the City of Goleta (both belong to a regional reporting authority since the formation of the City of Goleta) have a diversion rate of 75%.

In addition to serving the residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas such as Orcutt and Montecito, the programs and facilities provided by the Division service the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara and Solvang. A limited number of programs are also provided to Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Carpinteria. The Division receives funding for these services through contracts with the participating jurisdictions, tipping fees at its facilities, and a program fee on unincorporated trash customers.

Recent Legislative and Regulatory Changes

In recent years, a number of regulatory changes have affected resource recovery and solid waste management nationwide. As both federal and state agencies grapple with climate change, there have been an increasing number of policies and laws implemented to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by eliminating the disposal of organics in our landfills. On a state level, California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) is a state mandated reduction of GHGs to pre-1990 levels. In order for the State to achieve this goal, getting organics out of landfills has been specifically targeted in many pieces of subsequent policy and legislation. AB 32's "Scoping Plan" adopted by the California Air Resources Board specifically identifies the need to divert 22 million tons of organic material from landfills and the need to expand the State's ability to compost diverted organics, specifically through anaerobic digestion and composting.

CalRecycle has implemented a statewide Anaerobic Digestion Initiative under its Strategic Directive 6.1 which seeks to reduce by 50% the total amount of organics currently landfilled by 2020. The State's

Public Resource Code has also been amended to reflect this shift towards increasing recycling and diverting organics through AB 341, specifically identifying composting of organics as a way to achieve the State's goal of recycling 75% of waste generated. The recent passage of AB 1826 requires businesses to divert organic waste they generate from disposal beginning in 2016 for larger generators extending to smaller generators through 2019. In addition, the California Air Resources Board, in conjunction with CalRecycle, is currently considering additional regulation to be passed in 2018 that would effectively eliminate all organics from disposal in landfills by 2025. Most recently, in October 2015, Governor Brown signed into law two more bills directly targeting organic waste: AB 876 which requires local governments to plan for 15 years of organic waste processing infrastructure; and AB 1045 which requires state agencies to work together to support the diversion of organic waste from landfills.

The federal government has followed California's lead establishing policies to remove organics from landfills. In September 2015, the U.S. EPA in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the United States' first-ever national food waste reduction goal calling for a 50% reduction of food waste by 2030.

It is clear that managing organic waste is a rapidly expanding area of policy and law that will require local jurisdictions to develop needed infrastructure and will most likely add more cost to waste management systems. As of 2014, CalRecycle identified 12 anaerobic digestion facilities processing organic waste, one under construction, and an additional eight going through the permitting process.

As you are aware, the County, working in collaboration with the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara and Solvang, has been working on the development of the Resource Recovery Project (RRP) over the past seven years, as a long-term solution to manage our community's waste. The RRP is designed to process mixed municipal solid waste that is currently landfilled to recover recyclables and organics as well as sort source-separated organics and recyclables. The second component uses an anaerobic digestion facility to further process organics into soil amendments and recover biogas for conversion to energy. This project positions our community to comply with these recent regulations as well as allow flexibility to respond to future regulations.

In 2015, your Board adopted the County Energy and Climate Action Plan. The Division, in particular the Resource Recovery Project, has been identified in the Waste Reduction and Renewable Energy sections with action items that could reduce overall GHG emissions by a total of 47,310 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent. This amount represents 25% of the County's overall expected reduction under the Plan.

Future New Programs and Facilities

In 2004, your Board approved a Countywide Long-Term Solid Waste Management Plan that was prepared by the Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (Task Group). The Task Group was established to discuss and plan countywide solid waste management strategies and facilities. The plan specific to the Tajiguas Landfill Wasteshed has been fully implemented with the exception of the development of a new household hazardous waste facility on the South Coast (which was considered to be unnecessary as UCSB has allowed the County to maintain its facility on their campus), and the development of a New Waste Conversion Facility or development of a Dirty Material Recovery Facility and Corresponding Composting Facility should the development of a Waste Conversion Facility be infeasible, the procurement of which is still ongoing. Since 2004, due to regulatory requirements as well

as changes in community needs, several additional programs outside of the long-term plan have also been implemented.

Taking into account the new regulatory structure and feedback from community stakeholders and residents, the following facilities and programs have been identified to be pursued in the following and future years. These additions include:

- Expansion of local waste processing capability and reduction in GHG emissions related to waste management through completion of the Resource Recovery Project
- Expansion of pilot commercial food waste collection program to a permanent larger program in order to comply with AB 1826
- Increase community opportunities to appropriately dispose of pharmaceuticals including participating in the County's efforts led by the Public Health Department to develop a pharmaceutical take back ordinance
- Evaluate feasibility of collecting hazardous and other regulated waste from residents unable to use collection centers
- Explore expansion of the County's recycled-content and environmentally responsible purchasing practices through participation with the County Sustainability Initiatives Team
- Working with the Community Services Department - Parks Division to expand the existing public trail on the Baron Ranch

Performance Measure:

The attached Annual Report provides performance measures for each of the community programs and County waste management facilities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No additional costs are anticipated with pursuing the additional programs and facilities with the exception of the Resource Recovery Project which is included in the Division's budget.

Budgeted: Yes

Attachments:

Attachment A: Annual Report for Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division for FY 2014/15 (also available on-line at lessismore.org).

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