



San Benito County Resource Management Agency Landfill Committee

Committee Members: San Benito County Board of Supervisor **Kollin Kosmicki**, San Benito County Board of Supervisor **Bob Tiffany**

Integrated Waste Management Staff: County Resource Management Agency Interim Director **Mike Chambless**, IWM Manager **Celina Stotler**, IWM Staff Analyst **Kathryn Ramirez**, IWM Recycling Coordinator **Jiane Dionisio**, IWM Recycling Intern **Monica Abonce**

Landfill Committee

Meeting Minutes Friday, November 19, 2021 4:00 pm

I. Call to Order *Meeting was called to order at 4:04pm*

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

Meeting was held in the San Benito County Chamber and by Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 4:04pm

The following Landfill Committee members were present by Zoom: Bob Tiffany, Kollin Kosmicki

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Tiffany.

Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

Agenda was posted on November 16, 2022 at 3:55pm. KK made a motion to acknowledge the certificate of posting. Seconded by BT. Motion carried 2-0.

II. Public Comment

Paul Nelson (John Smith Rd. Landfill - Waste Connections staff) provided updates regarding tarping procedures and fines at John Smith Rd. Landfill, partnership with Youth Alliance for a bike giveaway program, and new road work signs on Fairview and Best Rd. that are in English and Spanish.

Supervisor Kosmicki thanked Waste Connections for their efforts in helping with litter cleanup in San Benito County and suggested that Recology provide additional solutions as well.

Supervisor Tiffany commented: Tarping rules and fines are an effective way of preventing litter. Suggested more outreach and provide plenty of notice to the community so that the public is well aware.

III. Staff Announcements: Information Only

IWM Manager, Celina Stotler, provided an overview of the landfill expansion Environmental



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45 day public review period is in preparation and will be established after the end review of the ADEIR. Landfill Expansion FAQ webpage is available on the County website with new questions and answers being added soon. Litter abatement efforts are underway. Recology recently repaired collection trucks to ensure proper top closure to eliminate flyaway litter. A Request for Proposal will soon be underway for litter cleanup on major county roads. RMA staff is working on a CalTrans Clean California Grant that will allow the county to undertake beautification and litter reduction measures. Waste Connections has taken significant steps to clean up the Landfill Haul Route.

Paul Nelson, John Smith Rd. Landfill Waste Connections staff, provided further detail regarding the cleanup efforts. They hired four extra staff to clean up other roads along the Landfill haul route. In the prior seven days, the extra staff picked up more than 4,000 pounds of litter from Best Rd, McCloskey Rd. to I-25 and to I-156.

Celina Stotler shared that John Smith Road Landfill is approaching the fifteen year capacity threshold for in-County waste and additional details will be provided later in the meeting. The County did receive a request from Waste Connections for the County to consider a potential transfer station, which County staff is now reviewing and will bring to the next Landfill Committee and Board of Supervisors Meeting in January for discussion.

BT commented: Stated Landfill Expansion EIR should address continued efforts to clean up litter and asked questions regarding utilizing jail inmates to do litter clean ups-whether jail inmates are now able to continue clean ups or not due to Covid-19.

KK commented: Stated it would be beneficial to have jail inmates resume clean ups again. Would like to see Recology take more initiative on cleaning up litter on the roads due to the magnitude of trash that has flown out of Recology trucks in San Benito County. Appreciates that Recology has installed new tarps on their collection vehicles, but there still needs to be effort on cleaning up the prior litter impact on our roads.

CS added that the current Franchise Agreement contract requires Recology to pick up abandoned solid waste, by request, on roads that are in route of the Recology truck drivers and within the Regional Agency service area. They are also required to pick up litter within so many feet of the abandoned solid waste. Recology/IWM has been improving this process in recent months. Staff will continue to discuss with Recology new tactics on cleanup efforts and support to address litter.

IV. Landfill Committee Member Announcements: Information Only

No Landfill Committee Member Announcements.

V. Discussion Items

1. Lewis Engineering - Landfill Disposal Capacity Report

Sangeeta Lewis with Lewis Engineering was unable to connect to the Zoom webinar. Celina Stotler presented on behalf of Sangeeta Lewis regarding the latest landfill capacity report by



County consultant Lewis Engineering . The fifteen year capacity to reserve 15 years of In-County capacity will be reached by April or May of 2022 according to the latest capacity report.

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Paul Nelson, John Smith Rd. Landfill Waste Connections staff, provided additional comments on the potential transfer station proposal that will be brought to the Board in January for further discussion.

KK asked questions regarding the potential transfer station: What is the timeline of the transfer station and expansion? Would the transfer station no longer be needed once the landfill expansion is complete?

Paul Nelson responded: if the Board of Supervisors approved the transfer station proposal, Waste Connections would continue to take in the current flow as it exists now of both In-County and Out-of-County waste past the 15 year threshold date for In-County waste. Waste Connections and the County would continue with the current expansion process and seek expansion entitlement. If the expansion entitlement is received before a new specified capacity amount/date (a trigger date), a transfer station to transfer out the In-County waste would not be needed. Waste Connections would guarantee the 15 years of county capacity and would begin the transfer station if the entitlement is not received by the specific date/capacity threshold or trigger date.

KK asked the question, how long would it be until there is a need for a transfer station.

Paul Nelson responded that there may not be a need to start a transfer station, they believe that they can continue taking the current flow for another year, while seeking expansion entitlement. If the expansion is not approved or entitlement is not received after a new specified date, they would then begin the transfer station.

BT asked the question, the transfer station would only be a backup plan if the expansion does not happen?

Paul Nelson confirmed BT's question and added that the transfer station proposal could be buying them time before the expansion.

BT asked a question regarding the EIR and to confirm the timeline.

Paul stated that a public draft would be issued in January 2022 that would trigger the 45 day review and which would take them to February.

Celina stated a third round of edits to the ADEIR maybe needed and this would push things back alonger further than that. A draft EIR release date is unknown at this time.

BT added that they'd like to make sure the EIR is as good as it can be before sending it out to the public.

2. SB 1383 Overview & Organics at John Smith Road Landfill

CS presented an overview of Senate Bill 1383 and how it relates to landfills. Senate Bill 1383 goes into effect January 2022. The law requires the state to reduce organic waste disposal by 75% by 2025. IWM will apply for a SB 1383 rural exemption that will exempt the County from many of the requirements but not all requirements.



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CS further stated although there is a comprehensive list of what the County will not be exempt from, she shared a short list of landfill related requirements that the County and the Landfill will not be exempt from: New or expanding landfills must implement organic waste recovery activities such as composting or anaerobic digesters. Green waste used as erosion control will be limited to 12 inches thickness on exterior landfill slopes.

CS presented further on the current use of green waste at the John Smith Road Landfill, green waste disposition in San Benito County, and green waste projections. Some concerns included: Will we be able to sustain the use of green waste as erosion control on our landfill slopes at the current landfill size and if we expand? There are unknowns with the anticipated increase in direct haul of green waste to the Landfill and as population grows and if an expansion occurs. There is a need to collect data to analyze current green waste quantities and future projections. Further discussion by County and Waste Connections Consultants will be had as part of the ADEIR process for the expansion.

3. VICO Infrastructure Company – Conceptual SB 1383 Proposal & Project Development Agreement

Sam Kramer, Vice President of VICO, presented on the VICO conceptual proposal for SB 1383 infrastructure compliance. Sam Kramer provided an SB 1383 overview, facility locations and current waste flows, a proposed new waste transfer station (Phase 1), a proposed advanced waste processing facility, energy recovery proposal (Phase 2), project timeline, and a project development agreement overview.

Sam Kramer first briefly shared a few topics of concern that were shared by County Staff to VICO, needing to be addressed in San Benito County. The first topic was in regards to the landfill expansion and the landfill traffic impacts. The second topic included the Hollister wastewater reclamation plant which has a significant amount of waste activated sludge that is being stored at the site while awaiting a solution to be provided to handle the material and an alternate disposition. Neil John's food company which operates the tomato processing plant, and the industrial wastewater plant has a significant amount of organic material that needs to be processed and relocated. Additionally, a more frequent Household Hazardous Waste receiving area is a needed solution for the County as well as a new facility for household goods to be salvaged and reused like a last chance mercantile. These topics of concern expressed by County staff were of major consideration to develop the different phases of the project.

Sam Kramer shared where local franchised waste is currently taken depending on the waste type, municipal solid waste collected by Recology goes to the John Smith Road Landfill, organic waste collected by Recology goes to their facility South Valley Organics in Gilroy, and recyclables collected by Recology go to Monterey Regional Waste Management District. Non franchised solid waste (individual haulers and Out-of-County haulers) goes directly to the John Smith Road Landfill, some of which is separated into green waste and other categories. There is a lot of non-franchised waste that has not been fully characterized that has a certain amount of organics unknown. Senate Bill 1383 is requiring this material be characterized and organics to be separated and placed in a digestion facility to prevent their degradation in landfills and the subsequent methane generation. VICO's concept is a two-phase approach towards a goal of an anaerobic digestion facility to process waste primarily satisfying the requirements of SB 1383 while also handling the waste activated sludge from the wastewater plant which currently has no



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plan to handle that material other than store it. This facility will be able to handle this organic waste in the County.

CS added that a waste characterization study of self-hauled waste going to the landfill has not been done so the organic content is unknown of that material. The work by VICO and the different initial studies to further develop these phased projects would help the County obtain that data.

SK discussed the need to fully characterize all the waste being brought into the county down to a very detailed level in terms of what is each hauler is bringing, what does that look like, how much is brought in, and is there organic content that's meaningful and can be placed in the digester.

SK's plan is to recommend the installation of a waste transfer station, located on the west side of town near the existing wastewater treatment plant. The plant would serve two purposes, one, to allow a place for receiving waste from the non franchised waste. Intercepting waste flow so material can be sorted at the waste transfer station, loads can be consolidated into larger transfer trailers that would mitigate the traffic impacts within the city and typically reduce the amount of trucking by about 80%. The transfer station will also contain a household hazardous waste receiving station and a household salvage area like the Last Chance Mercantile. Secondly, this facility would be located close to the existing wastewater plant, the industrial and domestic can be a location where organics from those two sources can be mixed and blended with third party food processing waste then be transported to a digestion facility. A digestion facility is phase two of VICO's plan.

SK shared the second phase, which would be the advanced waste processing facilities, the anaerobic digester. All the organic material is received and digested in a closed vessel within an oxygen deprived environment to ferment and generate methane, which can be captured as renewable natural gas and used for vehicle fueling, power generation, and renewable gas sales distributed into existing gas distribution pipelines.

SK states this would be a two-to-three-year endeavor from design to completing construction. He is proposing a phased approach to implementing the project through task one. Task one is the development agreement, where VICO will prepare together with their team to identify what they think it would cost to build the transfer station, cost to acquire the land to locate the transfer station, and the cost to operate the facility. And also work out what the tipping fees would be for that facility, realizing a portion of those tipping fees would go to Integrated Waste Management to help fund the Regional Agency programs and shared revenue stream with the project development company which VICO would manage.

SK requested the committee consider the project development task one, approving task one of the budget development agreement would provide an indicative proposal.

Within the proposal VICO would provide a development fee that would take them to task two that would be completing a 30% design of the facility. When task one is complete VICO would provide the County with a definitive proposal of the costs to design, build and operate the project and this if approved will be a binding agreement. They will also provide what the revenue share back to the Regional Agency would be and what their compensation would be as the developer of the project. After testing VICO would go into the completion of design and construction with the facility.

SK discussed the formalities of the three phases, the costs, the option to exit the project, and compensation of engineering fees. He discussed the County's role in the project and VICO's



role

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and feels the VICO group will provide the county with solutions to the problems highlighted in this report.

BT asked if other counties have already put in place this process to address SB 1383 or is it a brand new thing that everyone is dealing with right now.

SK responded that he couldn't speak comprehensively about all the other counties and what they're doing. He thinks this is an approach that fits San Benito County very well. They are not working now with other counties on using this approach. But has given thought regarding the uncertainty of the information they have given and the multiple needs to balance not only SB 1383, but the wastewater plant and the industrial plan, this is a solution that made sense that, allows VICO some flexibility to adjust the design in a transparent manner and accelerate the delivery of the digester in a timely manner towards compliance with the 2025 goal of 75% reduction.

KK stated he had no questions or comments.

CS opened public comment on this presentation.

Paul Nelson asked if it is VICO's vision the Out-of-County tonnage that currently goes to John Smith Road Landfill will also go through this transfer station facility.

SK responded that it would depend on the characterization study and screened material, and they do not have that information currently. Once materials have been screened and if VICO can clearly say there are no organics or very little, then there would be no point in the transfer station, unless there was a need to consolidate loads.

If there is organic material, the process would be to install an organic waste processing facility to receive that waste and extract the organics and store and blend it with the sludge to be prepared for digestion.

PN commented that as the provider of landfill capacity for San Benito County they are pretty practical on their approaches for solutions and solid waste. He praised the County and surrounding cities in their handling of SB 1383 and expressed concerns regarding the VICO project.

SK spoke further regarding the need in the Region for the proposed infrastructure. The existing landfill and it's operations have a lot of waste coming from outside the County, and the landfill certainly needs organic recovery areas to handle all the Cut-of-County and In-County waste. This project will be able to not only provide solutions for SB 1383 but also provide regional jobs and renewable sources of clean energy. Tipping fees will cost more than what you are currently paying, but SB 1383 will have tradeoffs.

VI. Action Items

- 1. Appoint Landfill Committee Chair**
- 2. Set Recurring Meeting Time and Discuss Resolution Offering Teleconferencing Option for Future Meetings**



Celina Stotler, IWM Manager, suggested the next Landfill Committee meeting to be held on January 12, 2022 at 10:00am. Committee members agreed. Supervisor Tiffany made a motion for

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the next Landfill committee meeting to be held on January 12, 2022 at 10:00am. Supervisor Kosmicki seconded. Motion carried 2-0

VIII. Adjourn

KK made a motion to adjourn at 5:22pm. Seconded by BT. Motion carried 2-0.