



# County of Santa Cruz 0299

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 950604070  
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 464-2386 TDD (831) 454-2123

JOHN A. FANTHAM  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**AGENDA: FEBRUARY 15, 2000**

February 3, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

**SUBJECT: DISPOSAL FACILITIES SITING PROCESS - STATUS REPORT**

Members of the Board:

On December 9, 1999, and February 10, 2000, the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (Task Force) convened to discuss the future disposal facilities siting process as required under the County-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan, approved by your Board in September 1996. The Task Force is mandated under **AB 939** and is composed of elected officials from the County and each of the incorporated cities in the county. The Task Force focus is on regional solid waste management issues, including siting of future regional disposal facilities. This status report is intended to provide your Board with preliminary information on the siting process and outline the key decisions that your Board will be making in the future.

Preliminary results from our recent waste characterization study indicate that the county is now diverting approximately 48% of its **refuse** from landfilling, which is approaching the **AB 939** mandate of 50% by the end of 2000. However, even with the current and planned waste diversion programs, the Buena Vista Landfill will still be the first of the three landfills in the county to reach capacity in approximately 19 years. The City of Santa Cruz Landfill has approximately 40 years of capacity and the City of Watsonville Landfill has approximately 35 years of capacity.

As required under the County-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan, the Task Force has been developing a formal siting process that is scheduled to begin this year. The first phase of the siting process, as envisioned by the Task Force, will entail several steps that will culminate in a set of recommendations for further public and environmental review. The Task Force has received letters of interest to participate in this process **from** the cities of **Scotts Valley**, **Santa Cruz** and **Watsonville**. The City of **Capitola** has not decided yet to participate but will be considering this matter at its February 10, 2000 Council meeting. The participating cities have also indicated a willingness to provide staff time and limited **funding** for this first phase of the disposal facilities siting process. While we anticipate that the first phase of the siting process will be primarily conducted by staff and a Task Force site selection sub-committee (discussed below) some

outside services may be necessary to assist in a preliminary assessment of biological and geotechnical conditions on the final list of siting options.

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The Task Force is currently in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all the participating agencies to cooperatively conduct the first phase of the disposal facilities siting. Public Works on behalf of the Task Force has circulated a draft of the MOU to each city administration for comment. A draft of this MOU is attached for your information. The formal MOU is scheduled to be brought before your Board in March with a request that your Board formally convey the document to each city for Council approval and for nominations to a Citizens Disposal Site Selection Advisory Group (CDSSAG) that will operate as a subcommittee to the Local Task Force. Once the cities have completed their actions, we will return the matter to your Board for final approval of the MOU and for your nominations to the subcommittee. The CDSSAG will be charged with evaluating potential landfill, waste-to-energy, and/or transfer station sites within the county, gathering public opinion through outreach and meetings, and providing a final set of recommendations to the Task Force. The Task Force would then review and comment on the CDSSAG recommendations and forward them to your Board and the cities for final approval and action. We have also included with this letter an outline of proposed responsibilities for the Task Force and the CDSSAG, respectively.

The Task Force is recommending that the CDSSAG be composed of citizens from each of the cities and geographical areas of the unincorporated county, as well as selected technical staff and special interest groups. We envision that the proposed diversity of this committee will provide the wide range of input necessary to address the many needs and issues that will inevitably arise during this process. The attached MOU indicates the proposed make up of the CDSSAG to provide your Board with advanced notice in considering your future nominations to this committee. As stated above, we will be recommending that your Board make its nominations to this committee **after** all the participating cities approve the MOU and the CDSSAG structure in the coming months. It is expected that the first phase of the disposal facilities siting process will take up to two years to complete at which time the final recommended set of siting options would then be brought back to your Board and the participating jurisdictions for final selection and initiation of environmental review.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors accept and file this status report on the Disposal Facilities Siting Process.

Yours truly,

*John A. Fantham*  
JOHN A. FANTHAM  
Director of Public Works

RPM:bbs

Attachments

**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:**

County Administrative Officer

Copy to: All Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force Members  
Public Works Department (Fred Magaard)

DFSB



# DRAFT - FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### REGARDING COOPERATIVE PLANNING STUDY FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY SITE SEARCH

This Memorandum of Understanding regarding cooperative planning for solid waste disposal facility site search is entered into this       day of       2000, by and between the COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, THE CITY OF CAPITOLA, THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ, THE CITY OF SCOTTS VALLEY, AND THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE herein collectively referred to as "Participating Jurisdictions"

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz has identified a need to begin examination of its future solid waste disposal options, including locating a new landfill disposal site; and

WHEREAS, Objective 6.1 of the Santa Cruz County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan recommends evaluation of the costs and benefits of a consolidated landfill disposal site to serve all county residents; and

*WHEREAS, Siting Element Policy 3.4 of the Santa Cruz County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan recommends beginning the solid waste disposal facility siting process no later than the year 2000; and*

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Capitola, the City of Santa Cruz, the City of Scotts Valley and the City of Watsonville have determined that there will be mutual benefit to cooperatively engaging in a planning study to identify a site on which to locate a future solid waste disposal facility; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Capitola, the City of Santa Cruz, the City of Scotts Valley and the City of Watsonville, through the Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force, discuss issues of regional concern, including landfill capacity and future solid waste disposal options;

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NOW THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (Local Task Force) is hereby authorized by action of the legislative bodies of the Participating Jurisdictions to carry out a solid waste disposal facility siting study on behalf of the Participating Jurisdictions.

2. The purpose of the study shall be to identify physical locations within Santa Cruz County at which a solid waste disposal facility (sanitary landfill or transfer station) can be developed, which facility would have the capacity to serve the solid waste disposal needs of the Participating Jurisdictions. This study will also evaluate waste-to-energy and out-of-county disposal options

3. The Local Task Force will use the Santa Cruz County Countywide Siting Element to guide the site selection process, including the Landfill Siting Criteria contained therein and as clarified by the Local Task Force.

4. *The Local Task Force will appoint a Citizens Disposal Site Selection Advisory Group (as a subcommittee) to assist with this study.* The Participating Jurisdictions will make *nominations* to *this subcommittee* in conformance with the structure cited below. The function of *this subcommittee* will be to evaluate and rank potential sites and to recommend the top three candidate sites to the Local Task Force.

a. *Nominations* to the *Citizens Disposal Site Selection Advisory Group* shall be made on the following basis:

County Board of Supervisors

5 representatives of the unincorporated county

1 representative of the Sierra Club

1 representative of the Farm Bureau

City of Capitola

1 representative

City of Santa Cruz

2 representatives, one of whom should be a resident

City of Scotts Valley

1 representative

City of Watsonville

2 representatives, one of whom should be a resident

b. As a subcommittee, the Local Task Force shall appoint one representative.

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5. The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works will be the primary agency responsible for conducting the Siting Study and will retain the assistance of a qualified geotechnical / engineering consultant and a qualified biological consultant when such services are appropriate and recommended by the Local Task Force. The County of Santa Cruz will serve as the lead agency for administrative management of said consulting services, reporting to the Local Task Force, and for administrative management of the Local Task Force itself.

6. The Participating Jurisdictions hereby authorize the County to issue a Request for Proposals for geotechnical/engineering and biological consulting services contingent on final review and approval of the RFP by the Local Task Force. No contract for said consulting services shall be awarded by the County without the prior review and approval by the City Manager of each Participating City Jurisdiction.

7. The Participating Jurisdictions will share in a not-to-exceed cost of \$150,000 to retain said geotechnical / engineering and biological consulting services based on the following allocation of not-to-exceed costs: Capitola- \$xx,xxx; Santa Cruz- \$xx,xxx; Scotts Valley- \$xx,xxx; Watsonville- \$xx,xxx; County- \$xx,xxx.

a. This cost allocation will only be used for purposes of distributing the cost of the geotechnical / engineering and biological consulting services referenced in this Memorandum of Understanding. This allocation will not be used as a precedent, or to bind Participating Jurisdictions in any way, in cost sharing arrangements for any future cooperative waste management activities.

b. County Service Area 9C will be used as the funding source for the County of Santa Cruz and City of Scotts Valley share of the cost of said geotechnical / engineering and biological consulting services. The County will invoice the City of Capitola, the City of Santa Cruz and the City of Watsonville for their share of this cost.

8. The Local Task Force will serve as the vehicle for each party to this agreement to define its needs and limitations, present questions, seek information, and offer policy and/or process recommendations with regards to determining the course of action to be taken in the aforementioned disposal facility siting process.

9. Each Participating Jurisdiction will carry out its solid waste management (including recycling and composting) planning in cooperation with the other parties to this agreement through open and timely sharing of information about said planning activities, using the Local Task Force as the vehicle for this information exchange. *Said information exchange shall not be construed as authorizing the Local Task Force to supervise, manage, control or otherwise participate in the current solid waste management programs and procedures of any participating jurisdiction.*

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10. At the conclusion of the study, the Local Task Force will present study results to the member agencies and make recommendations to the Participating Jurisdictions on subsequent actions to take. *Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to require participating jurisdictions to participate in development proposals, solid waste disposal or management programs, or other plans and programs, which may ultimately be proposed or recommended by the Local Task Force pursuant to the study calledfor by this memorandum.*

11. Any party to this Memorandum of Understanding agreement may withdraw its participation from this agreement with thirty (30) days written notice to the other parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties herein execute this Agreement as of the hereinafter stated dates.

DATED \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
County of Santa Cruz

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dwight Herr  
County Counsel

DATED \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
City of Capitola

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXXXXXX  
City Attorney

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DATED \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
City of Santa Cruz

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXXXXXX  
City Attorney

DATED \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
City of Scotts Valley

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
City Attorney

DATED \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
City of Watsonville

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
City Attorney

**DRAFT****DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING STUDY  
LOCAL TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Oversee Study
2. Identify Sites via subcommittee
3. Identify Options
4. Make Recommendations to Board of Supervisors & City Councils

1. Oversee Study

- a. Advise staff on scope of scope, etc.
- b. Provide status reports to Board of Supervisors & City Councils

2. Identify sites via subcommittee

- a. Establish subcommittee to evaluate and rank sites for landfill and for transfer station
- b. Provide direction to subcommittee on siting process and siting criteria to be used
- c. Receive and evaluate site recommendations from subcommittee
- d. Formulate LTF site recommendations

3. Identify Options

- a. Receive and evaluate data from staff and subcommittee on disposal options, including in-county landfills, out-of-county landfills and waste-to-energy, and including consolidated or single agency approach
- b. Identify Top 3 sites for landfill facility and Top 3 sites for transfer station facility
- c. Develop options analysis for presentation to Board of Supervisors & City Councils

4. Present Study Conclusions and LTF Recommendations

- a. Prioritize options on which disposal alternative and which corresponding potential facility sites should move forward to environmental review and permitting
- b. Submit final report to Board of Supervisors & City Councils



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DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING STUDY  
CITIZENS DISPOSAL SITE SELECTION ADVISORY GROUP  
(Subcommittee to Local Task Force)

Objective: To identify a site for future landfill disposal facility within Santa Cruz County capable of serving the county and four cities and to identify sites to support local landfill alternatives, including waste-to energy and out-of-county disposal.

Proposal: That the Local Task Force request the Board of Supervisors and Participating Cities to provide nominations for a citizens advisory subcommittee to participate in the study and make recommendations to the Local Task Force

Subcommittee Functions:

1. To review candidate sites for landfill disposal facilities, rank the sites and recommend the top three sites to the Local Task Force.
2. To review candidate sites for a transfer station to support alternative disposal facilities (such as waste-to-energy or out-of-county disposal), rank the sites and recommend the top three sites to the Local Task Force.

Subcommittee will be staffed by the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department