



County of Santa Cruz⁰²⁷⁷

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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JOHN A. FANTHAM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: APRIL 4, 2000

March 23, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: BUENA VISTA LANDFILL SOIL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Members of the Board:

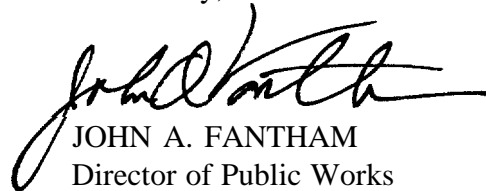
On February 15, 2000, your Board directed Public Works to return on April 4, 2000, with a status report on the Buena Vista Landfill Soil Management Project. As was stated in our last report, project engineering has been completed; however, delineation of wetlands on the Watsonville Landfill site was significantly delayed due to the heavy rains that occurred during February and early March 2000. The wetlands delineation is expected to be completed by early April 2000, at which time we can complete our negotiations with the city of Watsonville regarding the use of its property for the Buena Vista Landfill Soil Management Project.

The Coastal Commission and the California Department of Fish and Game have requested a full wetland delineation of the entire project site, including the conditionally permitted Watsonville Landfill expansion site and the adjacent Biotic Conservation Easement. Staff from these agencies have stated that they are not in the position to fully support this project alternative until the full wetland delineation is completed and all potential biotic impacts are known. The agencies have requested the wetland delineation in order to compare the respective impacts between this alternative project and the original project on the adjacent Rocha property. For this reason, the wetlands delineation is being conducted in advance of the environmental review process. If wetlands are found to exist on the Watsonville Landfill property or within the impact area for the conveyor system, we will first need to confer with the Coastal Commission and Fish and Game staff to determine if there is still support for this alternative project, and if so, under what mitigative conditions. This aspect of the project is critical to our negotiations with the city of Watsonville as all costs associated with biotic mitigation requirements for our project and Watsonville's future landfill expansion have been a significant point of discussion.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Accept and file this report on the Buena Vista Landfill Soil Management Project.
2. Direct Public Works to return on or before June 6, 2000, with a status report and draft agreement with the city of Watsonville regarding use of their landfill expansion site for our Buena Vista Landfill Soil Management project.

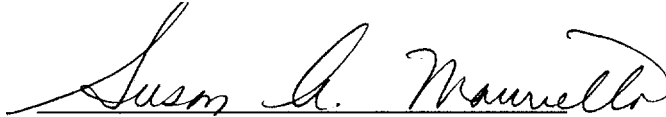
Yours truly,



JOHN A. FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

RPM:mg

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

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copy to: Public Works (Fred Magaard)
Rick Hyman, California Coastal Commission
Brian Hunter, California Department of Fish and Game
David Koch, City of Watsonville
Ana Demorest, CH2M Hill
Dana McRae, County Counsel
Kim Tschantz, Planning Department
Art Higaki

SLM