



SF Environment
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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael
Director

June 1, 2015

TO: Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

FM: Deborah O. Raphael 

RE: Recommendation Approving Landfill Disposal Agreement and Adopting the Negative Declaration

Action

As Director of the Department of the Environment, I recommend the Board of Supervisors' approval of the attached Landfill Disposal Agreement between the City of San Francisco and Recology. Further, I hereby adopt the San Francisco Planning Department's Negative Declaration, Planning Department File No. 2014.0653E, entitled "The Agreement for Disposal of San Francisco Municipal Solid Waste at Recology Hay Road Landfill in Solano County," as upheld by the Planning Commission in its Motion No. 19376, for the proposed agreement between the City and County of San Francisco and Recology to change the disposal site for San Francisco's solid waste. As provided in Chapter 31, my recommendation will be considered the first "approval action" under Chapter 31, and will trigger a 30-day appeal period for appealing the negative declaration to the Board of Supervisors.

Landfill Disposal Agreement

The City's current landfill disposal agreement at the Waste Management Altamont Landfill is set to expire when the cumulative disposal under the agreement reaches 15 million tons. The Department of the Environment projects that date to be January 2016, under our current rate of disposal. The Department has negotiated a landfill disposal agreement with Recology for disposal at their Hay Road landfill in Solano County, which is the back-up landfill previously approved by the Board of Supervisors following a multi-year extensive public competitive selection process.

The agreement designates Recology's Hay Road landfill in Solano County as the exclusive site, once the current agreement expires, for disposal of all solid waste collected in the City and delivered to Recology's transfer station, as well as residue for disposal from Recology's Pier 96 Recycle Central facility, until 5 million tons have been disposed. The Department anticipates that this term will exceed 10 years. The agreement provides for a base landfill operations fee of \$22.73 per ton that is increased annually by the San Francisco Region Consumer Price Index, plus Solano County, state and other required fees. To facilitate the transportation of solid waste to the Hay Road landfill, the agreement

requires that Recology continue to operate the transfer station and be the sole entity for receipt of solid waste covered by and during the term of the disposal agreement, except as to small amounts for testing alternative technologies.

Environmental Review

The City conducted environmental review of the Agreement and all implementation actions to transport and dispose of the City's waste at the Recology Hay Road Landfill Facility in Solano County (collectively, the "Project") under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the City's Administrative Code Chapter 31, which implements CEQA procedures locally.

The Environmental Review Officer (ERO) determined that a negative declaration (neg dec) should be prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of the Project, prepared the neg dec, and provided public notice of that determination and the availability of a preliminary neg dec for public review on March 4, 2014. Public comments were submitted, and the Solano County Orderly Growth Committee appealed the neg dec to the Planning Commission.

On May 21, 2015, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing to hear the appeal of the neg dec. Following the hearing, the Planning Commission affirmed the neg dec by its Motion No. 19376. The Planning Commission found the neg dec was adequate, accurate and objective, reflected the independent analysis and judgment of the Planning Department and the Planning Commission, and that the responses to comments contained no significant revisions to the Preliminary neg dec, and approved the final neg dec for the Project in compliance with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31. The Planning Department, Jonas Ionin, is the custodian of records, located in File No. 2014.0653E, at 1650 Mission Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California. The neg dec may be found online at http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.0653E_PND.pdf. The neg dec identified no potential significant environmental impacts of the Project and thus proposed no mitigation measures for adoption now.

In connection with my adoption of the neg dec, I have reviewed and considered the neg dec and the record as a whole, I find that the neg dec is adequate for my use as a decision maker for the Project, and that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Solano County also separately prepared a negative declaration for changes to the Recology Hay Road Landfill Facility in 2012. When Solano County approved the changes to the Landfill Facility through approval of a Conditional Use Permit, it adopted mitigation measures to address identified environmental impacts and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) that included those mitigation measures as conditions of approval.

The Solano County negative declaration and MMRP are available for review at the San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California, 94103, as well as the Solano County Resource Management Department. Recology's compliance with all Solano County requirements, conditions of approval and the MMRP is included as a condition of the Agreement.