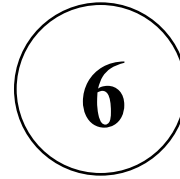




Meeting Date: June 9, 2005



Honorable Board of Directors
Sacramento Regional County Solid Waste Authority
Sacramento, California

Board of Directors

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Chair

(City of Sacramento)

Roberta MacGlashan

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Susan Peters

(County of Sacramento)

Cheryl Creson

Administrator

David A. Pelsler

General Manager/Engineer

**SUBJECT: GREENCYCLE PROJECT – FACILITY SITING
ALTERNATIVES RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) Receive and file the attached Facility Siting Report that documents the Project Advisory Committee's (PAC) recommendations for facility siting alternatives for the GreenCycle facility;
- 2) Acknowledge the PAC's participation in the facility siting and evaluation process and its considerable contribution to the development of the recommended siting alternatives by adopting the attached resolution of appreciation;
- 3) Authorize an amendment to the existing MMC Communications consulting agreement for continued public outreach during the environmental review process established by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- 4) Authorize an amendment to the existing CH2M Hill consulting agreement for technical assistance during the CEQA process and to begin the procurement process for a vendor to operate the GreenCycle facility on behalf of the SWA; and
- 5) Direct staff to begin the next phase of this project by beginning the environmental review and vendor procurement efforts.

BACKGROUND

The Sacramento GreenCycle project hopes to develop a local facility to recycle about 100,000 tons per year of residential garden refuse – roughly half the residential garden refuse collected by the SWA member jurisdictions annually. The facility would be operated through a public-private partnership, in which the public sector owns the site and holds the facility permits, and the private sector operates the facility under a long-term contract with the SWA.

We are currently at the end of the facility-siting phase of a process that was approved by the SWA Board. A project advisory committee (PAC) representing a variety of community interests was actively involved in the siting process.

Costs to SWA member agencies for garden refuse processing by private contractors have continued to increase since the inception of this project. The County's current contractor processing agreement has an annual cost of living adjustment, and the City of Sacramento's last two bids have resulted in higher charges to the City. Current costs are running between \$20 and \$24 per ton, sometimes with an additional charge of as much as \$3.75 per ton for use of local transfer facilities to handle the material. A goal of the GreenCycle project is to bring a local facility on line that can be competitive with market rates and stabilize costs over the long term, in part by reducing the significant current costs incurred for transporting garden refuse out of county for processing.

FINAL SITING REPORT

At its eighth meeting on April 27th, the consensus of the PAC was:

- To recommend the top four ranked sites move into CEQA.
- To use site aerials in the staff report that show the location of the proposed quarries near site 4 and any sensitive areas near all of the sites.

Site aerial maps and a table listing known issues and sensitive areas for each site are attached.

Recommended Alternative Sites

Table One below shows the consensus recommendation of the PAC on the siting alternatives that best meet the siting criteria established and weighted by the PAC. At the eighth PAC meeting, there was considerable discussion about the relative merits of the four individual sites, but there was no consensus for any preference among the four site alternatives. Therefore, the following table lists the sites in order of the site number assigned arbitrarily in the beginning of the siting process, and so does not indicate any preference among the four site alternatives.

Table One Site Alternatives Recommendation	
Site Number	Site Location
4	Near the north end of Scott Road, south of White Rock Road
7	Kiefer Landfill
18	Northeast of the intersection of Interstate Highway 5 and Twin Cities Road
40	Northwest of the intersection of Interstate Highway 5 and Twin Cities Road

The general location of each siting alternative is shown in Figure ES-1 of the attached Final Siting Report.

Siting Process

The siting process started with the formation of the PAC, which served as the forum for the evolution of the siting process. The PAC started with a list of 151 potential candidate sites that were located within the SWA member agency region. In the siting process, all the potential sites were evaluated using a series of “criteria screens” to reduce the number of sites remaining at each successive stage of the process. The PAC participated throughout the process with the development of siting goals and objectives, through development of siting criteria, and through judging which criteria were more important than others by assigning weights to individual criteria.

A number of letters have been received regarding the GreenCycle facility siting effort. Letters received in time for duplication are included in the attached Final Siting Report as Appendix V.

MOVING FORWARD

Staff recommends moving forward on the project by beginning environmental review, by continuing community outreach, and by beginning the procurement process for a facility operator.

Environmental Review

Staff anticipates the County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment (DERA) will undertake the environmental review process as established under CEQA. It is anticipated that an environmental impact report (EIR) will be required due to the scope of the project. In the EIR, environmental impacts for each siting alternative will be analyzed. In addition, it is likely that the

impacts of garden refuse processing technology alternatives will be assessed in the CEQA document. CEQA requires a series of public participation opportunities. It is recommended that the traditional CEQA public participation be enhanced through community outreach.

Community Outreach

Our next steps will build upon the initial community outreach activities undertaken during the siting process. Recommended outreach efforts for the next phase include:

- Continued participation in Sacramento River Watershed/News10 Partnership, to develop broad awareness of the importance of garden refuse recycling;
- Individual briefings, news releases, and contact with local media to ensure they are familiar with the facility proposal, outreach efforts, and process;
- Educational materials to effectively reach the community, including an educational brochure and newsletters, which will be used to inform civic groups about the location alternatives and need for a garden refuse processing facility; and
- Continued stakeholder outreach including individual, small group meetings, and civic group presentations.

Attached is a scope of work and contract amendment for MMC Communications, the community outreach consultant we used during for the siting process. It is recommended that the Board authorize the attached contract amendment with MMC since community participation will be so important for successful completion of this project. Funding for these consulting services are included in the recommended FY 05-06 budget.

Procurement

It is envisioned that the GreenCycle facility will be developed as a public-private partnership in which the SWA Board authorizes a long-term agreement with a company to develop and operate the facility on behalf of the SWA. The vendor procurement process can begin in parallel with the environmental review process so that after the appropriate CEQA document is certified, the SWA Board will be able to consider authorizing a vendor agreement. Attached is a scope of work and contract amendment for CH2M Hill, the technical consultant we used during for the siting process. It is recommended that the Board authorize the attached contract amendment with CH2M Hill to provide technical assistance during the CEQA process and so that we may begin the vendor procurement process. Funding for these consulting services are included in the recommended FY 05-06 budget.

SWAC

Staff has briefed the Sacramento Cities/County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) on this project throughout its development. Three SWAC members are also PAC members. At its May 31, 2005 meeting, the SWAC adopted, by unanimous vote of those members present, a motion supporting the PAC-recommended siting alternatives.

CONCLUSION

The PAC has spent considerable effort and time in developing the siting recommendation before the Board today. It is recommended that the Board recognize PAC's efforts by adopting the attached resolution of appreciation.

It is recommended that the SWA Board authorize the next series of efforts to move forward with GreenCycle facility development. It is recommended the Board authorize amendments to the agreements for our two project consultants so that we may continue with community outreach, environmental review, and begin the procurement process to select a private-sector partner to operate the facility on behalf of the SWA.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Creson,
Administrator

By: _____

David A. Pelsler, PE, DEE
General Manager/Engineer

Attachments

- Resolution of Appreciation for PAC
- Site aerials
- Issues and sensitive areas table
- MMC Communications and CH2M Hill contract amendments
- Final Siting Report

Contact for additional information -- Pat Quinn, SWA staff (916) 875-7082