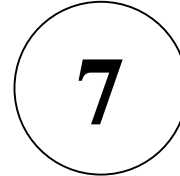




Meeting Date: December 9, 2004



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

Board of Directors

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Vice-Chair

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(County of Sacramento)

Don Nottoli

(County of Sacramento)

Cheryl Creson

Administrator

David A. Pelsler

General Manager/Engineer

SUBJECT: GREENCYCLE PROJECT – SITING SHORTLIST REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board direct staff to report back next spring with a preferred site(s) recommendation after community outreach and more detailed screening and technical evaluation of the proposed short-listed candidate sites.

BACKGROUND

Each of the SWA member agencies shares the common need to manage garden refuse cost-effectively and responsibly. Garden refuse recycling is the largest single part of our efforts to divert residential waste from landfills and to assist in achieving the State of California's 50% diversion mandate. Unfortunately, local, privately operated garden refuse composting facilities have been considered community nuisances in the past and are no longer in operation. A team of staff from the three SWA member agencies submitted a Green Waste Study to the Board in May of 2002. The staff study recommended that the SWA sponsor the development of a new, in-county, regional green waste processing facility and that the facility be developed and operated as a public-private partnership.

The following table summarizes the actions taken by the Board since 2002 to pursue the public-private development of a local, garden refuse recycling facility. This SWA-sponsored facility is intended to provide better local control to prevent nuisance operations, reduce environmental impacts compared to the current practice of trucking garden refuse out of county for processing, provide long-term stability and reliability of service, and assure that garden refuse is properly diverted from landfill disposal in accordance with State requirements.

Table One	
Summary of Previous Board Actions	
May 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receives a Regional Green Waste Study prepared by SWA staff; • Study recommends a public-private partnership for facility development & operation; and • Directs staff to include project funding in FY2002-03 budget.
September 2002	Receives staff report outlining the scope of work and the request for qualifications/request for proposals process that will be used to solicit consulting services for the project.
April 2003	Authorizes Phase 1 consulting agreement with CH2M Hill for project feasibility study.
September 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hears CH2M Hill Phase 1 report; • Directs staff to return with a proposed scope of work for Phase 2; and • Directs staff to seek tonnage commitments from member agencies.
November 2003	Approves Phase 2 scope of work for CH2M Hill consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing statements of intent to participate with member agencies; and • Conducting facility siting process to identify a short list of potential sites.
February 2004	Receives progress report on efforts to achieve statements of intent to participate from member agencies.
March 2004	Receives status report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intent to participate will be made at the staff level rather than by action of elected officials; and • Staff will solicit proposals for public involvement consulting services to assist with the upcoming facility siting effort.
June 2004	Receives project status report and authorizes a consulting services agreement with MMC Communications (MMC) for stakeholder relations efforts to assist with the facility siting process.

SITING PROCESS DISCUSSION

The following discussion highlights the stakeholder relations efforts taken to date, talks about the formation of a Project Advisory committee (PAC) and the PAC's role in the evolution of the siting process, and concludes by describing the process used to identify a shortlist of

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recommended candidate sites. Additional information about the siting process and the role of the PAC is found in the attached Interim Siting Report.

Stakeholder Relations

Our stakeholder relations consultant, MMC, developed a project logo and name for the project, Sacramento GreenCycle, which has been used to give the project an identity, to define the look and feel of the project website, for power point presentations, and for project informational materials. The project website, www.sacgreencycle.com, is up and running, but we are still in the process of refining the site content.

MMC and SWA staff have given briefings on the GreenCycle project to the Sacramento Environmental Commission and to the Land Use Committee of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

MMC identified a number of potential stakeholders, including elected officials, community representatives, and key industry representatives. MMC conducted one-on-one interviews with 23 of these stakeholders to address a full range of issues regarding garden refuse facility siting, development, and operation. As part of the interview process, a number of individuals were identified for participation in a PAC, which would participate in the facility siting effort.

PAC Efforts

The PAC has been formed consisting of a number of project stakeholders. The goal of the PAC siting process is to develop a short list of candidate sites and finally, a preferred site(s) recommendation for consideration by the SWA Board and the SWA's advisory committee, the Cities/County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The first PAC meeting was on September 8th. The PAC met twice in October and again on November 17th for a total of four PAC meetings to date. It is anticipated that the PAC will continue to be the forum for stakeholder participation as the project unfolds. The list of PAC members, the PAC agendas, and meeting minutes for each of the PAC meetings are included as appendices to the attached Interim Siting Report by CH2M Hill, our technical consultant for this project.

Siting Process Discussion

At the first PAC meeting in September, staff briefed the PAC on the background of the project, reviewed a number of facility siting issues identified during stakeholder interviews, explained the proposed siting process in which candidate sites would be evaluated using siting criteria, and presented an initial list of 40 candidate sites that had been developed by staff through a "brainstorming" exercise. This initial list of 40 candidate sites consisted largely of past compost facility locations (e.g., the City of Sacramento's former 28th Street compost operation and the former Lionudakis composting site off Mayhew Road near Jackson Highway), former and current landfill sites, and sites that had been identified in previous solid waste facility siting

studies. As a result of its first meeting, the PAC identified five objectives of the siting process, which were:

- Environmental -- to minimize environmental impact
- Land Use -- to maximize land use compatibility
- Social -- to maximize community support
- Cost -- to minimize rate impacts
- Technical -- to maximize technical feasibility

At its first meeting, the PAC placed an emphasis on the long-term compatibility of the site with nearby land uses to minimize conflicts between facility operations and the neighboring community. Thus, it was decided to use the SACOG base case mapping, which shows future regional development patterns based on current land-use policies, to screen potential sites for potential land-use conflicts.

Prior to the second PAC meeting, SWA staff developed an expanded list of 151 potential candidate sites developed through a search by the County Real Estate Division for publicly or privately owned sites of at least 45 acres that were zoned for industrial, commercial, or rural agriculture uses. A minimum of 45 acres is necessary to handle half the garden refuse tonnage from the three SWA member agencies. At its second meeting, the PAC increased the desired minimum site size to 100 acres so that the facility would be more certain to be able to provide future capacity and to provide on-site buffer from adjacent land uses.

At the second PAC meeting, CH2M Hill staff presented proposed siting criteria developed for each of the siting objectives established at the first PAC meeting. Four fatal-flaw siting criteria were developed by the PAC that were used to eliminate potential sites that did not meet minimum requirements (e.g., at least a 100-acre parcel). CH2M Hill staff led the PAC through a weighting exercise in which PAC members assigned points to each criterion in order of their importance to the PAC members individually. From this criteria weighting exercise, the PAC was able to see which criteria are considered most important and which have lesser importance. The PAC identified the criteria associated with land use compatibility and one criterion on acreage as the most important criteria. The weighting given to each criterion was used in the evaluation of alternative sites.

At the third PAC meeting, staff explained how the siting criteria that dealt with land-use and acreage concerns were used to screen the list of candidate sites down from 151 to 21 sites. The PAC then concurred with the next step of the siting process in which the seven remaining lesser weighted siting criteria would be used to further narrow the candidate site list down to a short list of preferred sites that the PAC could consider at its fourth meeting.

At the third PAC meeting, representatives of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) presented information on an alternative technology for garden refuse management involving "digestion" of garden refuse inside a vessel, in the absence of oxygen, to produce methane. Methane can in turn be used to generate electricity. Anaerobic digestion equipment may be co-

located with other infrastructure or industrial facilities. This technology is used extensively in Europe and could become viable in the future for at least a portion of the garden refuse collected by SWA member agencies.

At the third meeting, the PAC also discussed siting alternatives in which the greencycling facility would be co-located with other large public-sector, infrastructure facilities. The three facilities identified for such co-location were the County’s Kiefer Landfill, the Sacramento Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant, and SMUD’s Rancho Seco electrical power facility.

At the fourth PAC meeting, staff presented a proposed siting shortlist for the PAC’s consideration and a draft of today’s Board report. The proposed short list contained those nine sites that best meet the siting criteria established by the PAC. The short list also contained siting alternatives in which the greencycle facility would be co-located with other large public-sector facilities.

RECOMMENDED SITE SHORTLIST

The table below shows the short list of recommended candidate sites. A figure showing the location of the recommended candidate sites is attached.

Table Two		
GreenCycle Siting Shortlist		
Site Number	Site Criteria Score (1)	Site Location
3	677	Twin Cities Road, east of Herald
9	667	Ione Road on eastern edge of county
18	706	Twin Cities Road at I-5 interchange
33	683	Rancho Seco
37	679	South of International Airport at I-5 interchange
38	667	Twin Cities Road, east of Herald
40	668	Twin Cities Road at I-5 interchange
107	688	South of Meiss Road east of Dillard Road
116	682	End of Simmerhorn Road east of Galt
Co-Location Alternatives		
7	606	Kiefer Landfill
33	683	Rancho Seco (2)

34	403	Regional waste water treatment plant
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Notes:

1. The highest possible total score is 840, which is based on a maximum score of five points for any criterion multiplied by the weighting factor established for each criterion.
2. Rancho Seco appears twice in the table above; first, because its criteria score was high enough to place it on the recommended shortlist, and second, because it is a co-location alternative.

PAC & SWAC RECOMMENDATIONS

At the conclusion of its fourth meeting, the consensus of the PAC was to:

- 1) Recommend Table 2 of the Board Report (the GreenCycle Siting Shortlist of the table above);
- 2) Forward nine potential sites (to the SWA Board for its consideration);
- 3) Forward three co-location sites (to the SWA Board for its consideration);
- 4) Note that the nine sites were selected objectively based on the criteria developed and weighted by the PAC; and
- 5) These sites will be evaluated further based on selection criteria to be defined by the PAC, and which the PAC recommends include, but not be limited to:
 - Transportation impact
 - Site availability and cost
 - Related infrastructure

Some of the PAC members have written letters of support for the PAC process and recommendations. These letters from PAC members are attached.

At its November 30th meeting, the Cities/County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) adopted by unanimous vote of those members present a motion recommending SWA Board adoption of the PAC recommendations. A SWAC letter of support for the PAC recommendations is attached.

MOVING FORWARD WITH A PREFERRED SITE RECOMMENDATION

Staff's proposed plan for moving forward is to report back next spring with a preferred site(s) recommendation after:

- Community outreach early next year to neighborhoods surrounding candidate sites with appropriate neighborhood notification through mailers, news releases, advertisements, and distribution of project newsletters; and
- More detailed screening and technical evaluation of the short-listed candidate sites.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Board direct staff to report back next spring with a preferred site(s) recommendation after community outreach and more detailed screening and technical evaluation of the short-listed candidate sites identified in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Creson,
Administrator

By: _____

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

Attachments:

Figure showing short-listed site locations
Letters from PAC members (3)
SWAC letter
CH2M Hill/MMC Interim Siting Report

Contact for additional information: Pat Quinn, SWA staff, 875-7082

