



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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To: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
725 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

July 28, 2015

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

Cc: Yolo County Board of Supervisors

RE: 2014-15 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – The Yolo County Central Landfill: Cutting Edge Technology

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the recommendations in the 2014-2015 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, “The Yolo County Central Landfill: Cutting Edge Technology” from the Yolo County Director of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services, Deputy Director for Integrated Waste Management, County Counsel and County Administrator. For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**.

R1 Director, Department of Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services (PPWES), in consultation with the County Counsel, shall implement a non hazardous waste reuse program for the public by June 1, 2016.

Director of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services, Deputy Director for Integrated Waste Management and County Counsel response: This recommendation will not be implemented at this time because it requires further analysis. As noted in the Grand Jury’s report, the landfill is primarily funded through waste disposal fees. Only a small portion of funding is generated from payment for recycled or reused materials. The Yolo County Central Landfill must also compete with surrounding private landfills which means fees must be competitive. A new program cannot be implemented unless it has a zero net cost or other non-tip fee funding to offset the cost.

The division, however, has considered expanding its reuse program to include non-hazardous materials and is already in the process of developing and implementing a pilot program, scheduled for next spring, to assist in determining whether an expanded reuse program will generate enough sales revenue to offset operating expenses and capital costs. A decision on program implementation will be made following that evaluation.

R2 Director, PPWES, shall increase education and outreach efforts on proper sorting and disposal of waste for all residents of Yolo County by January 1, 2016, including non-English language speakers, and recent residents.

Director of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services and Deputy Director for Integrated Waste Management response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. While the landfill provides waste disposal services for all Yolo County residents and businesses, each jurisdiction contracts directly for waste collection, and thus, it is their responsibility to educate their customers on proper sorting and waste disposal for their unique collection program. The division is only responsible for education and outreach to customers in the unincorporated areas of Yolo County or those who come directly to the landfill.

While the division has limited staff and very limited education and outreach funds which can only be utilized as allowed by the granting agency, the division already maximizes the funds to the best of its ability. For example, division staff meets monthly with recycling staff from all local jurisdictions to collaborate on education and outreach efforts. Besides what is provided on the County website, which can be translated into numerous languages, below is only a partial list of jointly-prepared materials and division-specific outreach. Most materials are available in Spanish and the landfill employs bilingual staff.

Joint Jurisdictional Outreach

- Annual Recyclopedia Calendar distributed to County employees, Davis and unincorporated schools, libraries, city halls, etc.
- Annual Household Hazardous Waste flyer inserted in utility bills countywide
- Used Oil & Filter Exchange events 2x/year advertised in local newspapers

Division's Countywide Outreach

- A to Z list on website, as well as other program-specific pages
- \$5,000 in ads in local newspapers
- Construction and Demolition brochure (online and provided at permit counter)
- Used Oil & Filter Recycling Education through OPP funds
 - Signage at Esparto Transfer Station,
 - Annual direct mailer to Capay Valley advertising \$0.40/gallon CCC rebate
 - Ads in Valley Voice 2x/year
 - Provision of oil recycling kits (rags, funnel and dual filter drain kit to DIYers) at community events and handed out weekly at Reuse Facility
- Recycling Booth at County Fair

- School Outreach Presentations and Landfill Tours
- “Don’t Rush to Flush” (safe pharmaceutical disposal) partnership with Sacramento County
- Facebook posts 1x/week (www.facebook.com/yolohhw)

County Unincorporated Residents & Businesses Outreach

- Quarterly newsletter (produced by Waste Management provided to their customers in unincorporated area) which includes schedule of curbside recycling pickup and annual bulky waste collection event information
- Annual mailer to rural business regarding compliance with AB341 Mandatory Commercial Recycling (as staff time allows, calls and site visits conducted to set up recycling at these locations, including purchase of desk side containers, trash dollies, office recycling posters, etc.)
- Annual outreach on Low Income Subsidy Program (LISP) through garbage bills

R3 Director, PPWES, shall complete an assessment plan on the possibility of utilizing solar panels on the landfill property to produce electricity by July 1, 2016.

Director of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services and Deputy Director for Integrated Waste Management response: This recommendation will be implemented, however, due to budget and staffing limitations, will likely not be implemented by July 1, 2016.

The division previously looked into the possibility of using solar panels on the landfill property to produce electricity. It was determined at the time that moving forward with a solar project was not economically feasible, especially as the landfill is regulated by many different local, state and federal agencies which apply additional and costly requirements that do not apply to other sites. A fresh look into this issue may result in a more feasible and economical approach, which the landfill would welcome.

R4 Beginning September 1, 2015, the Director of PPWES shall review and update website content at least quarterly to reflect current information.

Director of Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services and Deputy Director for Integrated Waste Management response: With the exception of the Innovative Projects webpage, this recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. We believe that we do an excellent job in keeping the rest of our site, such as garbage collection services, YCCL services and prices, ECC services and prices, special events and recycling information current.

R5 Immediately, County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Officer shall follow Yolo County adopted policies when entering into any contract to provide goods or

services to, or for the utilization of resources generated by, the Yolo County Central Landfill.

County Administrator and County Counsel response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Other than the Gas Production Agreement described in the report, the recommendation reflects the current practice of the County. The County Counsel and the County Administrator follow all policies related to contracts entered into by the County, whether related to the Yolo County Central Landfill or otherwise. The Gas Production Agreement described in the report was executed 30 years ago, and was consistent with all County policies in effect at the time.