

SOLID WASTE POLICIES

The County will:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

13.1 Management of Solid Waste Disposal

Provide management of solid waste in the most efficient and economical manner which will provide adequate services, protect the public health, prevent the creation of nuisances, reduce waste generation and provide for maximum resource recovery.

13.2 Protection of Solid Waste Disposal Sites

Protect solid waste disposal sites from encroachment by incompatible land uses.

13.3 Minimize Environmental Impacts

Minimize adverse environmental impacts resulting from any existing, new or expanded solid waste facility in unincorporated areas of the County.

13.4 Maximize Energy Conservation

Manage solid waste in such a way as to maximize energy conservation.

13.5 Minimize Dependence on Landfills

Reduce to a minimum the dependence on landfills by promoting recycling, resource recovery and reduction of residential and commercial wastes.

13.6 Promote Materials Recovery and Energy Recovery

Promote the recovery of by-products from solid waste and provide for the timely utilization of technological advances in the fields of materials recovery and energy recovery.

DEFINITIONS

13.7 Definition of Solid Waste Facility

Define a Solid Waste Facility as a facility used to dispose of solid waste including, but not limited to, sanitary landfills, transfer stations and waste to energy facilities.

13.8 Definition of Buffer Lands

Define Buffer Lands as land uses which protect public safety and provide sufficient distance and screening between solid waste disposal activities and incompatible land uses.

DESIGNATIONS

13.9 Designation of Sites for Solid Waste Facilities

Designate the following sites for solid waste facilities:

- a. Lands on which existing and approved solid waste operations are located as shown on the Solid Waste Facilities Map.
- b. Lands shown as an area for a solid waste facility on the Solid Waste Facilities Map provided they meet the requirements of Policies 13.11, 13.20 or 13.24.

SANITARY LANDFILL

13.10 Long-Term Landfill Disposal Capability

Provide long-term landfill disposal capability for nonrenewable wastes and residues from resource recovery operations.

13.11 Locating Sanitary Landfills

Permit solid waste sanitary landfills to be developed in locations where: (1) the landfill will not be readily visible from major roads and development; (2) there will not be major conflicts with existing and planned development; (3) adequate lands are available to buffer adjacent lands from disposal activities; and (4) groundwater quality would not be adversely affected.

13.12 Localization of Environmental Impacts of Sanitary Landfills

Minimize environmental impacts associated with any existing, new or expanded solid waste landfill facility by requiring that impacts, such as removal of vegetation, reduction of wildlife habitat, creation of dust, erosion and odor, be localized and not extended beyond the landfill itself.

13.13 Mitigation of Environmental Impacts of Sanitary Landfills

Require the mitigation of environmental impacts associated with solid waste landfill facilities including, but not limited to, minimizing the adverse effects of grading, cut and filling, land clearing, water runoff and soil erosion.

13.14 Prohibit the Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Prohibit the disposal of hazardous waste at the Ox Mountain Landfill through techniques including, but not limited to, encouraging the increased monitoring of waste loads at all transfer stations and Ox Mountain Landfill, supporting the establishment of small volume hazardous waste transfer stations, developing public education programs and investigating fully citizen complaints.

13.15 Reclamation Requirements

Require standards for and the reclamation of solid waste landfill sites for the purpose of restoring landfills to a usable condition adaptable to alternative land uses and minimizing adverse impacts from landfill operations.

13.16 Expansion of the Area Served by Ox Mountain Landfills

Consider traffic, noise and other potential impacts when evaluating future requests to expand the Ox Mountain Service Area to serve areas outside of San Mateo County.

13.17 Disposal of Garbage Generated Outside the County

Permit solid waste generated outside the County to be disposed of at Ox Mountain landfill provided that one or more of the following criteria are met:

- a. Solid waste is processed at a resource recovery facility in order to reduce volumes dramatically for imported and San Mateo County solid waste. Such plant should be constructed with all appropriate environmental protections.
- b. The disposal fee for out of County solid waste is set at a rate which will defray the cost of disposal and in addition has the potential to minimize rate increases for disposal to County residents.
- c. The disposal of out of County solid waste will be accomplished in the most environmentally safe manner.

13.18 Buffer Lands

Protect solid waste landfill operations from encroachment by incompatible land uses by maintaining buffer lands adjacent to solid waste landfill operations.

13.19 Refuse Truck Traffic From Ox Mountain

To increase safety and to reduce conflicts between refuse truck traffic from Ox Mountain landfills and commuter traffic:

- a. Regulate the times when refuse truck traffic is permitted; and
- b. Encourage the provision of operational and safety improvements to Highway 92.

TRANSFER STATIONS

13.20 Locating Transfer Stations

Permit transfer stations to be developed in locations convenient for public dumping, provided: (1) there are not major conflicts with existing and planned development; (2) adequate access can be provided; and (3) impacts including, but not limited to, those on visual resources and vegetation, fish and wildlife resources can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

13.21 Use of Bayside Transfer Stations

Encourage the establishment of a fee structure for public dumping that encourages the use of Bayside transfer stations by Bayside residents in order to minimize traffic on Highway 92 generated by public dumping at Ox Mountain landfills.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

13.22 Efforts by the Private Sector

Encourage resource recovery efforts by the private sector including: (1) separation of materials at the source and at transfer facilities; (2) methane recovery at landfills; and (3) energy recovery through waste conversion.

13.23 Promoting Curbside Recycling

Promote the establishment of curbside recycling programs as a means to increase recycling.

13.24 Locating Waste-to-Energy Facilities

Consider permitting waste-to-energy facilities such as those that employ direct combustion, liquefaction, gasification and pyrolysis on suitably designated lands, provided environmental impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

13.25 Locating Rubbish Collection Points

- a. Consider permitting the placement of receptacles for recyclables within appropriate residential and commercial areas; and

- b. Encourage the use of public facilities, such as parks and playgrounds, for locating receptacles for recyclables.

13.26 Advocacy for Source Reduction and the Reuse of Recycled Materials

Support the passage of Federal and State legislation which promotes a reduction in the generation of waste materials and the reuse of recycled materials.

13.27 Reduction of Solid Waste Requiring Disposal

Continue encouraging transfer station operators to use techniques, such as front-end materials separation, at Bayside transfer stations, in order to reduce the amount of solid waste requiring transportation and disposal at Ox Mountain.

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF THE COUNTY

13.28 Regulation of Solid Waste Landfill Operations

Regulate solid waste landfill operations to minimize adverse environmental consequences including, but not limited to, measures which mitigate impacts on the geology, water quality and hydrology, biology (vegetation, fish and wildlife), visual quality, noise levels, and air quality.

13.29 Protection of Groundwater Quality

Encourage responsible State and County agencies to periodically update their regulations for the disposal of solid waste at landfills, based on current available information, to ensure that groundwater is provided adequate protection from contamination.

13.30 Litter Control Programs

Provide litter control through mechanisms including, but not limited to, adoption and enforcement of litter control ordinances, development of citizen support for control of littering through public information and education, utilization of volunteer and court assigned labor, and support for private sector litter cleanup activities.

13.31 County Public Works Department

Support the role of the Public Works Department as the primary County agency for Solid Waste Management including the following: administration of the Countywide Solid Waste Management Plan; keeping abreast of solid waste

technology; and technical liaison with Federal, State and local agencies, private enterprises and civic groups concerned with solid waste management.

13.32 County Health Department

Support the role of the County Health Department as having staff responsibility for providing inspection and for enforcing State and local statutes and regulations in the environmental health and sanitation aspects of storage, collection, handling, transportation and disposal of solid wastes on a Countywide basis, and for developing code changes, conducting studies and recommending improved methods in these subject areas to the County or cities in the County.