

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL September 30, 2002

THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee (September 24, 2002)

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Support for Continued Operation of the Puente Hills Landfill

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council support the continued operation of the Puente Hills Landfill for ten years by writing a letter of support to the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission.

Background

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are seeking new permits for continued operation of Puente Hills Landfill to utilize the remaining capacity of 12,000 tons per day. Existing permits will expire on November 1, 2003, but the full remaining capacity is estimated to be ten additional years. Puente Hills Landfill provides waste disposal and recycling services for more than 60 cities in Los Angeles County.

As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, Sanitation District No. 2 certified the Final environmental Impact Report for Continued Operation of the Puente Hills Landfill in January 2002. Following certification the Sanitation District applied for a land use permit from the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission. Public hearings have been scheduled for September 5, September 18 and October 2, 2002.

Benefits of Continued Operation

Staff supports the extension of the operating permit for Puente Hills Landfill. Repermitting will provide the following benefits:

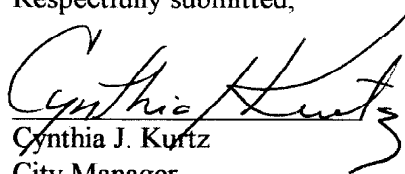
- Continued operation of Puente Hills will prevent tipping fees at Scholl Canyon Landfill, the primary disposal site for the City of Pasadena, from rapidly increasing;
- Provide the managed transition to Waste-by-Rail with averaged tipping fee increases rather than an abrupt increase that is estimated to eventually reach \$50-to\$60/ton;

- Operation of a Materials Recovery Facility on site with a projected opening in 2003 with an ultimate capacity of 4,000 tons per day;
- Separate recycling diversion areas for materials such as asphalt, tires, green waste, metal appliances and wood waste from construction and demolition loads;
- Beneficial conversion of landfill gases to vehicle fuel and alternative fuel for heating and cooling systems;
- Native habitat preservation of 225 acres. Continued operation may provide up to \$38 million dollars to the Joint Power Authority that oversees habitat preservation.

Fiscal Impact

The Sanitation Districts have estimated that closure of the Puente Hills Landfill would result in a minimum cost of \$1.4 billion countywide through increased tipping fees to access sites outside the region.


Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager


Prepared by:


Carolyn Meredith, Recycling Coordinator

Reviewed by:


Jimmy S. Berryhill, Administrator
Department of Public Works

Approved by:


Julie A. Gutierrez, Director
Department of Public Works