

California Integrated Waste Management Board

Board Meeting

December 12-13, 2000

AGENDA ITEM 6

ITEM

Consideration Of A Revised Solid Waste Facility Permit For The Hawthorne Street Transfer Station, Humboldt County

I. SUMMARY

Name:	Hawthorne Street Transfer Station Facility No. 12-AA-0033
Facility Type:	Existing transfer station
Location:	1059 West Hawthorne Street Eureka, CA
Area:	3.1 acres, structure size 19,600 square feet
Proposed Area:	4.3 acres, structure size 31,000 square feet
Setting:	Commercial, industrial, and residential, alongside Highway 101
Operational Status:	Active, 1997 permit
Permitted Tonnage:	512 tons per day
Proposed Tonnage:	550 tons per day
Permitted Vehicles:	400 vehicles/day
Proposed Vehicles:	510 vehicles/day
Permitted Waste Types:	Municipal solid waste (MSW) and non-friable asbestos
Proposed Waste Types:	MSW, sewage treatment plant solids, non-hazardous ash, non-friable asbestos
Owner/Operator:	Humboldt Waste Management Authority Gerald Kindsfather, General Manager
LEA:	Humboldt County Health Department Division of Environmental Health Brian Cox, Director

II. PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

The Board concurred with the existing solid waste facility permit for this facility on July 23, 1997.

III. OPTIONS FOR THE BOARD

Requirements for Concurrence with the Solid Waste Facilities Permit:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 44009, the Board has 60 calendar days to concur with or object to the issuance of a Solid Waste Facility Permit. Since the proposed permit for this facility was received on October 23, 2000, the last day for the Board to act on the permit is December 22, 2000.

The Board may decide to:

1. Concur with the issuance of the proposed permit as submitted by the LEA.
2. Object to the issuance of the proposed permit as submitted by the LEA.
3. Take no action on the proposed permit as submitted by the LEA. If the Board chooses option three, the Board shall be deemed to have concurred in the issuance of the proposed permit as submitted by the LEA 60 days after the Board's receipt of the permit.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff have reviewed the application package and proposed permit. Staff have scheduled a pre-permit inspection to be completed in early December. After the inspection staff will be able to provide the Board with information relative to State Minimum Standard Compliance and a final recommendation at the Board meeting.

V. ANALYSIS

Background

The facility has been operating since July 1978. It was first owned and operated by City Garbage Company of Eureka, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems. The transfer building was constructed in June 1979. In 1997, the Board concurred in the issuance of a solid waste facility permit revision to allow an increase in daily tonnage and operating hours, specify special handling procedures, change the facility design, operations, and equipment, and specify permitted traffic levels. On June 16, 2000, Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) purchased and assumed responsibility for operations at the facility. The contract operator is Waste Solutions Group, Inc. (WSG). WSG provides transfer station operation and transport of municipal solid waste by transfer truck to the Dry Creek Landfill located near Medford, Oregon. Eventually, an off-site railway facility will be completed and waste will be transported by the Northwestern Pacific Railroad to Potrero Hills Landfill in Solano County. Dry Creek Landfill will then act as a backup disposal facility. Waste recovery will be offered to

residents through a recycling drop-off center. Green wastes and used appliances will be recovered for recycling. In addition, the HWMA will operate a household hazardous waste facility for residents and small businesses. The existing transfer station building will remain and be turned into a recycling drop-off/processing area. The northwest corner of the current transfer station building will be converted into a workshop. A new “L” shaped building consisting of two connected structures will be added to the west of the existing structure. This new building will contain a self-haul tipping area, a commercial/franchise tipping area, and a transfer trailer-loading bay.

Key Issues

The proposed permit is to allow for the following changes:

- The construction of a 31,000 square foot transfer building with separate areas for franchise collection and general public self-haul vehicles. The existing 19,000 square foot building will be used for a recycling, and special waste drop-off center. The new building is designed for top loading of transfer trailers for highway transportation to regional landfills outside of Humboldt County.
- A change in the permitted operation from a transfer only to a transfer and processing facility. The increased floor space in the new building will allow for recovery of recyclable and reuse items from the tipping floor by hand and equipment from select loads.
- An increase in the maximum permitted tons per day (TPD) from 512 TPD to 550 TPD. This increase primarily reflects the difference in the new station capacity from the previous operation.
- An increase in the permitted daily traffic from 400 vehicles/day to 510 vehicles/day.
- The addition of permitted wastes including non-hazardous ash, and sewage treatment plant solids not previously handled at this site. These special wastes are currently received at the HWMA Arcata facility.
- An increase in the permitted facility boundary from 3.1 acres to 4.3 acres.
- A reconfiguration of the scalehouse and facility entrance. A new scalehouse with separate scales for commercial and general public vehicles will be constructed. Separate entrances will be provided for recycling – household hazardous waste – special waste drop-off, commercial and franchise solid waste drop-off, and public self-haul solid waste drop-off to improve traffic flow and minimize vehicle conflicts.

Fiscal Impacts N/A

Findings

The following LEA certification and staff analysis are provided:

LEA Certification

The LEA has provided the following certification:

- The permit application package is complete and correct;
- The Report of Facility Information (RFI) submitted meets the requirements of Title 14 California Code of Regulations Article 6.4 Transfer/Processing Station Standards.
- That the proposed permit is supported by the March, 2000 Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), (SCH #1998122049) which was prepared for the project.

Staff Analysis

The following table summarizes Board staff’s review and analysis of the proposed permit application package:

12-AA-0033	Accept-able	Unaccept-able	To Be Deter-mined	Not Applic-able	See Details in Agenda Item
CIWMP Conformance (PRC 50001)	X				1
Consistency With State Minimum Standards			X		2
California Environmental Quality Act	X				3
Closure/Post-Closure Maintenance Plan				X	
Funding for Closure/Post-Closure Maintenance				X	
Operating Liability				X	
RFI Completeness	X				

1. Conformance with County Integrated Waste Management Plan

The Hawthorne Street Transfer Station is identified in the City’s Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE). Staff of the Board’s Office of Local Assistance find the proposed permit to be in conformance with the City’s NDFE. (See attachment 4.)

2. Consistency with State Minimum Standards

Board staff have scheduled a pre-permit inspection of the facility with the LEA for December 5, 2000. Staff findings will be presented at the December Board Briefing or Board Meeting.

3. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

For a project subject to CEQA, state law requires evidence of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); either through the preparation, circulation, and adoption/certification of an environmental document; or by determining that the proposal is categorically or statutorily exempt prior to project approval.

The Humboldt County Health Department, acting as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), proposes to issue a SWFP for this facility in order to allow for improvements and expansion of the Hawthorne Street Transfer Station (HSTS) in Eureka CA. The LEA has provided a finding that the proposed SWFP is consistent with and supported by the cited Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR SCH #1998122059) prepared by the Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA), acting as the Lead Agency for a 4.3 acre solid waste transfer station located at 1059 West Hawthorne Street in Eureka, CA.

The facility will be capable of receiving and processing a maximum of 550 tons per day (tpd) of non-hazardous solid waste including mixed municipal waste (MSW), non-hazardous wastes from industrial sources, non-designated industrial waste, and construction and demolition (C & D) waste. Other accepted wastes that require special handling include: small amounts of ash, tires, concrete, asphalt paving, asphalt shingles and roofing materials, sludge, fish waste, dead animals, non-friable asbestos, bricks, drywall, painted wood, stumps, and treated non-medical hospital waste. The facility is currently permitted to receive most of these types of wastes. This proposal will allow the facility to also accept ash, and sewage sludge.

The maximum permitted number of vehicles per day will be 510, and the proposed hours of operation in the FEIR (Page III-15) are 10 hours per day, Monday through Saturday for receipt of waste from commercial haulers and 9 hours per day for receipt of waste from self-haul vehicles (specific hours not cited). The FEIR also states that "Operational hours will be consistent with the City of Eureka ordinances and zoning restrictions. It may be that in order to comply with time requirements for removing waste from the tipping floor the facility may operate beyond the gate hours."

The proposed expansion to the HSTS will replace the existing City Garbage Transfer Station and will include construction of new buildings and alteration of the existing building. There will be approximately 50,400 sq. ft. of buildings on-site when completed. The property is owned and operated by the HWMA. The facility property area is located within the Coastal Zone and is designated for General Industrial uses. The site is surrounded by a combination of industrial, open space (including wetlands), and commercial uses. According to the DEIR there are no residences in the immediate vicinity. The proposed site at Hawthorne Avenue is the preferred alternative of four potential sites considered by the Lead Agency and evaluated in the in the DEIR and FEIR.

Part of the project considered in this EIR involves transportation of waste by truck or rail to the Potrero Hills Landfill in Solano County or transport by truck to the Dry Creek Landfill near Medford Oregon. The EIR also considered transport of waste by barge from the Port of Eureka to the Potrero Hills Landfill in the event of emergency closure of land transportation.

The Lead Agency identified project-related potential impacts requiring mitigation in the areas of **Land Use, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Biological Resources, Transportation, Energy, Air Quality, Noise, Health Hazards, Visual Resources, and Cultural and Historic Resources**. The Lead agency has proposed mitigation measures approved by the applicant that are intended to reduce these potential impacts to a less than significant level.

The findings in the DEIR state that there will unavoidable significant project related impacts after mitigation in the following areas: Geology and Soils, and Health Hazards.

Environmental Review Section (ERS) staff received a copy of a Statement of Overriding Considerations approved by the City of Eureka Planning Commission on June 12, 2000, regarding the unavoidable significant impacts identified in the FEIR as stated above.

ERS Staff Review History

ERS staff sent a comment letter suggesting information and evaluations to be included in the DEIR for the original Notice of Preparation (NOP) on February 9, 2000 and again on the Revised NOP on May 21, 1999. The DEIR was circulated in January of 2000 and at that time ERS staff sent a comment letter requesting that certain comments and questions be addressed in the FEIR when circulated. ERS staff's comments and questions concerned the following issues: **Bird and Vector Control; Litter; Waste Management and Design Capacity; Traffic Analysis; Hours of Operation; Transportation and Disposition of Waste; and Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Program.**

The FEIR was received on March 27, 2000 and review by ERS staff indicates that all of ERS staff's comments and questions have been addressed in the FEIR.

ERS Staff Recommendations

After review and comparison of the proposed SWFP (with inclusive permit conditions) and the FEIR cited for CEQA compliance; ERS staff are of the opinion that cited CEQA document, will be adequate for the CIWMB's environmental evaluation of this proposed project (revision of SWFP #12-AA-0033), for those project activities which are within this agency's expertise and/or powers, or which are required to be carried out or approved by the CIWMB.

VI. FUNDING INFORMATION - N/A

VII. ATTACHMENTS

1. Site Location Map
2. Site Plot Plan
3. Permit No. 12-AA-0033
4. Memo from the Office of Local Assistance
5. Statement of Overriding Considerations
6. Resolution No. 2000-475

VIII. CONTACTS

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