



March 21, 2019

Board of Directors
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura, California

OVERVIEW OF THE TOLAND OPTIMIZATION PLAN PROJECT AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT MODIFICATION APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Receive and file the staff presentation regarding the Toland Optimization Project; and
- B. Direct staff to restart the conditional use permit (CUP) modification application process with the County of Ventura Resource Management Agency.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Toland Road Landfill is the primary source of revenue for the District, directly affecting its long-term viability. A September 2017 application for modification to the CUP for the Toland Road Landfill (The Toland Optimization Plan project) requested a 300 tons per day (tpd) increase above its current maximum allowed tpd of 1,500 based on District revenue requirements at that time.

With all other things being equal, the higher the tpd, the more revenue the District will realize. However, it is important to note that the airspace yet left to be filled at Toland is finite and calculable pursuant to existing CUP terms, and any increase in tons would merely represent shifting to an earlier time when the waste is buried and the revenue is realized.

BACKGROUND

VRSD staff, through Rincon Consultants, Inc., submitted an application to the Planning Division of the Resource Management Agency of the County of Ventura on September 8, 2017. This Major Modification Application for the Toland Road Landfill CUP No. 3141 included the following elements:

- 1) Increase the quantity of waste received daily by 300 tons, increasing the maximum permitted daily tons from 1,500 tpd to 1,800 tpd;
- 2) Eliminate the 2027 closure date of the Landfill;

- 3) Remove the 15-million tons of municipal solid waste lifetime limit; and
- 4) Modify the Conditions of Approval related to the decommissioned biosolids drying facility.

The 300 ton daily increase requested in the CUP modification application was chosen and endorsed by the VRSD Board in order to balance the District's revenue requirements with the minimization of potential project impacts to the neighboring community.

In late 2017 shortly after submittal of the CUP modification application, VRSD staff was approached by a member of the Toland Group (property owners in the vicinity of the Landfill and other interested parties who have opposed and are critical of the Landfill) who indicated that the Toland Group might be amenable to supporting VRSD's applying for an increase in the amount of daily tons in exchange for certain voluntary measures by VRSD to address perceived project impacts to air quality, offsite dust and litter, and traffic issues. The notion of additional daily tonnage at the Landfill was attractive to VRSD because this would better serve VRSD's western Ventura County customer base and improve District operational finances. Moreover, there are significant environmental benefits to disposing all of or more of western Ventura County's municipal solid waste at Toland vs. the Simi Valley landfill.

Beginning in early 2018, VRSD staff and members of the Toland Group had several face to face discussions to explore the possibility of an agreement where VRSD would voluntarily implement a set of actions directed at perceived project impacts in exchange for the Toland Group's neutrality on the issue of the District's increasing the amount of allowable daily tons at the Landfill from the 300 additional tpd already included in the application to another amount up to 1,000 additional tpd. These meetings and communications took the better part of 2018.

After several exchanges of written proposals from each side, and despite the best of intentions and substantial time and effort by the members of the Toland Group, VRSD staff, VRSD Legal Counsel, and VRSD's environmental consultants, the two sides were unable to come to terms, and the negotiations were concluded in early 2019.

Based on its analysis of the project and the environment to date, staff believes that the additional tons per day above 300 can easily be accommodated at the Toland Road Landfill with minimal additional impacts to county residents, including those whose properties are situated in the vicinity of the Landfill. Staff believes the Board should consider increasing the requested increase in tpd for the CUP modification to a number greater than 300.

ANALYSIS

At today's meeting, staff will use a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Board with an overview of Toland Road Landfill operations, a summary of its CUP history, and information which will help the Board decide how many additional tons of municipal solid waste per day should be included in the resubmitted CUP modification application.

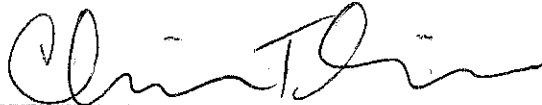
This letter has been reviewed by VRSD legal counsel as to form.

This letter was originally included on the February 21, 2019 Agenda, but it was removed from the agenda in favor of being included for today's meeting.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at (805) 658-4600 or via email at christheisen@vrzd.com.

CHRIS THEISEN, GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



Chris Theisen, General Manager

Attachments: None

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