



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 8, 2019

TO: Neighborhood Advisory Council

FROM: René Eyerly, Environmental Services Manager

SUBJECT: Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project and City's Solid Waste System

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Neighborhood Advisory Council receive a presentation regarding the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project and its integration into the City's solid waste system.

DISCUSSION:

Since 2008, staff from the County and the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton, and Solvang have worked together to explore the development of a Resource Recovery Project (ReSource Center) at the Tajiguas landfill. The goal of the ReSource Center is to increase significantly the diversion of trash from landfill disposal, thereby extending the life of the Tajiguas landfill, provide a long-term waste management solution for the South Coast, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The \$130 million project is the largest public works infrastructure development in the County of Santa Barbara's history. In December 2016, a materials delivery agreement was executed between the City and the County of Santa Barbara. The 22 year agreement guarantees the City's curbside garbage and recycling tonnages to be delivered to the facility, comprising 40 percent of the overall material processed at the site.

When construction is completed in 2021, the regional facility will consist of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to sort recyclables and a dry Anaerobic Digester (AD) Facility to process organic material into energy and compost. Waste composition studies of the region's trash shows up to 60 percent (30 percent recyclable and 30 percent organic material) remains in the brown bins despite the ongoing efforts of City's residents and businesses to recycle. The MRF is capable of sorting both recyclables from the blue bins and additional recyclables and organic material from the trash bins to increase the City's diversion from approximately 42 percent to at least 75 percent. The reduction in greenhouse gases is equivalent to removing 28,886 cars from the road per year, and the

facility will generate enough energy to power all of the on-site operations plus 2,000 homes.

Per the agreement with the County, the City has been ensuring adequate funding for the construction and operations of the new facility over the last few years. This has translated to a 12 percent rate increase last year in 2018, and a 16.3 percent increase beginning July 1, 2019. Future annual rate adjustments once the facility becomes operational are tied to each years' consumer price index.

SUBMITTED BY: René Eyerly, Environmental Services Manager

APPROVED BY: Matt Fore, Senior Assistant to the City Administrator