



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** January 29, 2008  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Environmental Services Division, Finance Department  
**SUBJECT:** Project Goals And Evaluation Criteria For Developing Short List Of Conversion Technologies

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Approve the proposed project goals associated with the potential implementation of a conversion technology project; and
- B. Approve the proposed primary evaluation criteria to be used to narrow the list of potential conversion technology vendors.

**DISCUSSION:**

In October of 2007, the City Council of Santa Barbara and the County Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of Alternative Resources Incorporated (ARI) to proceed with the evaluation of conversion technology to be established on the South Coast, with the Tajiguas Landfill as the proposed site. Over the past few months, ARI has worked closely with County and City of Santa Barbara staff and has drafted the attached project goals (Attachment 1) and evaluation criteria (Attachment 2). The goals were designed to be used as guiding principles during the conversion technology (CT) evaluation process. The evaluation criteria will be used to screen potential technologies who do not meet specific minimum requirements.

In developing the proposed goals and criteria, ARI began its work effort using the September 2003 Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (MJSWTG) CT Subgroup Report. ARI refined and updated this work with input from staff and experience that ARI has gained from similar efforts performed for other jurisdictions. The proposed project goals and primary evaluation criteria have been presented to the City's Solid Waste Committee (including two members of the County Board of Supervisors) at two joint meetings. Their comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the attached list of project goals and evaluation criteria.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance                      \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney                      \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Additional Department(s) That Need to Review CAR

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Agenda Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Subject to approval by the County Board of Supervisors (the item is on the County's January 22, 2008 meeting agenda) and City Council, ARI will proceed with soliciting additional information from CT vendors and apply the evaluation criteria to narrow the list and, if we move forward with this project, would receive a request for proposals (RFP).

Over the last few months, staff from the City and County has spoken directly with over twenty community groups, organizations, agencies and jurisdictions as part of a comprehensive outreach effort. This outreach will continue over the next several weeks. The purpose of this campaign is to educate the community regarding short- and long-term challenges related to solid waste management, and the efforts of staff to identify and evaluate conversion technology as an alternative to landfilling.

In April 2008, staff will report to the City the results of staff's outreach efforts and ARI's study to identify vendors and technologies that are able to meet the community's needs and priorities.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS:**

At this point, the scope of the project is limited to determining the feasibility of siting a facility at the Tajiguas Landfill that employs conversion technology to increase diversion from landfill disposal. If the project moves forward, the end result will include a significant reduction in the volume of municipal solid waste being buried at the local landfill, and will also result in the ongoing production of alternative energy created at the CT facility.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Proposed Project Goals for Conversion Technology Feasibility Study
  2. Proposed Primary Evaluation Criteria for Conversion Technology Feasibility Study

**PREPARED BY:** Robert Samario, Assistant Finance Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** Robert D. Peirson, Finance Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

## **Proposed Project Goals for Conversion Technology Feasibility Study**

- ◆ **Increase Diversion of Post-Recycled MSW for Affected Jurisdictions**  
Any considered conversion technology (CT) must increase the diversion of post-recycled MSW intended for landfill disposal through pre-processing (or post-processing) and/or conversion of post-recycled MSW into beneficial products such as energy, fuels, or other marketable products (e.g., compost, aggregate, metals).
- ◆ **Reduce Environmental Impacts of Landfilling MSW**  
Any considered CT must limit and/or mitigate environmental impacts of landfilling MSW, including but not limited to water quality and greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ **Provide Financial Feasibility and Sustainability**  
Any considered CT must have capital and operating costs that result in a feasible, cost-competitive tipping fee, with long-term financial stability that would limit financial impacts to affected ratepayers.
- ◆ **Produce Green Energy and Other Marketable Products**  
Any considered CT must include a component of green energy and/or fuel production, along with other marketable products, as applicable, such as recovered metals and compost.
- ◆ **Provide a Humane Work Environment**  
The project will be dedicated to maintaining humane working conditions, and will not consider any CT that is deemed to have an unjust or unsafe impact on workers.
- ◆ **Result in a Long-Term Waste Disposal Plan**  
Any considered CT must result in a long-term waste disposal alternative for participating jurisdictions within Southern Santa Barbara County (with a 20 year minimum lifespan required).

**Proposed Primary Evaluation Criteria for Conversion  
Technology Feasibility Study**  
(Minimum Screening Parameters)

- ◆ Any considered conversion technology (CT) must be capable of processing a minimum of 100,000 tons per year (tpy) of MSW during the first operating year of the project, and must be capable of increasing capacity up to 220,000 tpy within 10 years of the first operating year of the project.
- ◆ Any considered CT must be capable of operating for a minimum of 20 years.
- ◆ Any considered CT must be compatible with local solid waste management programs, including recycling programs.
- ◆ Any considered CT must be capable of diverting at least 60% by weight of the MSW received for processing from landfill disposal.
- ◆ Any considered CT must have a projected tip fee that limits financial impact to affected ratepayers (i.e., no more than 10% beyond the price the ratepayer would expect for other alternatives).
- ◆ Any considered CT must produce end products that have probable, identifiable or existing markets (including electricity and/or fuel products).
- ◆ Any considered CT must conform to California environmental standards, and must limit and/or mitigate environmental impacts of landfilling MSW.
- ◆ Any considered CT must have been demonstrated at a minimum of one facility of similar size or with a minimum unit size of 50 tons per day (tpd), and shall have been in operation for at least six months (as of February 29, 2008) processing MSW or similar feedstock.
- ◆ Any considered CT must have a project team that has experience designing, building and operating a solid waste management facility, either individually or as a team.
- ◆ The project developer must have bonding ability equal to the estimated cost of facility design and construction, and, during operation, equal to the estimated annual operating cost; must not be in bankruptcy; and must provide a financing plan that reasonably demonstrates that it can offer private project financing, if required.
- ◆ The project developer must not be debarred from contracting in California.