



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** August 11, 2009  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Environmental Services Division, Finance Department  
**SUBJECT:** Conversion Technology Project - Residual Solid Waste Resolution

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Regarding its Intention to Commit its Community's Residual Solid Waste to the Conversion Technology (CT) Facility to be Located at the Tajiguas Landfill.

### **DISCUSSION:**

About two years ago, the City and County of Santa Barbara directed their respective solid waste staff to work jointly on a project to evaluate the feasibility of siting a conversion technology (CT) facility that would convert both jurisdictions' residual solid waste into energy and/or a usable fuel. This would have the primary benefit of diverting a majority of solid waste from disposal at the County owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill, thereby extending its useful life.

With the approval of the City Council and County Board of Supervisors, City and County staff hired a consultant, Alternative Resources, Incorporated (ARI) to assist in the completion of a CT Feasibility Study (Study), developing a list of qualified vendors, and preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP). The results of the Study prepared by ARI were presented to the City Council and County Board of Supervisors in May 2008. The Study identified eight vendors deemed capable of meeting minimum project requirements developed by the City and County. Staff is currently working with ARI to complete the RFP which is anticipated for release in late September.

To demonstrate top-level commitment to this project, we have drafted a Resolution recommended for adoption by the City Council. Staff proposes to include the resolution in the package sent to the prospective bidders that receive the RFP. Potential partners have been encouraged to have their City Councils adopt similar resolutions.

The Resolution in no way binds the City to this project. If at any time it is determined that the project fails to meet any of the approved project goals and objectives (e.g., impacts rate payers beyond the level targeted), the City can choose not to participate.

Once adopted, the Resolution will be sent to the MJSWTG, indicating the City's support for the project and its underlying goals, and the City's intent to commit its residual MSW if all of the project goals are fulfilled, including the estimated impact to ratepayers.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

According to ARI, the cost to construct a CT facility can vary widely, from \$50 million to \$200 million. Any CT facility that is built at the Tajiguas Landfill will be privately owned, operated and funded through fees paid by participating jurisdictions' ratepayers.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS:**

At this point, the project is limited to efforts associated with the preparation of an RFP. However, if the project moves forward, the end result will not only include a significant reduction in the volume of MSW going to the Tajiguas Landfill, but it may also result in the production of alternative energy created from processing the City's residual solid waste material through a CT facility.

**PREPARED BY:** Stephen MacIntosh, Environmental Services Supervisor

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

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