



**AGENCY:** City Council  
**MEETING DATE:** March 8, 2021  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager  
**PRESENTED BY:** Tabatha Miller  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [TMiller@fortbragg.com](mailto:TMiller@fortbragg.com)

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### **TITLE:**

**Receive Report and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Recommending and Consenting to an Extension of the Term in the Operating Agreement and Lease for the Caspar Transfer Station between Mendocino County and Solid Waste of Willits, Inc.**

### **ISSUE:**

Under a Joint Powers Agreement between Fort Bragg and Mendocino County (County), the County entered into an Operating Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits to operate the Caspar Transfer Station. Amendments to the Operating Agreement and Lease require "prior written consent of City and County."

The Operating Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits had an original termination date of June 30, 2017. On March 17, 2016, the Caspar Joint Coordinating Committee recommended that the contract be extended to June 30, 2021. The County extended the term of the Operating Agreement and Lease and retroactively requested and received written consent from the City on April 22, 2019. The current extension will expire on June 30, 2021 and the Joint Caspar Transfer Station Joint Coordinating Committee recommends that Mendocino County extend the Agreement and Lease to June 30, 2025. The County provided notice of the extension to Solid Waste of Willits in December 2020 and intends to process that extension in the near term. The attached Resolution, if approved, provides the written recommendation and consent of City Council for Mendocino County to extend the Agreement and Lease until June 30, 2025.

### **ANALYSIS:**

#### **Background**

The City and the County jointly own 60 acres in the Caspar area at the end of Prairie Way. The City and County first entered into a joint powers agreement in October 1967 to use the property as a solid waste landfill. The landfill was operated from 1968 to 1992, when the landfill was closed. Since then, the property has been used for a solid waste transfer station. The County had operated the facility until it executed the Operating Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits on January 25, 2011.

The current Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the County and the City was executed in January of 2011 to provide for changes in how the Caspar Solid Waste Transfer Station was operated and to consider the replacement or expansion of the Caspar Transfer Station in order to accommodate commercial collection trucks and allow for long-haul direct transfer to a destination landfill.

The JPA calls for a Joint Coordinating Committee (Committee) consisting of two City Councilmembers and two County Supervisors. The Committee serves in an advisory role for the Board of Supervisors and the City. Mendo Recycle (formerly Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority MSWMA) served as staff support for the Committee up until March 2019.

The JPA was amended October 25, 2016 in order to outline specific terms and obligations for moving forward with replacement of the Caspar Transfer Station. The County Board of Supervisors and City Council certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the new Transfer Station project for 30075 Highway 20 on September 19, 2016.

Acquisition of the property at 30075 Highway 20 involved a multi-party land swap. The State of California would transfer 17 acres (30075 Highway 20) to the City/County in exchange for 35 acres of land at the Caspar Landfill site. California Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) would take ownership of the 35-acre Caspar property in exchange for 12.6 acres of Russian Gulch State Park, which would be transferred to Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Not too long after the EIR was certified, DPR pulled out of the proposed land swap. At that time, momentum on the new Transfer Station project stalled.

Since March 2019, the Committee has focused attention on the best path forward for a Coastal Transfer Station. At the recommendation of the Committee, an initial evaluation was conducted by Diversion Strategies on the various proposed sites for a Coastal Transfer Station. Following up on the Diversion Strategies report, the Committee recommended hiring a local project manager to continue to evaluate and pursue the project. In January 2021, Mr. Tom Varga was hired by Mendocino County to serve in this role.

As there are no immediate plans to expand or replace the Caspar Transfer Station, the Committee and City and County staff recommend an extension of the existing Caspar Transfer Station Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopt the Resolution recommending and consenting to an extension of the Operating Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits by the County Board of Supervisors.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

Do not approve the Resolution and provide staff alternative direction.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Extension of the Operating Agreement and Lease has no direct fiscal impact on the City of Fort Bragg.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACT:**

Extending the Operating Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits should not increase or decrease greenhouse gas emissions as the Agreement continues the existing operation without changes.

**CONSISTENCY:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

City staff anticipate Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will approve an extension of the Operating Agreement and Lease with Solid Waste of Willits within the month and prior to the expiration on June 30, 2021.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution

**NOTIFICATION:**

1. Jerry Ward, Solid Waste of Willits
2. Amber Fiset, County of Mendocino