

SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS
Willits, Potter Valley, Boonville, Laytonville, Covelo,
South Coast, Westport, Caspar, & Albion
SOLID WASTE RECYCLING CENTERS
Willits, Laytonville, Anderson Valley,
Westport, & Gualala

Solid Waste Services
Solid Wastes of Willits, Inc.
P.O. Box 1425 • Willits, CA 95490

To: Department of Transportation
Howard Dashiell

From: Jerry Ward, Solid Wastes of Willits, Inc.

Subject: Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Various Solid Waste Matters

During the Board of Supervisor meeting 12-8-20, public comment for the above item, SWOW had only three minutes to discuss the issues. During Board discussion, there were issues that SWOW needed to respond to but was not able to. Please find below those responses, including additional information.

- **Franchise Area #2 Contract Extension**
Please see attached issues.
- **Central Coast Transfer Station Project Manager**
DOT notified BOS that Tom Varga, retired Public Works Director for the City of Fort Bragg will be hired as the project manager and focus on moving the Central Coast Transfer Station project forward. Mr. Varga will be hired by DOT and all expenses will be reimbursed from the Caspar rent account held by MendoRecycle. This will exhaust much of the rent account and funds may not be available for Caspar Transfer Station improvements. It was questioned that these funds may not be used for improvements but only for the development of the Central Coast Transfer Station.
- **Caspar Transfer Station Improvements**
We were to provide a proposal for improvements to the Caspar Transfer Station to improve the efficiency of the self-haul operations only. Those proposed improvements could cost up to \$400,000 and SWOW proposed to use the Caspar rent account fund to pay for those costs. It was never determined who would be responsible for paying those improvements but based on past practices when Empire Waste Management terminated the pod system at the site, the previous Solid Waste Director stated the improvements need to be paid by the Contractor. We are putting the County on notice that SWOW is not responsible for paying for site improvements now or in the future. Based on this, and funds being used for the hiring of Mr. Varga for the Central Coast Transfer Station project, SWOW is not interested in providing the funds for the improvements without County support. Therefore, we have terminated our agreement with Crane of Ukiah for engineering services for those improvements and will no longer provide a proposal.
- **Caspar Transfer Station Agreement**
The current operations agreement and lease between the County and SWOW for the operation of the Caspar Transfer Station is set to expire on June 30, 2021. Under the agreement, the County, with concurrence of the City of Fort Bragg, has the option to extend the agreement up to December 30, 2030. SWOW has been provided a letter notifying SWOW that the County

intends to extend the agreement an additional four (4) years, with a revised expiration date of June 30, 2025.

Back on the first expiration date of June 30, 2017, SWOW was against the extension of the contract to June 30, 2021. However, without SWOW's knowledge the contract extension was placed before the BOS and the extension was approved. SWOW understands that the County/City has the right to extend the agreement in one or more extended terms. Again, SWOW is against this second extension to June 30, 2025. We cannot continue to operate the facility with a lack of funds to do so. We have been continuously been promised a Central Coast Transfer Station would be online and completed by 2015, again in 2017 and recently by 2024, whereas at that time the Caspar facility would close. We do not believe a Central Coast Transfer Station will ever be built. Therefore, without the County's support to fund site improvements to improve the efficiency of the self-haul operations, and SWOW must continue with an inefficient operation, we must request a gate rate increase of \$0.96 per cubic yard effective January 1, 2021. If the gate rate increase is not approved, notice is hereby given to the County of Mendocino and to the City of Fort Bragg that SWOW reserves all legal rights to contest any extension of the Caspar Transfer Station Agreement beyond June 30, 2021 through the actions of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino and the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg without the prior written agreement by SWOW to such extension.

Note: it was reported at the BOS meeting that the Caspar Transfer Station no longer accepts roofing materials at the site. This is not true; our site attendants asks roofing contractors/customers to call the facility first before they bring in roofing materials and schedule a time to come in. Because of the weight of the material, we try and control the amount of this material being unloaded into the onsite debris boxes to minimize overweight. Because the site does not have scales and the transportation route back to Willits has many turns, we do not want to have overweight or top-heavy boxes being transported. Many, if not all, roofing contractors know of this schedule and have worked with our site attendants.