

# NON-DISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

of the

## MONO COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Mono County, California*

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FINAL DRAFT



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The County of Mono is pleased to present this updated Non-Disposal Facility Element (*NDFE*) to CalRecycle per CCR, Title 14, and guidelines pursuant to AB341. This document outlines the County's geographic area, provides relevant information on the County's solid waste disposal infrastructure on non-disposal facilities. The document includes descriptions of non-disposal facilities that are considered part of the regional system, though are not within the jurisdiction of Mono County. The document includes a brief description of proposed non-disposal facilities that have been discussed in recent years as the region anticipates transition from the current system to one based upon diversion and long haul transfer. The *NDFE* presented herewith is incorporated into and made a part of the Mono County Integrated Waste Management Plan.

## **2.0 REGIONAL DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Geographic Setting**

Primarily rural in nature, Mono County is located in central-eastern California. The county is bordered by the State of Nevada to the north and east, by Inyo County on the south, and by Alpine, Fresno, Madera, and Tuolumne counties on the west. Located in the high desert region on the eastern flank of the Sierra-Nevada Mountain range, Mono County can be geographically characterized as having rugged terrain with steep mountains, narrow valleys, and deserts. In addition, numerous rivers, streams, and lakes are scattered throughout the county. Generally speaking, topographic elevations range from 5,000 feet in the lower valleys and up to 14,000 feet in the White Mountains at the southeastern corner of the county. The county comprises 3,103 square miles of land space, with approximately 2,900 square miles, or 93.4 percent, owned by public entities, which include the federal government (Inyo National Forest, Toiyabe National Forest, Bureau of Land Management), the State of California, local government, and the City of Los Angeles (Department of Water and Power).

### **2.2 Population**

The majority of population centers in the county are found along the Highway 395 corridor, which trends north-south in the western portion of the county. Communities in this area include, from north to south: Topaz, Coleville, Walker, Bridgeport, Mono City, Lee Vining, June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Crowley Lake, Tom's Place, and Paradise Valley. Additional population areas include the communities of Benton and Chalfant along Highway 6 in the southeast corner of the county. The remainder of the county is largely uninhabited.

The 2010 US Census determined the population of Mono County to be 14,202. Approximately 60% of those residents reside within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, which is not a part of the County's jurisdiction. The Town also experiences significant transient occupancy, which stretches the occupancy of the Town to well over 30,000 people at one time.

The California Department of Finance estimates future annual growth at less than 1% per year for the next 50 years<sup>i</sup>. As of January 1, 2013, the estimate is 14,493 for the entire county. At 4.6 persons per square mile, the resulting population density is one of the lowest in the State.

### ***3.0 SOLID WASTE SERVICES***

Two commercial haulers provide residential and commercial waste collection services in Mono County. Mammoth Disposal, a subsidiary of Waste Connections, Inc., is the franchise hauler and service provider for the Town of Mammoth Lakes mandated residential and commercial service. The unincorporated area of Mono County has two franchisees, including Mammoth Disposal and D&S Waste out of Yerington, NV.

Curbside recycling services are offered throughout the Town of Mammoth Lakes as well as certain parts of the County by Sierra Conservation Project. Other businesses such as Shred-Pro (mixed paper shredding service) and Mammoth Rock-n-Dirt (aggregate crushing) contribute to the available recycling services centering around the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Self-hauling of waste and recyclable materials is available to all residents of Mono County, with eight Transfer Stations and landfills located near population centers.

#### ***3.1 DISPOSAL FACILITIES***

Disposal of solid waste in Mono County is conducted at 3 active landfills. Two of these, Pumice Valley and Walker, currently accept only inert C&D waste for burial, and transfer all municipal solid waste off-site for disposal. The Benton Crossing Landfill has been the County's regional, and sole municipal solid waste landfill for over 10 years, and remains in use today.

In addition to being the regional landfill, Benton Crossing Landfill also performs vital non-disposal functions as part of normal operations. This includes the processing and diversion of clean wood waste, as well as the processing and sorting of certain C&D waste. These efforts include the periodic crushing of C&D aggregate material as well as the sorting of mixed C&D to reduce the amount of metal and clean wood within the mixed loads. The landfill also provides sludge management and diversion services for biosolid waste originating primarily in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, through the Mammoth Community Water District.

#### ***3.2 NON-DISPOSAL FACILITIES***

##### ***3.2.1 Transfer Stations***

Mono County maintains 6 low volume Transfer Stations in various communities throughout the county. The Transfer Stations are operated under contract (currently by D&S Waste of Yerington, NV). These facilities accept municipal solid waste for transfer to a disposal site, as well as accept materials for recycling, including glass, aluminum, plastic, HHW, metal and wood waste. The percentage of diverted waste received at the Transfer Stations averages approximately 30%. Additional details on diversion rates by site can be found in Appendix A below.

From Transfer Stations south of Conway Summit (Pumice Valley, Chalfant, Benton, Paradise), waste is currently transported to Benton Crossing Landfill for disposal. From sites north of Conway

Summit (Bridgeport, Walker) waste is currently transported to Lockwood regional landfill in Sparks, NV, via the D&S Waste Transfer Station in Yerington.

At all facilities except Paradise, wood waste is processed on site by County personnel, and beneficially re-used for ADC or post-closure maintenance. Chipped wood waste is also offered to the general public for use in landscaping applications.

Recyclable material from the transfer stations is transported to a variety of other facilities for future processing. In some cases, materials are consolidated at Benton Crossing Landfill where they await on-site processing and/or pickup (metal, HHW). Aluminum, glass and plastic are hauled to other recycling centers where they are processed and eventually transported to market.

Outside of the County's jurisdiction but playing a significant role in the overall system is the Transfer Station and Recycling Center located in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This facility is owned and operated by Mammoth Disposal, and currently accepts municipal solid waste for transfer to Benton Crossing Landfill, as well as HHW, metal, and other recyclable materials for transport to market.

### ***3.2.2 CRV Buyback Centers***

There are two CRV buyback centers located in the County. One is located at the Walker Senior Center in the north end of the County, and the Mammoth Lakes Recycling Center mentioned above.

### ***3.2.3 Proposed Non-Disposal Facilities***

As the County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes move toward increased diversion goals and the closure of the regional landfill approaches, planning for Non-Disposal Facilities has been steadily increasing.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, in partnership with Mammoth Disposal, has planned for the expansion of the Transfer Station that may include a long haul transfer station, a MRF, and a permanent HHW facility.

D&S Waste has proposed a Non-Disposal facility in the Mono Basin that may include long-haul transfer capability for County waste, as well as necessary recycling capabilities.

There are many other concepts being explored at this time, including a small scale sorting and baling facility located on County land to be run by inmate labor. Another concept is the development of a Regional Recycling Center at the Pumice Valley Landfill. Yet another is the siting of a similar facility within close proximity to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, through a federal land exchange.

Additionally, alternative technologies are emerging such as composting, transformation technology, thermal biomass and others that, if developed, would require non-disposal facilities capable of providing feedstock to their operations. The possibility for this future need is an important factor when considering potential siting and capacities for non-disposal facilities in the region.

One or more of these proposals may come to fruition in the coming years. The County is committed to working with stakeholders to determine the most cost-effective waste management solutions.

### **3.2.4 Siting Criteria for Future Non-Disposal Facilities**

Although numerous concepts for future facilities have been discussed, the development of any of those facilities is not certain at this time. Nonetheless, members of the Solid Waste Task Force agreed that siting criteria for such facilities would benefit the future planning of the facilities, and have developed the following criteria:

#### **Proximity to waste generating sources**

*NDFE1: To the extent feasible and necessary, facilities should have proximity to power, water, and sewer services.*

*NDFE2: Facilities should be located as close as possible to communities, and should not exceed normal commute distances for a given community.*

#### **Minimum separation from incompatible land uses**

*NDFE3: Existing land use regulations (zoning code, land use designations) should determine whether adequate separation exists.*

*NDFE4: Character of areas should be considered when siting facilities.*

*NDFE5: Adequate distance from sensitive receptors should be maintained in order to comply with existing regulations.*

*NDFE6: Facility siting should be driven by public process, with public hearings part of the process.*

#### **Lands status**

*NDFE7: Facilities should utilize pre-disturbed lands.*

*NDFE8: Ownership of land can be public or private, so long as long-term use and future availability are ensured.*

#### **Facility/Operations:**

*NDFE9: Specific needs should be identified first, and facilities should be designed to meet those needs.*

*NDFE10: The cost effectiveness of a project is determined by the construction and operational cost of providing services to meet the identified needs.*

#### **Competitive bidding**

*NDFE11: Competitive bidding is critical to saving the taxpayers money.*

*NDFE12: Unless competitive bidding would infringe on existing franchise agreements, it should be utilized for construction and operations of facilities.*

*NDFE13: Competitive bidding must incorporate policy goals of a given jurisdiction, which may or may not be specific to Solid Waste. These policy goals may affect the cost effectiveness of proposals.*

*NDFE14: Requests for Proposals should be based on meeting identified needs, and to the extent possible should not impose specific practices and methods. This allows respondents to design effective solutions based on their own methods and expertise.*

#### **Regional Needs**

*NDFE15: Regional need, and regional coordination (with Inyo County) should be an integral part of facility planning.*

#### **Nuisance controls**

*NDFE16: Potential nuisance issues should be identified and mitigated through the CEQA process.*

*NDFE17: Whenever possible, nuisance controls should be engineered and designed into projects. Should nuisance problems arise, they should be addressed iteratively.*

#### **Diversion/Transformation minimums**

*NDFE18: Future facilities should be designed to meet minimum diversion requirements, articulated by percentages of diversion and not total tonnage.*

**NDFE19:** Diversion requirements should be developed for each waste stream where there is a diversion need.

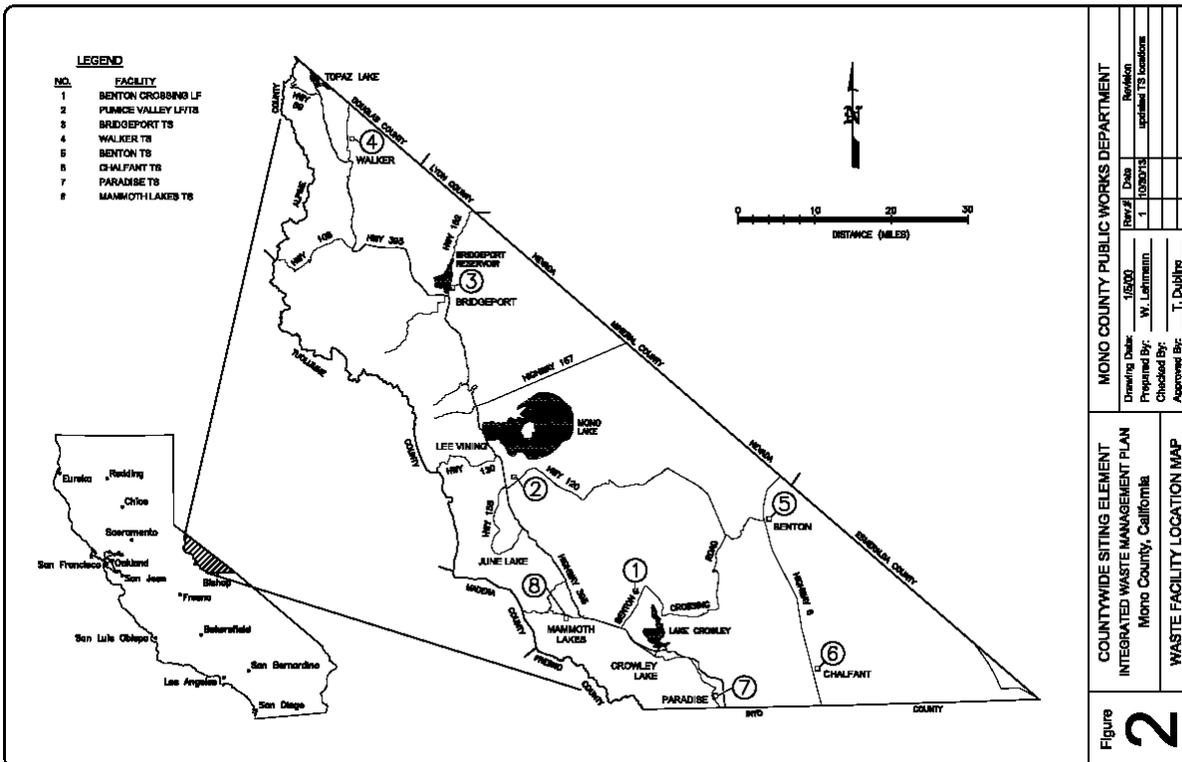
**NDFE20:** Provisions must be in place to allow for the amendment of diversion minimums to respond to changes in markets, regulatory mandates or other issues.

**NDFE21:** Amendments to diversion minimums should trigger commensurate changes in compensation to operators.

**Anticipating the future**

**NDFE22:** RFPs should require projects to be able to meet today's needs, as well as accommodate future technology such as waste-to-energy, anaerobic digestion or biomass.

**Exhibit 1—Existing Waste Facilities within Mono County**



**Appendix A-Facility Descriptions<sup>ii</sup>**

**Nondisposal Facilities Within Mono County (at least 5% recovery of total volume)**

Name of Facility: Benton Crossing Landfill (SWIS 26-AA-0004)

Type of facility: Solid Waste Disposal Site

Facility Capacity: 500 tons per day

Anticipated Diversion Rate : 25%

Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County, Town of Mammoth Lakes

Location of Facility: 899 Pit Road, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Name of Facility: Benton Transfer Station (SWIS 26-AA-0015)

Type of facility: Transfer Station

**Facility Capacity: 15 tons per day**  
**Anticipated Diversion Rate : 45%**  
**Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County**  
**Location of Facility: 400 Christie Lane, Benton CA 93512**

**Name of Facility: Bridgeport Transfer Station (SWIS 26-AA-0009)**  
**Type of facility: Transfer Station**  
**Facility Capacity: 25 tons per day**  
**Anticipated Diversion Rate : 38%**  
**Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County**  
**Location of Facility: 50 Garbage Pit Road, Bridgeport, CA 93517**

**Name of Facility: Chalfant Transfer Station (SWIS 26-AA-0010)**  
**Type of facility: Transfer Station**  
**Facility Capacity: 15 tons per day**  
**Anticipated Diversion Rate : 49%**  
**Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County**  
**Location of Facility: 500 Locust Street, Chalfant, CA 93514**

**Name of Facility: Paradise Transfer Station (SWIS 26-AA-0007)**  
**Type of facility: Transfer Station**  
**Facility Capacity: 15 tons per day**  
**Anticipated Diversion Rate : 8%**  
**Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County**  
**Location of Facility: 9479 Lower Rock Creek Road, Paradise, CA 93514**

**Name of Facility: Pumice Valley Transfer Station (SWIS 26-AA-0017)**  
**Type of facility: Transfer Station**  
**Facility Capacity: 15 tons per day**  
**Anticipated Diversion Rate : 25%**  
**Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County**  
**Location of Facility: 200 Dross Road, Lee Vining, CA 93517**

**Name of Facility: Walker Transfer Station (SWIS 26-AA-0012)**  
**Type of facility: Transfer Station**  
**Facility Capacity: 25 tons per day**  
**Anticipated Diversion Rate : 49%**  
**Participating Jurisdictions: Mono County**  
**Location of Facility: 280 Offal Road, Coleville, CA 96107**

**Nondisposal Facilities Outside Mono County Jurisdiction (at least 5% recovery of total volume)**

**Name of Facility: Mammoth Transfer Station and Recycling Center**  
**Type of Facility: Transfer Station**  
**Estimated Amount of Waste Mono will transport to facility: Negligible.**  
**Location of Facility: Mammoth Lakes**

**Transfer Stations Outside Mono County (less than 5% recovery of total volume)**

**Name of Facility: D&S Waste Transfer Station**

**Location of Facility: Smith Valley, NV**

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<sup>i</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011-2013, with 2010 Census Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2013

<sup>ii</sup> Anticipated Diversion based on 2012 calendar year diversion of total waste received.

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