

**COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**  
of the  
**MONO COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Mono County, California*

**DRAFT**

September 2013



*Prepared by the*

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## **SECTION 1.0**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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The following Countywide Siting Element has been prepared by the Mono County Department of Public Works in accordance with requirements established by Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 7, Chapter 9, Article 6.5. In addition to the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), the Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE), the Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE), and the Summary Plan, this document is one of five parts that comprise the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. The purpose of the Countywide Siting Element is to demonstrate that a minimum of 15 years of permitted disposal capacity is available through existing or planned facilities on a countywide or regional basis. To meet this requirement, this document describes the geographic context of the planning area, defines the goals and objectives of this element, provides an estimate of existing countywide disposal capacity, demonstrates that existing capacity exceeds 15 years, and presents general criteria for future siting of new facilities. This document has been developed with review and input from members of the Local Task Force (LTF) including staff from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the County of Mono, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB).

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## SECTION 2.0

### PROGRAM GOALS AND POLICIES

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The Mono County Local Solid Waste Task Force (LTF) was originally established by the Mono County Board of Supervisors in January 1990 and ratified by the Town of Mammoth Lakes in April 1990, in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 40950 of the California Public Resources Code. Following a period of inactivity, the LTF was re-organized and re-authorized by the Board of Supervisors in November 1999 and the Town of Mammoth Lakes in December 1999. This group was responsible for developing the 2000 CIWMP which has guided the county's solid waste system until the present time. Membership was modified in May 2004 to replace those who had become inactive, and again in 2006 with the emergence of new stakeholders and staff changes within participating agencies.

By 2012, emerging diversion programs and proposed infrastructure, as well as the upcoming closure of the regional Benton Crossing Landfill, caused a need to formally update the CIWMP to reflect the inevitable transitions of the future planning period. In August 2012, in coordination with existing members, a change in membership as well as new bylaws were recommended and by late 2012 were approved by both the Mono County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The 2012 bylaws, as well as a list of current members are provided in Appendix A; copies of the local authorizing actions are also included in Appendix A.

The stated duties of the LTF are as follows:

- Advise jurisdictions responsible for the Source Reduction and Recycling Element, Household Hazardous Waste Element and Non-Disposal Facility Element preparation, and review goals, policies, and procedures for jurisdictions, which, upon implementation, will aid in meeting the solid waste management needs of the county, as well as the mandated source reduction and recycling requirements of [Public Resources Code section 41780](#).
- Assist jurisdictions in the implementation of the SRRE, HHWE, and NDFE.
- Provide technical guidance and information regarding source reduction, waste diversion, and recycling to local jurisdictions during preparation and revision of the SRRE, HHWE and

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NDFE. Such information may be presented to the general public at public hearings and upon request by members of local government and community organizations.

- Identify solid waste management issues of countywide or regional concern.
- Determine the need for solid waste collection and transfer systems, processing facilities, and marketing strategies that can serve more than one local jurisdiction within the region.
- Facilitate the development of multijurisdictional arrangements for the marketing of recyclable materials.
- To the extent possible, facilitate resolution of conflicts and inconsistencies between or among city and county source reduction and recycling elements.
- The task force shall develop goals, policies, and procedures which are consistent with guidelines and regulations adopted by CalRecycle, to guide the development of the siting element of the countywide integrated waste management plan.

### ***2.1 Element Goals***

In accordance with 14 CCR 18755.1, a set of general goals have been developed by the County and LTF to provide guidance for the countywide solid waste program. The goals defined by the LTF for this Countywide Siting Element are as follows:

- Develop and maintain a long-term waste management infrastructure that serves county residents with an efficient, economic, safe, and convenient system for the collection, processing, disposal and/or export of municipal solid waste generated within county boundaries;
- Implement programs and policies identified in this element as a cooperative effort between the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the County of Mono, private industry, and other regional agencies as appropriate. New source reduction, recycling, composting, and special waste programs shall be coordinated or implemented on a multi-jurisdictional basis to the greatest extent feasible in order to ensure the least cost to ratepayers, to

- improve the potential for effective programs, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of programs, efforts, and administration.
- Encourage residents, businesses, organizations, and public agencies to maximize source reduction and minimize waste disposal;
  - Develop convenient opportunities for residents and businesses to recycle waste materials;
  - Encourage residents, businesses, organizations, and public agencies to buy recycled-content products;
  - Maintain opportunities for the safe collection, storage, and shipment of household hazardous wastes for proper re-use, recycling, transformation, treatment, or disposal. Educate residents to prevent the inappropriate disposal of household hazardous wastes, motor oil, and other special wastes and;
  - Ensure that long-term disposal capacity is available, whether in-county or outside the county, for waste that cannot be recycled or composted.
  - Utilize Solid Waste Parcel Fees to fund environmentally appropriate closure and post-closure maintenance of existing landfills, and to invest in recycling infrastructure that increases the convenience and benefits of recycling for all county residents.
  - Identify and implement programs that will provide feedstock to locally marketable recyclable products, and assist private sector development of businesses that recycle and re-use these commodities.

## ***2.2 Countywide Policies***

The following policies and programs are being implemented by the County in an effort to meet the goals stated above. Some of the policies have been fully implemented and are in a state of maintenance at this time. Other programs are concepts that are anticipated to be developed within the planning period of this document.

### Safe Disposal Practices

1. Maintain compliance with state minimum operating standards at all county waste facilities, which includes providing site security and access control, daily compaction and cover of waste, and routine monitoring of landfill gas and ground water at each site.
2. Update the operations plan for each landfill as circumstances change, specifically describing the method of operation, the types of wastes that are accepted and those that are prohibited, the methods to control potential environmental nuisances (e.g., dust, litter, surface drainage), and other elements of site operation as required by Title 27, CCR.
3. Continue to provide County facilities for the safe collection and storage of used motor oil and household hazardous wastes, as well as the proper transformation or disposal of the materials. Maintain a public awareness program to promote the availability of such facilities and the importance of removing these materials from the waste stream.
4. Prepare and implement Final Closure Plans for County landfills as circumstances dictate. Ensure adequate funding for the environmentally appropriate closure and post-closure activities.

#### Minimize Waste Generation

5. Establish “reuse exchange” areas at county waste facilities for the segregation and storage of re-usable goods. These materials may be set aside by incoming public self-haul customers or salvaged from the waste stream by site personnel prior to disposal.

#### Conduct and Promote Recycling

6. Continue to provide collection facilities at County landfills and transfer stations that allow the public to deposit recyclable waste material prior to disposal, including scrap metal, white goods, CRTs, e-waste, car batteries, used automotive tires, used motor oil, glass, tin cans, paper, plastics, and cardboard. Wherever feasible, expand these opportunities to include additional materials such as mixed paper.
7. Establish collection receptacles at County parks and well-traveled community areas that enable tourists and the general public to deposit recyclable beverage containers. Provide for the collection and recycling of the materials..



8. Implement the County Mandatory Commercial Recycling Plan. Pursue grant opportunities and provide other assistance to enhance existing commercial recycling efforts. Assist and encourage the establishment of recyclable collection, storage, and processing systems, such as certified redemption centers or certified waste oil collection centers, by community organizations and businesses. Assist their promotion by including information of such programs in public education materials.
9. Develop and distribute information to raise public awareness regarding the availability of recycling facilities countywide and the importance of recycling waste materials. Program implementation should involve schools, public agencies, local businesses, community groups, and the general public.
10. Continue to stockpile and grind wood waste materials at County waste facilities for re-use by the general public or as alternative daily cover. Provide re-use areas for useable wood waste materials for re-use by the general public, local businesses and public agencies.
11. Continue to utilize equipment and staff to divert clean wood and scrap metal from the waste stream as time and safety permits.
12. Investigate the potential of, and if found to be feasible, develop a sorting line for single-stream recyclables collected within the county facilities to be operated through an inmate work program. Such a program would either produce recyclable materials suitable for baling, or would include a baler and storage for materials.
13. Evaluate the potential for set-aside area requirements for recyclable collection and storage facilities in the design of large-scale developments.
14. Implement a diversion program for construction and demolition aggregate material at County Landfills by stockpiling, and crushing the material for beneficial re-use as alternative daily cover, road base, or classified fill.
15. Develop a Master Recycling Plan for all County facilities, and work with team members to achieve the highest diversion rate feasible from all County-owned facilities including offices, parks, campgrounds and community centers.

16. Consider the requirement of curbside recycling service (“Blue Bag” program) throughout Mono County within future franchise contracts, and/or separate Franchise Agreements pertaining to only recyclable materials.

#### Conduct and Promote Recycled-Content Purchases

17. Continue to promote the purchase of recycled-content goods by implementing the County Recycled Product Procurement Policy.

#### Ensure Long-Term Disposal Capacity

18. Develop engineered design plans for Pumice Valley and Walker Landfills that utilizes disposal capacity within the existing waste footprint.
19. As economics or capacity limits dictate, provide for Long Haul Transfer Infrastructure. Such infrastructure can be provided through public funding, private funding, or a public private partnership, which should be selected in an effort to achieve the least cost to ratepayers. Infrastructure should be located as close to population centers as possible without creating significant environmental impacts.

### ***2.3 Implementation Schedule and Administration***

All of the policies described in the preceding section have been, or are actively in the process of being, implemented by Mono County in its effort to reduce the quantity of waste disposed in its landfills. Some programs are completed and continuously implemented, others occur on a regularly-scheduled basis, some are currently in development or undergoing revision, and yet others are periodic based on public interest, effectiveness, budget, or staff availability. Landfill permit revisions are anticipated to be completed within the next two years. The status or scheduled frequency of the programs are described in Table 1, below. The policy numbers refer to those described in Section 2.2, above.

**TABLE 1**

**Projected Program Implementation Schedule**

Policy No.	Status or Frequency	Completion Date	Policy No.	Status or Frequency	Completion Date
1	Continuous	n/a	10	Continuous	n/a
2	Continuous	n/a	11	Continuous	n/a
3	Continuous	n/a	12	In Progress	Spring 2014
4	Periodic	n/a	13	In Progress	GP Update
5	In progress	Fall 2013	14	In Progress	Fall 2013
6	Continuous	n/a	15	In Progress	Winter 2013
7	Continuous	n/a	16	Continuous	n/a
8	Continuous	n/a	17	Continuous	Summer 2014
9	Continuous	n/a	18	Monitoring	As Necessary

The local agency responsible for administering the program and implementing the above policies established to meet diversion and disposal goals in the unincorporated area is the Mono County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division. When requested, the Local Task Force contributes general guidance, assists with policy-making decisions and the local approval process, and provides review of planning documents prior to final approval. The person responsible for managing the program on a day-to-day basis is the Solid Waste Superintendent for Mono County, who can be reached at:

Mono County Department of Public Works

P. O. Box 457 / 74 N. School Street

Bridgeport, California 93517

phone: (760) 932-5453

fax: (760) 932-5441

#### ***2.4 Solid Waste Program Funding***

The Mono County Board of Supervisors has authorized the establishment of a solid waste enterprise fund through which the countywide program is operated. Revenues generated through parcel fees

and gate fees provide the annual operating budget for the program. Additional money for recycling efforts is pursued through grant programs periodically made available by CalRecycle, the California Department of Conservation, or other sources. It is through these mechanisms that the County implements the policies and programs developed to meet the waste reduction, recycling, and disposal goals.

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## SECTION 3.0

### PLANNING CONTEXT

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The following section establishes the context of the planning area for the Countywide Siting Element through a brief geographic and demographic overview of Mono County and a status summary of the solid waste management system that has been implemented in the county.

#### ***3.1 Geographic Setting***

Primarily rural in nature, Mono County is located in central-eastern California, as indicated in Figure 1 on the following page. 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).

#### ***3.2 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. 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.

## INSERT “FIGURE 1 – LOCATION MAP” HERE

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is the sole incorporated city established in Mono County. The 2010 Census determined the population of the Town of Mammoth Lakes to comprise 8,234 of Mono County’s 14,202 residents. With approximately 57 percent of the county’s residents, and an even greater percentage of the County’s annual visitor totals, the Town of Mammoth Lakes generates the vast majority of waste within the county.

The population distribution throughout the county is presented in Table 2, below. Locations of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and other communities in the county are presented on the preceding Figure 1, Location Map.

<b>TABLE 2<sup>ii</sup></b>		
<b>Population Centers in Mono County</b>		
Community	Population	Comments
Town of Mammoth Lakes	8,234	Ski area; large 2 <sup>nd</sup> residence/high tourist influx
<u>Unincorporated Areas</u>		
Antelope Valley	1,265	Coleville, Topaz, & Walker.
Bridgeport Valley	575	Bridgeport & Twin Lakes.
Lee Vining/Mono City	394	n/a
June Lake	629	Ski area; large 2 <sup>nd</sup> residence
Long Valley/Swall	1,535	Paradise, Sunny Slopes, Swall, Crowley
Tri-Valley	931	Benton, Chalfant, & Hammil Valley.
Total, Unincorporated	5,963	
Total, Countywide	14,202	

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## SECTION 4.0

### EXISTING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL CONDITIONS

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This section addresses the waste disposal conditions that currently exist within the borders of Mono County. A general description of existing waste facilities and waste haulers is included, as well as specific permit conditions currently in-place at each landfill. The requirements of 14 CCR 18755.5 are addressed by the discussions and data presented in this section.

#### ***4.1 Solid Waste and Recycling 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 provide 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 seven Transfer Stations and/or landfills located near population centers. Three of the County's transfer stations now occupy land adjacent to closed landfills that are in a post-closure maintenance period.

Actual disposal of solid waste in Mono County is conducted at only 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. Figure 2 on the following page presents the locations of each facility. **INSERT FIGURE 2**

**HERE**

#### 4.2 Existing Landfill Permit Conditions

This section addresses the current permit status of County landfills, in accordance with the requirements of 14 CCR 18755.5. A discussion of disposal capacity for each landfill is presented in Section 5.0. Table 3 on the following page summarizes pertinent administrative and permitting information for each existing landfill, as specified in Title 14 CCR, section 18755.5(a)(1) & (a)(2).

Mono County has 6 landfills. Three of these sites, Benton, Chalfant, and Bridgeport, were closed in 2007-2009, and are now in the post-closure maintenance period. The three remaining sites are each permitted to receive municipal solid waste for disposal, but the County has not landfilled municipal solid waste at two of those sites, Walker and Pumice, since the early 2000s.

At this time, Walker and Pumice Valley operate in a similar fashion, accepting municipal solid waste, recycling and HHW for transport off-site while accepting C&D in a separate area for quarterly burial and cover.

Benton Crossing Landfill is currently permitted to accept XYZ. The landfill has segregated stockpile areas for the temporary storage of recyclable materials removed from the waste stream. These materials include tires, white goods, scrap metals, lead-acid batteries, waste oil, and wood waste. Waste oil is removed from on-site collection tanks by a certified waste hauler under contract with the County, then hauled off-site for recycling. Additional details on the operation, and preliminary closure plans for each facility, can be found in the respective Joint Technical Documents.

<b>TABLE 3</b>					
<b>Landfill Administration and Permit Information</b>					
Landfill Name	Facility Permit No.	Property Owner	Facility Operator	Operational Status	Permit Date
Benton	26-AA-0006	Mono County	Mono County	Post-Closure	6/17/2013
Benton Crossing	26-AA-0004	LADWP	Mono County	Active	3/8/2013



Bridgeport	26-AA-0002	Mono County	Mono County	Post-Closure	6/17/2013
Chalfant	26-AA-0005	Mono County	Mono County	Post-Closure	6/17/2013
Pumice Valley	26-AA-0003	LADWP	Mono County	Active C&D	7/14/78
Walker	26-AA-0001	Mono County	Mono County	Active C&D	5/22/07

Table 4 below provides a summary of average daily disposal rates and a characterization of wastes that each active landfill is permitted to accept. The average daily disposal rates identified in Table 4 are based on gate receipt data from 2010-2012, and do not necessarily reflect the permitted volumes. Daily rates are calculated based on the number of actual operating days.

The Mono County solid waste program is currently undergoing substantial change, including the upcoming closure of its regional landfill at Benton Crossing, and a potential transition to a model based in part, or wholly upon waste export through long-haul transfer.

<b>TABLE 4</b>				
<b>Current Active Landfill Disposal Characteristics</b>				
Landfill	Avg. Disposal Rate <sup>1</sup>		Operating Days/Yr	Accepted Waste Types
	(cy/day) <sup>2</sup>	(tons/day)		
Benton Crossing	xx	xx	313	MSW (residential/commercial/industrial)
Pumice Valley	xx	xx	104	Inert Construction and Demolition Waste
Walker	xx	xx	104	Inert Construction and Demolition Waste
Totals	168	97.6		

Notes:

- (1) Disposal rate for Jan 1, 2010 through Jan 1, 2012 calculated as an average over number of operating days. The figures for Walker and Pumice reflect only accepted C&D waste.
- (2) An in-place conversion rate of 1,200 lb/cy is used for the Benton Crossing and Pumice Valley landfills (compactor); 800 lb/cy for others (dozer).

Landfill	Max. Daily Disposal <sup>1</sup>		Max. Annual Disposal <sup>1</sup>		1978 Daily and Annual Disposal Rates <sup>2</sup>			
	(cy/day)	(t/day)	(cy/yr)	(ton/yr)	(cy/day)	(t/day) <sup>3</sup>	(cy/yr) <sup>2</sup>	(t/yr) <sup>3</sup>
	Benton Xing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	61.7	15.4	19,256 <sup>2b</sup>
Pumice Valley	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.1	3.5	5,148 <sup>2b</sup>	1,287
Walker	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.5	1.1	1,650 <sup>2a</sup>	412
Totals	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	97.4	24.3	32,310	8,079

Notes:

- (1) Maximum permitted daily and annual disposal rates are not specified on current (1978) permit documents.
- (2) Disposal rates in year of permit issuance are from either: a) 1989 RDSI; or, b) 1985 County Solid Waste Mgmt Plan. Volumes discounted for 20% soil cover. Avg. over 312 days/yr at Benton Xing; 365 days/yr at all others.
- (3) Assumed in-place conversion rate of 500 lb/cy for all sites, given operating practices at that time.