

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIRECTING THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 14-4589  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO DEVELOP A )  
LANDFILL CAPACITY POLICY ) Introduced by Councilor Stacey

WHEREAS, Metro regulates solid waste generated within the Metro region through issuance of non-system licenses and designated facility agreements, pursuant to Metro’s flow control authority codified in Metro Code Chapter 5.05; and

WHEREAS, the capacity of existing permitted landfills available for the disposal of waste from within the Metro region, without expanding existing landfills or constructing new landfills, can serve the needs of the region at current rates of disposal for at least 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Metro is considering a new policy and operational framework for solid waste reduction, management, and disposal through the Solid Waste Roadmap; and

WHEREAS, the policies under consideration in the Solid Waste Roadmap include increased efforts to divert materials from the waste stream, thereby reducing the need to dispose of waste in landfills; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council expects to consider, as part of the Solid Waste Roadmap, a policy that would foreclose the use of new or expanded landfills beyond the current disposal supply available to the region; and

WHEREAS, Riverbend Landfill, located in Yamhill County and owned by Waste Management, Inc., is in the process of seeking expansion of the landfill to increase capacity by approximately 15 years; and

WHEREAS, approximately 29 percent of the putrescible waste collected within the Metro region in 2013 was disposed of at Riverbend Landfill, authorized by non-system licenses issued by Metro; and

WHEREAS, approximately 48 percent of the putrescible waste disposed at Riverbend Landfill in 2013 was generated within the Metro region; and

WHEREAS, Riverbend Landfill could extend the useful life of the landfill and accommodate the disposal needs of Yamhill County communities without the significant cost and impact of landfill expansion if the landfill no longer received waste generated within the Metro region; and

WHEREAS, the potential expansion of Riverbend Landfill has raised numerous concerns about the landfill’s seismic instability, leachate pollution, litter, odor impacts, flooding hazards arising from its location along the floodplain of the South Yamhill River, unlined cells at the base of the landfill, and impacts from trucks hauling waste generated within the Metro region; and

WHEREAS, these concerns have prompted the city of McMinnville, the International Pinot Noir Celebration, and numerous individuals in Yamhill County to oppose the expansion of Riverbend Landfill and to oppose Metro’s issuance of non-system licenses for Riverbend Landfill; and

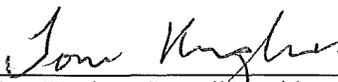
WHEREAS, Waste Management, Inc disputes the basis for these concerns, and is seeking expansion approvals from Yamhill county and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality with the support of many community members; and

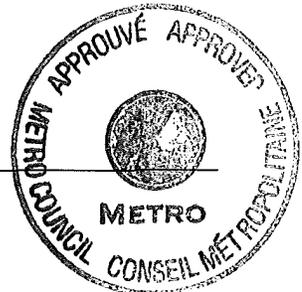
WHEREAS, the Metro Council finds that to conserve limited land and resources in and around the Metro region, and encourage waste reduction rather than accommodate growth in waste disposal capacity, the Council should carefully review renewal of any existing non-system licenses, or any new applications for non-system licenses, that would allow disposal of waste generated within the Metro region at a new landfill , or expanded landfill, permitted or constructed after the date of this resolution; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council:

1. Directs the Chief Operating Officer, beginning in 2015 and completed by June 30, 2016, to proceed, as part of the Solid Waste Roadmap, with the development of a Landfill Capacity Policy to evaluate the disposal capacity of waste at new, existing, or expanded landfills and to recommend changes to the Metro Code to implement the policy.
2. Requires the Chief Operating Officer to evaluate landfill capacity when determining whether a non-system license should be issued.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.

  
Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:

  
Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney