

Section 4.8 **Solid Waste**

4.8 SOLID WASTE

4.8.1 Existing Conditions and Facilities

■ Collection and Disposal

Solid waste services for the City of Chico are provided by North Valley Waste Management and Norcal Waste Systems. Solid waste generated in the city is disposed of at the Neal Road Landfill (operated and owned by Butte County). The landfill is located on Neal Road in unincorporated Butte County, approximately seven miles southeast of Chico. The facility is located on 190 acres, 140 of which are used for solid waste disposal. The Neal Road Landfill has a total permitted capacity of approximately 25 million cubic yards of solid waste and an estimated remaining capacity of 22 million cubic yards of solid waste (2000).¹ The facility has a tentative closure date of 2033.² Under the landfill's existing permit, the facility is allowed to receive up to 1,500 tons per day of refuse.³ It accepted 208,000 tons of waste in 2004.⁴

■ Recycling

Curbside recycling services for the City of Chico and surrounding unincorporated areas are provided by North Valley Waste Management and Norcal Waste Systems of Butte County.⁵ Currently recycling practices include curbside collection of metals, paper, glass, and plastic from single-family and multi-family residences.⁶ These recyclables are taken to the Norcal Waste Systems of Butte County Transfer Station in Oroville⁷ or to a processing facility out of the County.⁸ Greenwaste is hauled to the City of Chico Compost Facility or the Neal Road Landfill. Residents within unincorporated portions of the Planning Area either burn their leaves, recycle them through the curbside yard waste program, take them to the City's compost facility, dispose of them in their regular trash or take them to a landfill. The City of Chico and Butte County both have facilities for composting greenwaste; the City facility is located at the Chico Municipal Airport and the County facility is at the Neal Road Landfill. Both facilities accept greenwaste from the community for a fee without any residency requirement. A curbside yard waste recycling program is offered to the residents and business in the city and surrounding unincorporated areas, and operated by the trash collectors/haulers as part of the franchise or license. The City provides collection of leaves placed in the streets to City residents from mid October to mid January each year, and estimates that between 40,000 to 45,000 cubic yards of leaves are collected each year. Leaves and other collected greenwaste is hauled to the City compost facility. Residents within unincorporated portions of the Planning Area burn their leaves, recycle them through the curbside yard waste program,

1 California Integrated Waste Management Board website, Active Landfills Profile for Neal Road Landfill (04-AA-0002), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/Landfill/LFProfile1.asp?COID=4&FACID=04-AA-0002>, accessed March 8, 2006.

2 California Integrated Waste Management Board website, Active Landfills Profile for Neal Road Landfill (04-AA-0002), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/Landfill/LFProfile1.asp?COID=4&FACID=04-AA-0002>, accessed March 8, 2006.

3 California Integrated Waste Management Board website, Active Landfills Profile for Neal Road Landfill (04-AA-0002), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/Landfill/LFProfile1.asp?COID=4&FACID=04-AA-0002>, accessed March 8, 2006.

4 City of Chico, *Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report*, July 13, 2005, p. 4.10-24.

5 City of Chico website, *Solid Waste and Recycling*, http://www.chico.ca.us/Re-Cycling/Curbside_Recycling.asp, accessed October 26, 2005.

6 City of Chico website, *Curbside Recycling*, http://www.chico.ca.us/Re-Cycling/Curbside_Recycling.asp, accessed November 11, 2005.

7 Norcal Waste Systems of Butte County Inc. website, <http://www.norcalwastesystemsofbuttecounty.com/index.htm>, accessed March 8, 2006.

8 North Valley Waste Management website, <http://www.wm.com/Templates/FAC3198/services.asp>, accessed March 8, 2006.

take them to one of the compost facilities, dispose of them in their regular trash or take them to a landfill. The City estimates that between 40,000 to 45,000 cubic yards of leaves are collected each year. Greenwaste is hauled to the City of Chico Compost Facility or the Neal Road Landfill.⁹ Residents within unincorporated portions of the Planning Area either burn their leaves, recycle them through the curbside yard waste program, take them to the City's compost facility, dispose of them in their regular trash or take them to a landfill.

■ **Household Hazardous Waste**

Hazardous materials, used in many household products (e.g., drain cleaners, waste oil, cleaning fluids, insecticides, and car batteries) are often improperly disposed of as part of normal household trash. These hazardous materials could interact with other chemicals which can create risks to people and can also result in soil and groundwater contamination.¹⁰

The California Department of Health Services (CCR Title 22) and the City define household hazardous waste as any substance that is characteristic of one of the following:

- Ignitability – flammable (e.g., lighter fluid, spot and paint removers)
- Corrosivity – eats away materials and can destroy human and animal tissue by chemical action (e.g., oven and toilet bowl cleaners)
- Reactivity – creates an explosion or produces deadly vapors (e.g. bleach mixed with ammonia-based cleaners)
- Toxicity – capable of producing injury, illness, or damage to human, domestic livestock, or wildlife through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through any body surface (e.g., rat poison, cleaning fluids, pesticides, bleach)

Such products include toxic pesticides, caustic drain openers, ignitable paint thinners and other reactive or explosive materials.¹¹

Through a cooperative agreement between the City of Chico and the County of Butte, all Butte County residents are able to recycle and properly dispose of household hazardous waste at the Butte Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, which is located at the Chico Airport Industrial Park at 1101 Marauder Street. The facility also accepts hazardous waste from small businesses who qualify as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators.¹²

■ **Funding and Fees**

Collection and disposal is funded through monthly service fees paid by users of these services. Funding options support disposal sites, diversion activities, public education programs, hazardous waste collection, and transportation programs, along with other requirements of State and federal laws.¹³ As of Fiscal Year 2004-05, funding for the City's solid waste management services comes from the City's

9 City of Chico website, *Curbside Yardwaste Recycling*, http://www.chico.ca.us/Re-Cycling/Home_Recycling/Curbside_Yard_Waste_Recycling/Curbside_Yard_Waste_Recycling.asp, accessed March 8, 2006.

10 City of Chico, *General Plan MEA*, November 30, 1999, p. 16-6.

11 City of Chico, *Household Hazardous Waste Element*, September 1992.

12 City of Chico, *Household Hazardous Waste*, http://www.chico.ca.us/Re-Cycling/Home_Recycling/Curbside_Yard_Waste_Recycling/Household_Hazardous_Waste.asp, accessed November 11, 2005.

13 City of Chico, *Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), Final Draft*, September 1992, p. IX-2.

General Fund.¹⁴ Other fees are provided by a surcharge on residential collection bills for recycling programs, tipping fees for construction and debris at Neal Road Landfill and the sale of recyclables, waste hauler franchise fees, special programs (recycling and hazardous materials) and grants.¹⁵

Determination 4.8-1

North Valley Waste Management and the Norcal Waste Systems of Butte County provide solid waste and recycling services to the City. Provision of solid waste service has no impact on City funds because solid waste and recycling services are funded residential service fees, tipping fees and waste hauler franchise fees.

4.8.2 Plans and Regulatory Requirements

■ California Integrated Waste Management Board

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is responsible for managing the State's solid waste stream. The CIWMB regulates the State's diversion of waste from landfills by developing waste reduction programs, providing public education and outreach, assisting local governments and businesses, and promoting development of recyclable materials. The CIWMB also protects public health and the environment by encouraging used oil recycling, regulating waste management facilities, and cleaning up abandoned and illegal dump sites.

■ Household Hazardous Waste

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) grants the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and authorized states the authority to regulate hazardous waste management facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste.¹⁶ The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) monitors hazardous waste transfer, storage, treatment and disposal facilities and takes appropriate enforcement action against hazardous waste handlers that violate hazardous waste requirements found through routine inspections, complaint investigations, and focused enforcement initiatives.

■ Assembly Bill 939

California State Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) governs solid waste disposal. AB 939 is designed to increase landfill life and conserve other resources through increasing recycling. AB 939 requires counties to prepared Solid Waste Master Plans to implement the Bill's goals, particularly to divert approximately 50 percent of the solid waste generated by year 2000. The most current calculated diversion rate for the City is 52 percent in 2002.¹⁷ Additionally, AB 939 requires cities and counties to prepare Source Reduction

14 City of Chico, Department of Finance, City Funds Summary webpage, http://www.chico.ca.us/Finance/Budget_Documents/City_Funds.pdf accessed March 14, 2006.

15 City of Chico, *Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), Final Draft*, September 1992, pp.IX-6 - IX-7.

16 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website, *RCRA Corrective Action*, <http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction/>, accessed March 9, 2006.

17 California Integrated Waste Management Board, *Jurisdictional Diversion and Disposal Profile: California Waste Stream Profiles, Jurisdiction Profile for City of Chico*, <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile2.asp?RG=C&RES=0.47&JURID=80&JUR=Chico>, accessed October 26, 2005.

and Recycling Elements (SRRE) of their General Plans. This Element is designed to develop programs to achieve the landfill diversion goals, to stimulate local recycling in manufacturing and the purchase of recycled products.

■ **City of Chico Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Policy Documents**

The City of Chico's General Plan contains guiding and implementing policies related to all aspects of new development including solid waste. Issues addressed include solid waste disposal and recycling. Solid waste disposal policies from this document are presented below:

OS-G-29: Reduce the generation of solid waste, including hazardous waste, and recycle those materials that are used, to slow the filling of local and regional landfills, in accord with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.

OS-I-60: Implement measures specified in the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element and the Household Hazardous Waste Element.

In compliance with requirements set forth in AB 939, the City of Chico has developed a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)¹⁸ and a Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE).¹⁹ In combination, the SRRE and the HHWE comprise the City's Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP).

4.8.3 Anticipated Demand and Planned Improvements

■ **Demand**

The City's SRRE includes solid waste projections according to the Planning Area identified by the General Plan. The City's General Plan anticipates a population of 152,650 residents in Chico's Planning Area by 2020.²⁰ The landfill has anticipated a 2.5%-3.5% annual increase in waste due to anticipated growth in Chico and Butte County. Assuming a resident daily disposal rate of 3 pounds per resident per day,²¹ the solid waste stream is expected to be 83,576 tons per year from the General Plan Planning Area. This represents an increase of approximately 40 percent of the 2004 landfill intake rates (208,000 tons per year). This amount would be reduced by at least 50 percent or more due to current recycling efforts.

■ **Landfill Capacity and Services**

The Neal Road Landfill was expanded in 2002 to accommodate the growing population and increasing solid waste disposal. With a remaining capacity of approximately 22 million cubic yards, the landfill is expected to operate until 2033.²² No further expansions of the landfill are planned. Approximately 3 million gallons per year of septage (contents of septic tanks) is attributable to the Greater Chico Urban area, based on tracking systems used by local septage hauling companies. Septage is delivered to settling ponds at the Neal Road Landfill. These ponds are scheduled to be closed in 2014. A draft Butte County Septage Management Plan (2006) addresses the need for the city and county to participate in

18 City of Chico, *Source Reduction and Recycling Element*, September 1992.

19 City of Chico, *Household Hazardous Waste Element*, June 1992.

20 City of Chico Community Development Department, Planning Division, *Master Environmental Assessment for Chico General Plan*, January 1994, Revised November 1999, p. 2-8.

21 California Integrated Waste Management Board website, *Jurisdiction Profile for City of Chico*, <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile1.asp?RG=C&JURID=80&JUR=Chico>, accessed March 8, 2006.

22 California Integrated Waste Management Board website, *Active Landfills Profile for Neal Road Landfill (04-AA-0002)*, <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/Landfill/LFProfile1.asp?COID=4&FACID=04-AA-0002>, accessed March 8, 2006.

development of a receiving facility and treatment for septage generated in the Greater Chico Urban Area not serviced by the municipal sewer system.

■ Northwest Chico Specific Plan (NCSP)

Waste collection in the Northwest Chico Specific Plan area is not mandatory. Collection of solid waste in the NCSP area is provided by two franchised independent haulers, North Valley Waste Management and Norcal Waste, and an estimated 10 percent of residents in the Chico SOI will haul their own refuse to the landfill. Solid waste is taken to the Neal Road Landfill. Qualified small businesses and residents of Chico and surrounding areas can bring their household hazardous waste to the Butte Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility located near the airport.

The combined waste from the NCSP uses would be approximately 4,268 tons per year. This would represent approximately a 2 percent increase over the amount of waste accepted in 2004. There would be sufficient capacity at the Neal Road Landfill for the waste generated by the proposed NCSP development because the amount of waste falls within the anticipated amount of growth. No additional improvements would be needed at the landfill as a result of the NCSP.²³

When viewed in conjunction with other projects in northwest Chico, the cumulative waste generation in northwest Chico would be approximately 6,448 tons per year. This would represent an increase of 3.1 percent over 2004 landfill intake rates (208,000 tons per year). There would be sufficient capacity at the Neal Road Landfill for the amount of waste generated by proposed cumulative development in northwest Chico because the amount of waste falls within the anticipated amount of growth.²⁴

Determination 4.8-2

The City encourages recycling through their contracted haulers and diverts approximately 50 percent of its waste in accordance with AB 939.

Determination 4.8-3

Remaining capacity in the Neal Road landfill, which serves the City, is 22 million cubic yards. This is adequate to accommodate planned growth in the SOI, recent island annexations, and the Northwest Chico Specific Plan.

■ Funding and Fees

The City of Chico is required by the State to develop, monitor and administer the City's solid waste and recycling programs. The City is also required to administer and implement the Public Education component of the City's Household Hazardous Waste Element. The City's solid waste, recycling, and

23 City of Chico, Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, July 13, 2005, p. 4.10-24.

24 City of Chico, Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, July 13, 2005, p. 4.10-24.

household hazardous materials programs are operated and maintained by the Department of Environmental Services. The City's 2005-06 Annual Budget identifies \$82,244 to operate the solid waste and recycling programs and \$2,028 to operate the household hazardous waste program.²⁵

4.8.4 Summary of Written Determinations

- 4.8-1 *North Valley Waste Management and the Norcal Waste Systems of Butte County provide solid waste and recycling services to the City. Provision of solid waste service has no impact on City funds because solid waste and recycling services are funded residential service fees, tipping fees and waste hauler franchise fees.*
- 4.8-2 *The City encourages recycling through their contracted haulers and diverts approximately 50 percent of its waste in accordance with AB 939.*
- 4.8-3 *Remaining capacity in the Neal Road landfill, which serves the City, is 22 million cubic yards. This is adequate to accommodate planned growth in the SOI, recent island annexations, and the Northwest Chico Specific Plan.*

²⁵ City of Chico, Department of Finance, FY 2005-06 Final Budget website, http://www.chico.ca.us/Finance/Budget_Documents/City_Funds.pdf accessed March 14, 2006.