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The Humboldt Sun

Winnemucca, Nev. Your Source for Community News VOLUME 41, ISSUE 7

WEEKEND EDITION



Engineer, planner present landfill overview

Officials answer questions about design concerns

By Heather Gula
The Humboldt Sun

fill have been circulating throughout town since the community first got wind of the proposal. At one point Nevadans Against Garbage had requested a town hall meeting to answer their questions once and for all. The Humboldt County Commission agreed to the meeting and began scouting experts to help them differentiate the facts and refute inconsistent data. Recology showed interest in using the platform to separate reality from fiction, and city officials voiced excitement about attending while also making it clear that the decision on this project was out of their jurisdiction.

With a community relieved by the prospect of a forum that would allow all the cards to be placed on the same table, things appeared to be on an upswing.



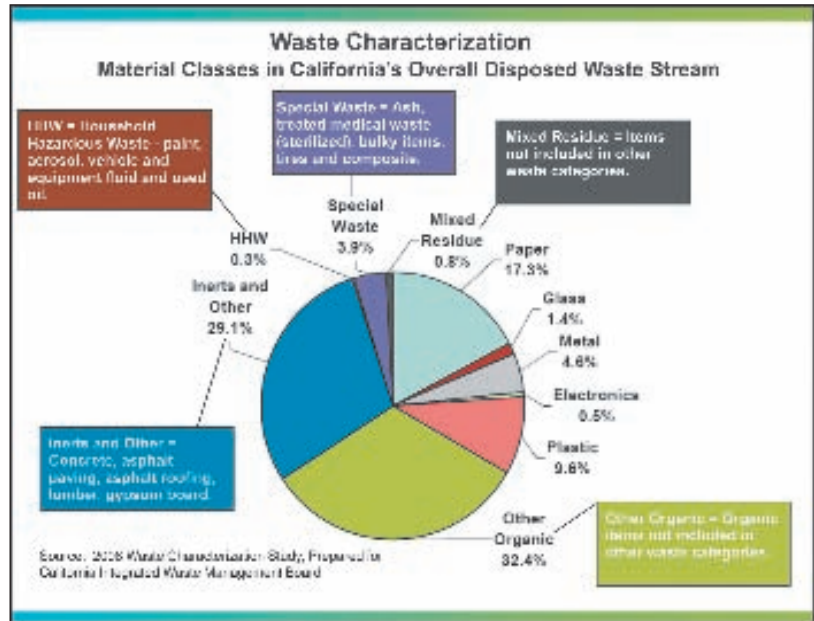
HEATHER GULA • The Humboldt Sun
Front to back, Humboldt Development Authority staffer Bill Sims, Golder Associates Principal Engineer Ken Haskell, Recology Planner Erin Merrill and HDA board member Mike Bell. Merrill and Haskell appeared at the Jan. 12 HDA meeting to present more detailed facts about the proposed Jungo Landfill Project.

COMMUNITY NEWS
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy lived on in Winnemucca Monday as local organizations gathered at the National Guard Armory to celebrate diversity and promote service. The second annual event was sponsored by AmeriCorps.

Pages 9-12

SPORTS
The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association has a new realignment plan for the state's high schools that could go into effect this fall.

Pages 13-16, 20



COURTESY GRAPHIC

This diagram showcases the makeup and concentration of specific items within the waste stream. The diagram outlines a 2008 Waste Characterization study conducted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board — compiled by taking samples from various waste facilities and determining what is contained within that waste.



SENIOR NEWS
Delphine Tinney, former owner of Footsies, retired two years ago. Prior to that, she worked as a hairdresser for 38 years.

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Local Weather

Fri 1/22 40/23
Snow showers possible. Light snow Jan 22-23 and snow in the Jan 23.

Sat 1/23 38/17
Mostly clear and cold. Light snow in the upper 10s and less in the upper teens.

Sun 1/24 37/21
More clouds than sun. High in the upper 30s and snow in the low 20s.

Look for a cold front with rain and snow on Jan 25.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Paradise Valley 4-H Club presented Pete Ferraro, whose house burned down Dec. 28, with a check for the money collected at their benefit Spaghetti Dinner. Left to right, Brett Ferraro, 7, Pete Ferraro, Gus Ferraro, 5, Sarah Smith, 4-H president, Carly Bell, 4-H vice president, Shauna Smith, 4-H member, and Hayley Hall, 4-H historian.

Paradise Valley 4-H Club, community help family who lost house, possessions in fire

By Heather Singer
The Humboldt Sun

Paradise Valley 4-H Club presented Pete Ferraro, whose house burned down Dec. 28, with a check for the money collected at their benefit Spaghetti Dinner. Left to right, Brett Ferraro, 7, Pete Ferraro, Gus Ferraro, 5, Sarah Smith, 4-H president, Carly Bell, 4-H vice president, Shauna Smith, 4-H member, and Hayley Hall, 4-H historian.

The fire was started by a Christmas tree, Pete Ferraro said. The family was outside feeding cows when the fire broke out at 11 a.m.

The 4-H Club held a Spaghetti Dinner Jan. 3 at 4 p.m. at the community hall. The dinner raised \$3,611 that was presented to Pete Ferraro, who said he is grateful for all the help he has received.

"I feel really good about it," said Pete Ferraro, who was at the spaghetti feed, which drew around 100 people. "I am really humbled and the kids are all really appreciative. I think it was great from the 4-H kids."

Pete Ferraro is the father of Gus, 5, Brett, 7, and Amanda, 17, and stepdaughters Jacqueline Hoss, 18, and Heather Hoss, 19.

Mildred Ferraro, of Paradise Valley, who also attended the spaghetti dinner, said she was proud of the 4-H girls for helping.

"I think it was a great thing," she said. "It will come in handy in helping to replace things."

Pete Ferraro said the worst loss in the fire was old family photographs and photos on his

— See FIRE, Page 10 —

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All policies were canceled by Order of the Court as of December 18, 2009. All policyholders are hereby advised to secure replacement coverage immediately.

The Order of Liquidation has not yet established a claim filing deadline. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes, claims can not be filed with the Nevada Insurance Guaranty Association more than 18 months after the date of the order of liquidation or after the final date set by the court or whichever is earlier.

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LANDFILL

(Cont. from Page One)
encompass one section of land and will be comprised of a rail yard and spur, disposal site and ancillary facilities.

Because Recology is at the whim of Union Pacific Railroad, they anticipate the potential of being open 24 hours, but the train loading and unloading will likely take 12 hours to complete.

Sealed containers will arrive onsite, come off of the trains and be loaded onto trucks to be transported to the active face of the landfill, emptied and the truck will return the empty container to the train.

She then explained that three of the more prevalent concerns voiced in prior meetings has been litter control, odor reduction and dust prevention.

"Litter prevention is something that we do take very seriously," she said. "There are several litter prevention techniques that we use."

She listed major abatement efforts as the use of daily cover and compaction, portable and perimeter fences to prevent off-site migration, site attendants to perform litter pick-up and awareness of weather conditions.

Odor is also controlled through use of a minimum of six inches of daily cover consisting of compacted soil or alternatives such as construction debris. Odor is also prevented by utilizing a minimum working face.

These measures, while designed to eliminate odor, also help prevent litter, vector, fires and scavenging.

In past local meetings dust control has been brought up as a concern for local residents. Recology uses many of the tactics above to mitigate fugitive dust — a condition that is strictly prohibited by their permit. Spray trucks would be their primary mitigation tactic. However, sprinklers and treatment through soil additives would be used if necessary.

Merrill then discussed the makeup of the waste that will be accepted at the Jungo Landfill Site.

The primary waste received at the site would be municipal solid waste derived from commercial and residential sources. Construction and demolition debris, waste water treatment sludge, asbestos containing waste and waste tires would also be accepted.

"No hazardous waste would be received at the site," Merrill stated.

She explained that what is classified as special waste would be accepted. Special waste such as ash, treated (sterilized) medical waste, bulky items and tires have specific receiving limitations and record-keeping requirements.

"Also not accepted at the site

would be untreated medical waste, liquid waste, raw sewage, septic tank pumpings and also grease trap waste. So again, the bulk of the materials would be municipal solid waste," she said.

A diagram was provided showing the results of a 2008 Waste Characterization Study prepared for the California Integrated Waste Management Board. This diagram indicated that the majority of the municipal waste product would likely be comprised of 29.1 percent inert material and 32.4 percent organic material.

Asbestos was looked at in this characterization study and was classified special waste, which makes up 3.9 percent of the overall waste stream. Special waste consists of treated (sterilized) medical waste, ash and tires, with asbestos falling into a residual category. According to Merrill that means asbestos makes up less than 0.1 percent of the overall waste stream.

Local resident Phil Jacka asked about the delivery and handling of those materials.

Merrill explained that asbestos-containing materials are regulated and certain procedures must be followed. Further, she told him that the material arrives doubled bagged as is outlined in criteria within the regulation. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection must also be notified and records must be kept of its transport and disposal.

"There are procedures within the regulation that we would need to abide by for receiving asbestos-containing waste," she explained.

Haskell added to that by explaining that the packaging is never opened on site and the asbestos-containing materials are buried immediately upon arrival.

Local resident Paul Bendell asked for explanation of the apparent discrepancy between the 1 to 15 percent asbestos containment that is listed in their NDEP application and the less than 0.1 percent the company claims it will be bringing in.

"What's stated in the application is a range," Merrill said. "We were asked by the NDEP to put a range in our application, which we did. We anticipate, looking at the waste stream of what would be coming out here, actually less than 0.1 percent."

However, Merrill did not dispute the fact that under the current permit the waste could by law contain as much as 14.9 percent asbestos.

Jacka then asked how the company insured that no prohibited materials were included in the household waste they collected.

"There are load-checking procedures on the front end," Merrill said. "So there are ways to identify hazardous waste as it comes

into the waste stream through the collection and through the transfer station before it gets to the actual containers for travel."

Former Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist Jim French asked about the disposal of animal carcasses at the site, to which Merrill replied none would be accepted. She explained that such disposal does require special permit exceptions, which they did not apply for at the Jungo site.

HDA board member Bill Sims inquired about the use of sewage sludge as cover. Merrill explained that the Jungo site will use treated sewage sludge after it has been processed by a wastewater treatment facility.

Perhaps one of the most widespread concerns over the proposed landfill project is the effect on ground water, surface water and nearby Rye Patch Reservoir.

"There is no way for water to flow from our site to Rye Patch Reservoir," Haskell said.

He makes that claim based on the fundamental principal that surface water flows downhill and ground water flows from high hydraulic gradient potentials to low hydraulic gradient potential.

According to Haskell, using USGS maps from 2006 engineers were able to determine that conditions at the site would not allow water from the site to contaminate Rye Patch Reservoir.

Haskell then went on to explain that there are two contaminants that must be controlled in a landfill; leachate and landfill gas.

Leachate is produced as precipitation and snow melt infiltrate the landfill, picking up contaminants primarily consisting of metals like iron and nickel, some salts, chlorides and sulfate along with volatile organic compounds.

"If we don't control it through a containment system, leachate can migrate to ground water and cause ground water degradation," Haskell said. "The other thing that we have to control that is equally important if not more important is landfill gas."

As waste decomposes it gives off natural gas — primarily methane and carbon dioxide. While common perception is that landfill gas poses the largest threat to air quality, the fact is that it can migrate either laterally or downward and without proper control poses a larger threat to ground water.

"What we've learned from some of these old un-lined landfills is you don't see a lot of leachate ground water contamination, what we do see in contamination is landfill gas," Haskell said. "The good news is that landfill gas, if it is properly controlled, can be readily controlled."

He went on to explain that wells are constructed and gases become trapped by a vacuum. They can then dispose of it using a flare or, if enough is generated, dispose of it by generating electricity with it.

From there, Haskell moved on to talk about the design of the proposed project. He discussed cell system, which is designed to prevent leachate from escaping the lined system and allows it to be collected and reused for dust control. He explained that when leachate is re-circulated for dust control purposes it does not leave

the footprint of the liner system so that it is all recaptured.

French asked if there is concern of re-concentrating the leachate and increasing the concentration of contaminants.

Haskell explained that in the semi-arid environment they do not compile enough leachate for re-concentration to be an issue. He cited numerous leachate collection efforts in the nation with data showing no concern of high concentrations due to recirculation.

Bendell followed up by asking if it is common for leachate to be treated before used in dust control.

Haskell stated that to his knowledge that was not a common practice.

"I don't know anybody — again we would not use it outside of the landfill liner system — I don't know of anybody who is treating it," he said.

Another major concern appeared to be the periodic storm events that cause water to pool in the area.

French asked why the project is being planned to withstand only a 25-year water event and was not considering the effect of a 100- to 500-year event. He cited 1983, 1984 and 1994 precipitation anomalies, saying that during those three years there were 18 inches of water standing in the playa.

"'83 and '84 was a 100-year event," he said.

Haskell stated that the design will handle back-to-back 25-year events, which he stated is a fairly significant occurrence.

Further, he explained the engineers are fully aware of the fact that water does pond out there regularly and have mitigation measures to negate that, including perimeter berms that prevent water from flowing into the excavation. In addition, they are raising the railroad by five feet to accommodate deep water pooling.

The conversation continued with members of the public questioning technical aspects of the proposal and representatives of the project explaining the data and engineering principles behind the decisions they had made.

Overall, Gray felt the meeting was just what the community had been calling for.

"There are opposing views to the whole thing and we've heard those opposing views, but there haven't been any studies and research and the kind of stuff that the engineers are doing," he said. "We haven't seen that. A lot of the concerns are 'this may be an issue, that may be an issue,' without any facts or data to back it up. I thought that this was a productive meeting. There was a lot of technical information that was presented that we have been waiting to hear. We had a good variety of people in the crowd and everyone asked really good questions. I just thought it was the type of meeting that the community needs to hear and have in order to understand what is going on."

"The more information that is put out there and the more people are able to participate, the better abilities we have to make decisions and increase acceptance of whatever those decisions are," Gray added.

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