

April 29, 2016

Dear Resident,

Along with thousands of residents in District 10, I too was shocked and surprised to learn of the decision by the City of Milpitas to truck their residential garbage to the Guadalupe Landfill in San José.

I was especially disappointed and dismayed that the City of Milpitas did not extend the courtesy of notifying the City of San José, my office, or the neighbors of Guadalupe Landfill that they had made this decision that could have a negative impact on the quality of life in the immediate neighborhood.

Fortunately, we have some time before the Milpitas garbage disposal operation is scheduled to start in September next year. That gives our community about eighteen months to learn more about how this happened, understand our options, explore alternatives, and look for other solutions to address the concerns of the residents of San José. I have already asked our senior staff in the City of San José to dig into this matter right away to collect the facts and evaluate potential courses of action.

I have scheduled a community meeting to discuss this issue, hear your concerns, and learn more about possible steps we might be able to take. The meeting will be:

7:00PM, Monday, May 16, 2016
Almaden Community Center, 6455 Camden Ave, San José, CA 95120

Here's a summary of what we know at this time.

- *On July 6, 2015, the City of Milpitas released an RFP that separated disposal and collection of their solid waste in anticipation of their current contract for services that is scheduled to expire in September 2017.*
- *Milpitas received two proposals for solid waste disposal in October 2015, one from Waste Management, which owns and operates the Guadalupe Landfill; and the other from GreenWaste Recovery, which owns and operates a facility in North San Jose where all Milpitas garbage would be transferred with disposal in Monterey County.*
- *On March 15, 2016, the Milpitas City Council awarded the new disposal agreement to Waste Management for use of Guadalupe Landfill. This decision was based on the Milpitas City staff evaluation and recommendation. The City of San Jose was not consulted or involved in this decision by Milpitas. The agreement will take effect in September 2017.*
- *The Guadalupe Landfill is permitted to receive up to 3,650 tons per day of material, and it currently accepts about 1,000 tons per day. Guadalupe Landfill has been in operation since the 1930s, and was annexed into the City of San José in the early 1990s. The landfill currently already receives solid waste from several communities including of Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, and parts of San José, and the City of San José has received very few complaints about landfill operations or related traffic over the years.*

- *The amount of solid waste from Milpitas is currently estimated to be about 180-200 tons per day, which would mean an approximately 20% increase from the current level of disposal at Guadalupe Landfill.*
- *Milpitas is currently reviewing proposals for the collection and trucking of their solid waste. Depending on which proposer Milpitas selects, there might be approximately 22-37 truckloads of material would travel to Guadalupe each weekday. Including the trip back, this would mean about 44 to 74 truck trips a day over San Jose streets.*
- *The Guadalupe Solid Waste Facility permit limits the commercial disposal to 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.*

I appreciate your concern about this matter, and I share your frustration about how this has come about without any appropriate community notification or engagement. I encourage you to attend the community meeting on **May 16**, and I hope that we will have more answers about what our residents and the City of San José might be able to do about the Milpitas decision.

Sincerely,



Johnny Khamis
Councilmember, District 10
City of San José