

GP04-T-01a and GP04-T-01b Proposed Text Amendment to the San Jose 2020 General Plan

IV. GOALS AND POLICIES

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Solid Waste Goals:

1. Recover the resource value of solid waste and foster the establishment of facilities in San José which constructively use and reinvest such resources in the local economy.

Solid Waste Policies:

Solid Waste Capacity

1. Monitor the continued availability of long-term disposal capacity to ensure adequate solid waste disposal capacity.
2. No new candidate landfill sites should be designated until the need for additional landfill capacity has been established. Source reduction and recycling/composting alternatives should be taken into account when evaluating the need for a landfill.
3. No new candidate landfill sites should be designated in the General Plan until a Countywide site review has been conducted according to criteria established through the County Solid Waste Management Plan process.
4. The preferred method for increasing the City's landfill capacity is to expand the capacity of existing landfill sites and monitor the continued availability of recycling, resource recovery and composting capacity to ensure adequate long term capacity.

Landfill Siting Criteria

5. Solid waste landfills are considered nonurban uses and, therefore, all candidate solid waste sites should be located outside of the Urban Service Area. The existing Zanker Road and Owens-Corning landfills are exempt from this policy.
6. Preference should be given to inland non-urban sites for future solid waste landfill facilities. The use of bayland sites for landfill facilities should be ultimately phased out, although the continued use of existing bayland sites may be allowed and, for sites located within the City's Urban Service Area and Urban Growth Boundary, recycling, resource recovery and composting may continue on a portion of the site after landfill closure.
7. New solid waste landfills should be established only on lands designated with the Candidate Solid Waste Landfill Site overlay ("CSW"). The Candidate Solid Waste Landfill Site overlay is compatible with the underlying designations of Public/Quasi-Public, Non-Urban Hillside and Private Open Space.

8. New Candidate Solid Waste Landfill Sites should be located at least 1/2 mile from areas with existing or planned residential uses at urban densities.
9. Access routes to solid waste landfill sites in non-urban areas should be designed and controlled so as to avoid encouraging urban development on adjacent or nearby properties.
10. Solid waste landfills should be discouraged in the proximity of existing or planned airports.
11. Landfill sites should be approved through the Planned Development zoning process.
12. Only when solid waste landfills have incorporated adequate mitigation measures should they be located on lands that are susceptible to landslides, faulting, seismically induced ground failure, 100-year flood inundation, salt water inundation, or dam inundation; or which have a high water table, are within a reservoir drainage basin, in wetlands or in areas of granular soils with potential for seismic failure which may result in the introduction of leachate into groundwater aquifers.
13. Solid waste landfills should be designed and operated in a manner that protects surface water and ground water aquifers from contamination by leachate.
14. Solid waste landfills should be designed and operated in such a manner as to minimize their attractiveness to birds, insects and rodents.
15. Additional screening should be provided when topography and naturally occurring vegetation is insufficient to adequately screen a solid waste landfill site or its access road from the view of residences or public roads.
16. The approval of solid waste landfill sites should include planning for their eventual phased restoration to recreational or open space uses, including revegetation with native plant species.
17. Solid waste sites should be planned, located and maintained to mitigate potential negative impacts on surrounding land uses, particularly in residential areas. The effects of increased traffic and traffic hazards, noise and odor problems, pollution and potential littering of traffic routes, including windborne and waterborne litter, should be mitigated.
18. Methane gas may be recovered from a closed solid waste landfill irrespective of the land use designation of the site.
19. Only compatible uses should be located adjacent to an operating landfill or other regional publicly owned facility, such as the Water Pollution Control Plant.

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Alviso Planned Community

Solid Waste Landfill Overlay: This overlay designation is applied to currently operating landfills at Newby Island, Zanker Road, and Owens-Corning. Landfill facilities may be either

public or private enterprises, and may include related or ancillary activities such as recycling, resource recovery, and composting that, for sites located within the City's Urban Service Area and Urban Growth Boundary, may continue on a portion of the site after landfill closure. The underlying designation of Private Open Space is compatible with the Solid Waste Landfill Overlay.

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Solid Waste Landfill Site

The Solid Waste Landfill Site land use designation includes two subcategories:

- a) Solid Waste Landfill Site. This land use designation indicates the location of an active, i.e. currently operating, solid waste facility or a fully permitted facility that has not initiated operations. Existing Solid Waste Landfill Sites are indicated by the letters "SW." Guadalupe Mines, Kirby Canyon, Newby Island, Owens-Corning and Zanker Road are currently designated active sites.
- b) Candidate Solid Waste Landfill Site. This land use designation indicates a location under consideration for development as an active Solid Waste Landfill Site. Candidate sites are indicated by the letters "CSW." All current candidate sites are located in inland canyon locations. These sites include Encinal, Metcalf and Tennant Canyons.

A Solid Waste Landfill Site designation is overlaid on another land use designation and represents a potential alternative to the uses otherwise allowed by the underlying designation. The symbols "SW" and "CSW" represent "floating" designations and are only intended to indicate general locations so that the actual facility will be sited in the most environmentally suitable location. The Solid Waste Landfill Site and Candidate Solid Waste Landfill Site overlays are compatible with the underlying designations of Public/Quasi-Public, Non-Urban Hillside and Private Open Space. The development of Solid Waste Landfill Sites may occur under public or private proprietorship and may include such related or ancillary activities as equipment maintenance. Other uses which may be allowed include the collection and processing of materials to be recycled, composting of waste and energy/transformation operations that, for sites located within the City's Urban Service Area and Urban Growth Boundary, may continue on a portion of the site after landfill closure. The allowed uses pursuant to this designation may be permitted only under Planned Development zoning and should comply with the Solid Waste goals and policies of this Plan. The designation of a Candidate Solid Waste Landfill Site should be applied only in nonurban locations, outside of the Urban Service Area, where no adjacent or nearby properties are devoted to or planned for uses incompatible with the operation of a landfill. Non-urban land use designations on surrounding or nearby properties may be changed only if the proposed Plan amendment incorporates measures to maintain compatibility with the existing or Candidate Solid Waste Landfill facility. The City Council may acquire or approve a specific solid waste landfill site only if surrounding land uses are compatible with the operation of such a site.