

NEWS RELEASE

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For additional information contact Mike Sweeney 468-9710

## Public Hearing Set for March 19 On Transfer Station EIR

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, to receive comment on the draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed solid waste transfer station at 30075 Highway 20, Fort Bragg.

The hearing will be conducted as a meeting of the Fort Bragg City Council, although there will be no action taken and no discussion by the Council. The sole purpose of the hearing is to provide a presentation on the contents of the EIR and to receive any comment from the public or concerned agencies. Members of the County Board of Supervisors also plan to attend, since the transfer station project is a joint venture of the City and County.

The draft EIR was issued on February 9 and is available at City Hall and the Fort Bragg Library, as well as online at [MendoRecycle.org](http://MendoRecycle.org) and [City.FortBragg.com](http://City.FortBragg.com). Comment will be received until March 26.

The proposed transfer station is intended to increase the efficiency and reduce the cost of solid waste disposal in the greater Fort Bragg area. The proposed site is 5 acres of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) at 30075 Highway 20. The EIR states that the transfer station will save 279,271 truck miles per year compared to the current solid waste handling system.

The draft EIR concludes that there would be positive environmental benefits from the project and no significant negative environmental impacts after mitigation measures are implemented.

The draft EIR studies 12 areas of potential impact:

- **Aesthetics.** The EIR concludes that there would be no visual impact from the project since the transfer station would be hidden behind the existing thick forest vegetation at the site.
- **Agricultural and Forest Resources.** The EIR concludes that the clearing of 5 acres at the site wouldn't cause a significant loss of forest resources since the site is a low-quality timber property that was intended for other uses by JDSF. As part of the land acquisition, JDSF will gain valuable timber land through acquisition of an unused portion of Russian Gulch State Park.
- **Air Quality and Odor.** The EIR concludes that any release of odor off the project site can be prevented by (1) conducting all waste transfer inside a fully-enclosed building, (2) rapid movement of solid waste off site, and (3) additional odor control measures if they prove to be necessary.
- **Biological Resources.** The EIR concludes that the project would be located so that only .58 acres of pygmy forest would be removed. There would be a substantial net benefit to pygmy because the County will place a permanent conservation easement on 3.55 acres of pygmy forest on County property near Caspar.
- **Cultural Resources.** The EIR states that no cultural resources have been found on the site.
- **Geology and Soils.** The EIR concludes that geological conditions are suitable for the project but a more detailed geotechnical study should be done to establish requirements for construction.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy.** The EIR concludes that the project would save 140 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year because of the reduction in truck trips.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** The EIR states that no hazardous waste would be accepted at the transfer station except for recyclable motor oil and other household items currently received at the Caspar self-haul facility.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** The EIR states that there are no waterways in or near the project site. All solid waste handling would take place inside the building so there would be no contact with rainwater. Any wash water from inside the facility would be collected in a tank to be hauled off-site. Stormwater runoff from the site would be handled by bioswales and stormwater basins under the regulatory control of the North Coast Water Quality Control Board.
- **Land Use and Planning.** The EIR states that the project is consistent with the Mendocino County General Plan subject to a major use permit that can be granted by the Board of Supervisors.
- **Noise.** The EIR concludes that the transfer station would not produce a noise level higher than the existing noise from Highway 20 traffic.
- **Transportation.** The EIR concludes that the addition of left and right turn lanes on Highway 20 will prevent any negative impact on traffic safety or levels of service.

Following the public comment period, the draft EIR will be supplemented by responses to comments received, to produce a final EIR. This will be considered for certification by the City Council and Board of Supervisors prior to a decision on whether to proceed with the transfer station project. Dates of future meetings haven't yet been set.

The EIR is being prepared by GHD Inc. in Eureka, formerly Winzler & Kelly, part of a multinational firm of engineers and environmental consultants.