

Mayor
Willard Rodarmel
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**Office of the
City Manager**

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Staff Report

**ITEM
NO.**

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To: Lemoore City Council
From: Judy Holwell, Project Manager
Date: April 24, 2012
Subject: Consideration of Letter of Support for Waste Management

Discussion:

Waste Management is seeking approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to allow an expansion of the B-18 hazardous waste landfill at its Kettleman Hills Facility. The expansion is necessary because the Facility is nearing its allowable capacity. A Draft Environmental Impact Review (EIR) was prepared in 2008 and subsequently revised, recirculated, finalized and amended, as shown in Waste Management's website: <http://kettlemanhillslandfill.wm.com/facility-expansion/index.jsp>. The proposed expansion has been faced with many delays and Waste Management is now requesting support from its neighboring communities.

Waste Management has been an integral part of Kings County for over 32 years. It is one of the County's largest employers with approximately 90 employees from Lemoore and the surrounding communities. Information gathered from its website boasts that when operating at its normal capacity, economic benefits to the local economy total \$17.5 million each year through payroll and the purchase of goods and services, while nearly \$3 million goes directly to the County General Fund. Delays in the permitting process have already had an impact on the company, which has resulted in reduced financial benefits to the local economy and the loss of jobs.

It should be noted that the Kettleman Hills Facility has proven to be a safe facility. As shown in the attached Fact Sheet, the facility has undergone rigorous State and Federal analyses to determine any health or environmental risks to Kettleman City or the surrounding communities. The findings indicate that the Facility's risk levels were well below the benchmarks set by the State and Federal agencies.

Waste Management asks that the City of Lemoore show its support by approving the attached draft letter in support of the proposed expansion, as written or amended. A copy of the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's letter in support is attached for your convenience.

Jan Kahn, Attorney with Kahn, Soares and Conway, will be in attendance May 1st and will provide Council with a status update on the Kettleman Hills Facility permitting process. Bob Henry and Bob Morales will be present as well and will gladly answer any questions you may have.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

That Council consider Waste Management's request for support in favor of the proposed expansion of the B-18 hazardous waste landfill at its Kettleman Hills Facility.