



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: (20191121-4b): Landfill Expansion

Whereas, It is the Responsibility of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission to review, evaluate and make recommendations to the City Council and City Staff regarding policies concerning solid waste, recycling, organic management and Zero Waste; and

Whereas, Implementation and/or adherence to City policies must be reflected in the process of planning for future disposal and diversion options within the City of Austin; and

Whereas, The City of Austin has grown dramatically in population and development over the past five years and is expected to continue with this upward trajectory; and

Whereas, the City of Austin is currently expanding Austin Bergstrom International Airport to include a South Terminal and is scheduled to dramatically increase both its commercial airline and private plane Departures and Arrivals beginning in 2020; and

Whereas, in 2017 and 2018, Austin Bergstrom International Airport experienced record breaking enplanements of 13,800,000 and 15,800,000 respectively; and

Whereas, The City of Austin is responsible for protecting the health and safety of all citizens who reside within, and are visitors to, the City of Austin; and

Whereas, the two properties adjacent to the southern boundary of Austin Bergstrom International Airport are both Municipal Solid Waste Landfills of which one, the FM 812 Landfill is owned and managed by the City of Austin and the other one, a Type IV MSW Facility, is managed and owned by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP – a privately held subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas; and

Whereas, the City of Austin Owned and Managed FM 812 Facility, the Texas Regional Landfill Company Type IV Facility and Austin Bergstrom International Airport are all within City of Austin Boundaries and City Jurisdiction; and

Whereas, the City of Austin owned and managed FM 812 Facility is currently going through permanent closure of its Landfill site while the adjacent Facility owned and managed by Texas

Regional Landfill Company, a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas, is seeking an expansion of its Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812; and

Whereas, on May 11, 2005, the City of Austin’s Solid Waste Advisory Commission Passed the FM 812 Landfill Resolution in direct opposition to a similar Site Expansion Request by IESI of Texas, the predecessor to Waste Connections’ Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP; and

Whereas, this proposed expansion of the 9600 FM 812 Type IV Facility by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP, a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas, will significantly raise the elevation of the facility and will greatly add to the amount of Type IV Landfill material being disposed and buried at the site. The results of this proposed expansion could subsequently raise the level of a catastrophic aviation accident in Austin, Travis County, Texas due to increased bird activity; and

Whereas, Landfill usage within close proximity to Airports can prove extremely hazardous to aviation on takeoff and landing approaches given their propensity to attract birds that can present a hazard to air travel; **Now Therefore**,

Be It Resolved That the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin:

Requests that the Austin City Council formally and firmly oppose the future expansion of the Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812 and owned by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP, a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas; and

Be It Further Resolved, The Zero Waste Advisory Commission asks that the Austin City Council pursue a joint interlocal agreement with Travis County Commissioners in submitting formal written opposition to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality opposing the proposed Landfill Expansion of the Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812 and managed by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas.

Be It Further Resolved, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin ask that this Resolution be Recorded in the Meeting Minutes of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Notice of Public Meeting for Municipal Solid Waste Permit Amendment (Proposed Permit No. 1841B) scheduled for November 21, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the VFW Hall Post 8925 Pilot Knob located at 8706 FM 812, Austin, Texas 78719

Date of Approval: November 21, 2019

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 6-0 vote; Commissioners Barona and Barden were absent

Attest:  _____