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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Erin Merrill
Recology Environmental Planning Manager
50 California Street, 24th floor
San Francisco, CA, 94111-9796

Subject:

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Thank you for commenting on the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) initial concerns with the Jungo Landfill Site. It is our hope that we can provide information and make recommendations that help guide this disposal site planning effort. Furthermore, it is our desire to ensure that impacts to wildlife and their habitat are avoided, minimized, and mitigated where appropriate and incorporated into your planning efforts. As a result, NDOW offers the following reply to your response letter with some additional questions and recommendations.

In your response letter on page two it is stated, "The site will be operated in a manner which does not create odors, unsightliness, or other nuisances." What odor monitoring measures are in place to ensure that odors that attract wildlife are not created? It is our understanding that if trains arrive within 24 hours, garbage may remain exposed for weeks creating a wildlife attracting odor. NDOW recommends covering all solid waste bi-weekly regardless of train arrival times to ensure odors that may attract wildlife are minimized which will prevent disease and reduce scavenging.

In your response letter on page two it is stated, "Surface water run-off from active disposal areas will be directed to temporary storm water basins, where it will be pumped to a temporary lined storage impoundment. The water is sampled and if free of waste constituents, will be discharged to the run-on/run-off control basin. If water is impacted, it is retained until it can be used for dust control over lined areas or evaporated." NDOW would like to review the sampled water results to determine if water toxicity presents a hazard to wildlife. If the temporary water storage impoundments are toxic and present a hazardous risk to wildlife, we recommend obtaining a permit at that time. This is stated in NAS 502.390 which declares that "[Any] Person who develops or maintains an artificial or artificially created body of water, other than a body of water maintained for agricultural or recreational purposes, containing chemicals or substances in quantities which, with the normal use of the body of water, causes or will cause the death of any wildlife; must first obtain a permit from the Department authorizing the development or maintenance of the body of water."

Neither in your response letter nor in the Design Report or Plan of Operations did you state what kind of exclusion fence would be used. Please state the kind, type, and fencing specifications within the planning document so NDOW can adequately evaluate fencing effectiveness as some fences are more permeable to wildlife than others. NDOW recommends the following fencing requirements to preclude terrestrial wildlife:

The minimum standard fence shall be 4 feet high composed of woven or mesh wire with not greater than 2 inch mesh on the bottom 2 feet and a maximum of 8 inch mesh on the top. The bottom shall be buried or placed tight to the ground level to prevent animals from securing access under the fence. If cyclone or chain-link fence is to be used then the only conditions to be met are the 4 foot height and tight to the ground. These fences shall be inspected and maintained to preclude wildlife access.

In your response letter and Report of Design you state that re-vegetation measures will be implemented as part of the closure process. Specifically, what species will be re-seeded? What criteria are you using to determine re-seeding success? If your re-seeding efforts fail, will you replace eroded soil material and re-seed the site until re-seeding success criteria are satisfied?

In your response letter on page three you stated, "It is not anticipated that the operational area will be a source of weedy plant species"; however, in our experiences most disturbance activities have resulted in weed increases. Subsequently, NDOW recommends designing a monitoring and treatment plan to reduce the likelihood and impact of weeds on and adjacent to this property.

NDOW is available to discuss any of these comments in further detail and is willing to participate in developing a re-vegetation plan, wildlife deterrent plan, and wildlife exclusion plan. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional assistance as we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mark Freese
Supervisory Habitat Biologist

Cc John Taylor, NDEP