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WEEKEND EDITION



NEWMONT NOTES

The University of Nevada and the Nevada Division of Minerals recently hosted a tour for the top math and science students from Washoe County high schools at Newmont's Twin Creeks Mine.

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IN FOCUS

The 39th annual Father's Day Barbecue, hosted and cooked by the members of the Paradise Valley Fire Department, was held June 21 in Paradise Valley.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is sponsoring an Evening in the Park on Saturday.

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Local Weather

Fri 6/26	83/51	
A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. High 83F.		
Sat 6/27	85/52	
Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.		
Sun 6/28	92/57	
Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s.		

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California company applying for landfill in Humboldt County

NDEP accepting public comment over air quality concerns

By Heather Gula
The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCCA — Humboldt County could be the future home to the state's largest landfill site if a California company currently seeking permits decides to follow through with operations.

In 2007 the Humboldt County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) issued a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Jungo Land and Investment, Inc. (JLII) for development of a 634-acre landfill located 25 miles west of Winnemucca in an area identified as Desert Valley (T 35N, R 33E Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, Section 7).

A Plan of Operations for the project was submitted by JLII — an operating partner of Recology (formerly known as NORCAL Waste Systems) — to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in December 2008.

If put into production, the Jungo Disposal Site will serve as a regional landfill for portions of northern California, including the nine counties that make up the San Francisco Bay Area. Refuse would be delivered to the site primarily by rail at an estimated average annual rate of up to 4,000 tons per day.

The facility will include a rail yard, an administrative trailer, a maintenance shop and a trailer for equipment operators and laborers.

According to Public Relations Official Adam Alberti, there is no immediate plan to open a landfill in Humboldt County, although they are going through the permitting process in anticipation of operating a facility on site.

"There is the potential that it could be used as a landfill site and that is what it has been identified for," Alberti said. "But you have to go back to the way our company perceives and treats these issues, in that our goal is to get away from landfills and to find ways to reemploy those materials."

"NORCAL — now Recology — is really a different kind of company in this industry. It is really a pioneer in many respects. We were the first to introduce composting on a city-wide basis in San Francisco," Alberti continued.

Alberti touts the company as being a 100 percent employee-owned company that hires locally, encourages its owner-employees to become engaged in their communities and acts as a forward-thinking steward to the environment by seeking out ways to reduce the impact of human waste.

"The company really is predicated around the idea of reuse and recycling, not in the way that a traditional company believes that everything goes into a landfill," Alberti explained. "That being said, we are not at zero waste, although our effort is to waste zero."

The JLII Plan of Operation addresses numerous restrictions, including prevention of water degradation, uncontrolled landfill

gas migration and seismic impact zones.

According to the Plan of Operation, Jungo Disposal Site has no surface water located within 1,000 feet of the proposed site and groundwater is at a depth of approximately 58 — 60 feet below the surface in that area. The plan also asserts that construction of surface drainage controls and use of landfill liners will prevent water degradation.

The First Technical Review of the Jungo Disposal Site application issued by NDEP on March 4 outlines that the NDEP will not assume no leakage through the liner and that per NRS 444.560 the location of a Class 1 site must not be within 100 feet of the uppermost aquifer, bringing JLII's claim of a 58- to 60-foot depth into question.

The NDEP also requires that the disposal facility demonstrate that a site within a 100-year floodplain will not restrict the flow of a 100-year event, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the floodplain or result in a washout of solid waste.

According to the Plan of Operation, the area has not been mapped and therefore JLII considers it not to be a flood zone and states that it has not been designated as a floodplain.

The technical review requires that the applicant remove references to sheetflow. This is defined as a storm-water runoff condition where the flow is shallow and relatively uniform, stating that this site is predominantly subject to ponding, an accumulation of water on a flat surface because of inadequate drainage, according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Custom Soil Resource Report for Humboldt County.

The technical review also requires JLII to provide updated and current groundwater elevations and states that it is not clear how run-on and run-off will be managed.

According to the Plan of Operation, a review of the existing site topography indicates that there are no major drainages or washes that cross the site. It states that the site will be designed to drain rainwater away from the active cell after a rainfall event so that standing water will not be allowed to pool on the site. The surrounding mountains, especially the Eugene Range, most likely have drainages running from the down slopes, but the Jungo Disposal Site lies in a flatland area and has no such down slopes. Therefore the Plan of Operation claims that the site is located within a desert basin where water precipitation temporarily collects in shallow depressions until it evaporates or infiltrates into the underlying soils.

In addition to the issues related directly to water flow, the technical review comments outline NDEP's primary concern as being unstable areas pursuant to NRS 444.560. The NDEP cites suspect soils and seismic impact zones as presenting problematic site conditions.

Another comment made as part of the review requires the company to address soil loss due to wind in accordance with NRCS's Custom Soil Resource Report for Humboldt County.

According to a legal notice printed in the June 2 — 4 edition of the Humboldt Sun, on the basis of preliminary review the

NDEP administrator is announcing his intent to issue a Class 1 air quality operating permit to construct the facility.

This notice pertains only to air quality and does not provide the necessary waste and water permits.

The notice claims the emissions from the facility after five years of operation will be 0.00456 tons per year of volatile organic compounds, 9.7 tons per year of hazardous air pollutants and 48.44 tons per year of non-methane organic compounds, meaning the NDEP determines adverse ambient air quality impacts are not expected.

"All those emission levels meet the requirements of the Class 1 permit that they are applying for," NDEP Public Information Officer Jill LuFrano said. "They do meet what typical Class 1 emitters reach, so they are not asking for any special requirements on that. They are well within limits."

A copy of the proposed operating permit is available for public inspection at the Humboldt County Library and the public comment period is currently underway.

Persons wishing to comment or request a hearing should submit comments and requests in writing to Jonathan McRae, P.E., Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Air Pollution Control, 901 S. Stewart St. Suite 4001, Carson City, NV 89701-5249 or by fax to (775) 687-6396.

Information on the project can also be obtained at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwm/jungo.htm>. Comments and requests will be accepted until July 6 and will be retained and considered prior to final action. The administrator may schedule a public hearing on the application and proposed action upon a valid written request submitted prior to the end of the comment period.

Phil Jacka, a Grass Valley Advisory Board member and resident in opposition to the development, is actively encouraging local officials and residents to make public comment.

"This is not a done deal; the EPA makes their decision July 6. We need to contact them and tell them how we feel," Jacka told Pershing County Commissioners during their June 17 meeting.

Jacka objects to numerous issues with the location of this site, as well as with the idea of an out-of-state waste site in Humboldt County. By principle alone he is opposed to importing — or for that matter exporting — any waste material from one state to another. However, according to LuFrano, the origin of the waste is not a consideration when issuing NDEP permits.

"It is considered interstate commerce and because of that we have no say over where that waste originates," LuFrano said. "The county has the jurisdiction to issue a special-use permit for the land designation."

Such a permit was approved by the Humboldt County Regional Planning Commission in 2007.

Another point of concern for Jacka is that the area is subject to extremely high winds, making refuse containment an issue that he feels is not sufficiently addressed by the permit. In a Guest Commentary published on Page Three of this edition of the Sun, he also claims that the legal notice issued gives no considera-

tion to the contamination of water that accumulates in the area due to spring snowmelt and flooding, which eventually runs into the Humboldt River and Rye Patch Dam.

The NDEP later offered clarification that the current public comment period is open only to address issues of the Air Quality Permit Application and that the NDEP's Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) anticipates making public notice for the Solid Waste Disposal Permit Application sometime in early 2010. Further, the NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC) has not received a permit application or any plans for the Jungo project that addresses water quality issues.

Regardless, Jacka claims that when he was on site with the KRNVTV Channel 4 news crew out of Reno earlier this month there was between two and four feet of water covering the site, leading him to believe that water quality will be an issue. He fears that the run off from rain and snow melt would make its way into the Humboldt River system, contaminating waterways and farmlands fed by irrigation systems.

In the Guest Commentary published on Page Three of this edition of the Sun, Jacka states:

"If this landfill is allowed to go through, it will contaminate this whole area south of Jungo to the Humboldt River, through the dam downstream, through Lovelock, the ranches and, depending on the snow and rain amounts each year, it could go to Fernley and Fallon like it used to."

According to Humboldt County Administrator Bill Deist, the CUP is contingent on the company addressing all environmental requirements as outlined by NDEP.

"The conditions on that use permit were that the applicant shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and licenses and providing copies of the same to the planning department within 30 days of receipt or a letter from the appropriate state and/or federal agencies saying that no permit is required," Deist explained.

LuFrano indicated that such an arrangement is common practice, allowing the county to issue a permit regulating the use of its land and allowing the state to issue permits based on the stringent nature of the environmental guidelines.

"It is a fairly intensive and complicated, thorough, permitting process. But as far as this application, if the operators meet all state standards we would then be required to issue the permit," she said.

Alberti added that the company's environmentally conscious approach to waste management would add significantly to the level of environmental protection Humboldt County will receive.

"The protections that the company would put in would be first rate," Alberti said. "It would be very high levels of operation that would eliminate any health and

safety risk to the community. That being said, it is a landfill, it is not going to be a tourist site. However, there would be very significant protections put in place to ensure the quality of water is preserved, to ensure that the air quality is preserved and to ensure that the operations have no impact on the environment off of the site itself."

Deist has asked that a presentation be given at the July 20 commission meeting regarding the progress of the project to this point. However, that date is not secured at this time.

Prior to awarding the CUP the RPC had been discussing the possibility of a commercial landfill operation in the county for quite some time, and according to Deist they chose to provide JLII with the CUP because they were prepared to start permitting right away.

"This isn't the first company we have talked to about a commercial landfill," Deist said. "They were ready to move, they were ready to get going. We have been talking to them for some time, and to date they have complied with everything we have asked them to."

According to Deist, a commercial landfill has the potential to provide Humboldt County with a sizable financial influx due to the host agreement that the RPC has entered into. Depending on the volume of refuse and the fee structure that JLII employs, their contribution to the county could be quite substantial, according to Deist.

Additionally, the company's commitment to local partnerships provides more than an economic benefit, according to Alberti.

"I think the primary benefit to the local community would probably be that of an economic development point of view," he said. "NORCAL will be a good partner to the community, and you can count on our participation in matters that are important to you locally. On the flip side, there would virtually be no impacts to the community. The impact will be virtually non-existent and the benefits will be that you have a new partner in your community committed to environmentally sensitive operations, employee-owned operations, and we approach these communities with the intent of not just doing business there but with the intent of becoming part of the fabric and the support network that a community has."

Deist said that considering the comprehensive evaluation process of the NDEP, he has little concern over the environmental impact that the site will have on the county.

"I can't speak for the commission, but I have not heard them voice any concerns," he said. "And I personally don't know how if there is a liner and everything under there that you are going to get anything adverse going to the river or to Rye Patch because it contains it, that's the purpose of a liner. It is just like the liner under the leach pad at a mine."

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