

One step closer Solid waste plan wins 2/3 support

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

Oakland County has moved a step closer to implementing a \$150-million solid waste plan.

"With the unanimous vote of the Sylvan Lake City Council, we have achieved victory in a long campaign to gain approval from two-thirds of Oakland County's communities for the solid waste master plan," County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said at a press conference last week.

State law requires backing from two-thirds of the county's 81 municipalities before the project can begin. Sylvan Lake was the 41st Oakland County community to endorse the countywide plan, which was approved by the Board of Commissioners last August.

SIXTY-SEVEN percent of the communities — representing 80 percent of the county's population — have backed the plan. These include the cities of Southfield, Lathrup Village, Troy, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington and Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township.

Shortly after the press conference, the Board of Commissioners' Planning and Building Committee unanimously approved paying \$455,878 in consulting fees to the Detroit engineering firm of Camp, Dresser and McKee. The expenditure is in addition to \$550,000 already paid to the firm.

Commissioner Alexander C. Perinoff, D-Southfield, expressed his satisfaction that the county can now move ahead with plans for solid waste management.

"THIS HAS been my baby for 12 years," said Perinoff, the board's rep-



Daniel T. Murphy foresees "zero threat" to water supplies

representative to the Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Committee.

"Long ago, I realized that landfills had become an anathema to the public. We had to devise some way of disposing of garbage in a fashion that would diminish landfills."

Perinoff said the county's staff "did a hell of a job in keeping everybody posted on the details of the project."

County staffers reviewed the master plan last week in a slide presentation before the committee to "placate new commissioners," Perinoff said.

FRESHMAN Commissioner Richard D. Kuhn Jr., R-Independence Township,

said he was concerned local truckers may lose their jobs if the county administers the solid waste disposal project.

But county staffers told Kuhn that local units of government would determine how the trash would be picked up once the plan is implemented.

Under the plan — designed to take care of the county's solid waste disposal needs for at least 20 years — a 1,000-ton-per-day "energy recovery plant" would be built at the Oakland County Service Center. Two additional plants would be constructed at the Ford Motor Co. Wixom Plant and Parke-Davis Corp. in Rochester.

The new facilities would burn up more solid waste, eliminating much of the dumping at landfills.

"IN OAKLAND County, there's eight million pounds of solid waste a day — enough to fill the Pontiac Silverdome to the roof once a month," said Michael T. Niemann, director of the county's public information office.

"Presently, 88 percent of that material goes to landfills, while only 12 percent is burned at the Southeast Oakland County Incinerator Authority in Royal Oak."

"Our goal is to change that ratio — to 56 percent combustion and 44 percent landfill," Niemann said.

"The proposed energy recovery facilities would burn trash under boilers, creating steam. The steam would be used to drive turbines which make electricity and to heat and cool buildings."

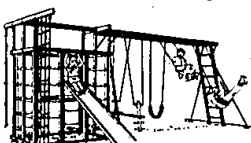
THE COUNTY hopes to work out arrangements for selling the steam and electricity generated from the plants to the two companies — Ford and Parke-Davis, Niemann said.

In addition to the plants, some nine sanitary landfills would be used as dump sites. Besides the three already in use in Pontiac, Avon Township and Rose Township, six more would be constructed in Lyon, Groveland, Waterford and Orion townships and Holly, Niemann said.

All the landfills would be owned by private companies. Several large firms are expected to bid on building and operating the "energy recovery plants."

The county, meanwhile, will negotiate with local communities to sign contracts for rubbish collection and oversee the project.

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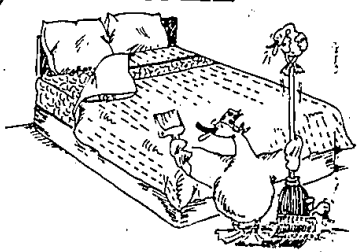
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