

Hills' neighbors in running for recycling facility

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Southfield and Novi — neighboring communities to Farmington Hills on the east and west — are strong contenders for a materials recycling facility for Southwest Oakland County.

The facility would be owned and operated by the seven-community Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills are members of the authority.

The facility would be a warehouse from which the collection, sorting and distribution of trash from the member communities would take place.

Southfield city administrator and

recycling authority board member Robert Block would not discuss specifics until options are taken to buy the land.

"Until we get the sites tied up it's not subject to public scrutiny," Block said. "... Until we make the decision, to alarm people is premature and unnecessary."

PUBLIC HEARINGS would be held at the local level, Block said. Nothing would be sneaked "through the back door," he said.

After a site is picked by the seven-member authority and approved locally and by Oakland County, the authority would buy it.

The proposed facility would not be an environmental threat to wherever it is built, Block said.

"The way we intend it, this thing

would take on the appearance of a light industrial facility. It would be all enclosed and not be objectionable. There would be no burning or landfilling."

Agreeing was Lenora Jadun, secretary for the recycling authority and Novi public services director.

"Wherever it's developed, it will be a benefit," Jadun said. "It will be a state-of-the-art facility. The waste won't stay there."

THE Telegraph-Eight Mile area site is a candidate, said Jadun and Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager and board member for the authority.

The facility would be the major part of a \$27 million solid waste management program for 210,000 people in the seven communities

that comprise the recycling authority — Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

Determining factors include size, whether it has wetlands or woodlands, accessibility to garbage haulers, distance from the Oakland County incinerator in Auburn Hills and cost, Jadun said.

THE POSSIBLE sites, ranging from 20-30 acres, include: at Grand River-Wixom Road in Novi; on Haggerty, a quarter mile north of Grand River in Novi; on Telegraph, approximately a quarter mile north of Eight Mile in Southfield; and on Wixom Road north of I-96 in Wixom.

"These are the desirable sites, but that doesn't mean we can acquire any of them," Deadman said. "Some of those we don't even know if they are available."

The sites were identified Dec. 7 in line with state-mandated deadlines for a county solid waste management program, Jadun said. A final choice must be made within 90 days.

THE SELECTED location would have to be approved by two-thirds of the 62 municipalities in Oakland County and the county board of commissioners.

It must be consistent with an overall county waste management scheme, Block said.

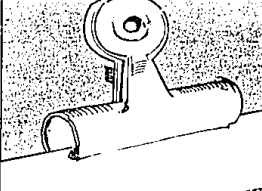
The site also would require local approval for zoning and site plans and be subject to public hearings.

OAKLAND COUNTY has just five years of landfill space remaining, Block said.

It is becoming too expensive for municipalities to continue having their trash disposed the "old way," picking up garbage bags at the curb and burying them in landfills, Block said.

The cost to do that has increased during the past five years from \$1 to \$9 a yard.

"The future doesn't exist for the old way" of rubbish disposal, Block said.



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