

# Neighbors protest proposed recycling center

By Casey Hans  
Staff writer

A group representing some 2,000 Novi residents opposed to the proposed site for a centralized recycling facility protested quietly Wednesday at a multi-city solid waste meeting in Southfield.

Buttons were worn, and signs showing their opposition were held high at the end of the meeting. In a show of solidarity against the proposed facility on the Novi/Farmington Hills border.

"We're not against recycling at all. That's not the problem," said Old Orchard resident Esther Miller, a spokeswoman for the Say No to Hag-

gerty Road Committee. "We have been recycling for many years. We are totally and unanimously against the Haggerty site."

A seven-city municipal authority is proposing the materials recovery facility and transfer station for a 31-acre site in Novi on Haggerty between I-96 and Grand River, across from the Pace Warehouse on the Novi-Farmington Hills border. The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, or RRRASOC, holds an option on the Haggerty Road site which is zoned for light industrial use. RRRASOC is comprised of the cities of Southfield, Novi, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Wixom, Walled-

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Lake and South Lyon. Lyon Township may also soon join the authority.

As a transfer station, the facility would also sort all solid waste mate-

rials from all seven communities for processing either to an incinerator or for recycling. Recyclables could be packaged for easier disposal and would be operated by a private com-

pany, said Lenora Jadun, executive director for RRRASOC. Residents in several subdivisions near the site have organized their opposition in recent months. They believe already heavy traffic on Haggerty Road would be multiplied and cause more congestion and noise. One resident said there was also a safety concern, with large trucks traveling in the area.

The Say No To Haggerty Road Committee has requested RRRASOC appoint a blue ribbon committee of

business leaders and residents to study alternative sites.

The city of Novi has yet to consider plans for the proposed facility. Hearings will be held before that city's planning commission and city council before such a facility is approved.

RRRASOC chairman Robert Deadman, city manager of Farmington, said he would be willing to work with a small committee representing the citizens' group to discuss the authority's plans further.

## Waste plans carry on despite county delay

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will be approved.

● Approve Oakland County's Solid Waste Plan under Act 841. Each county is required to come up with a 20-year solid waste "master plan," which must be approved by a two-thirds majority of communities.

● Begin a utility billing to all system users in 1991. It would be handled as any other utility, similar to a city's water and sewer billing.

The seven cities in the authority represent communities which produce nearly half of all the garbage produced in Oakland County. They have all faced steep cost increases over the past three years, said


RRRASOC executive director Lenora Jadun. For example, cities paid \$1.80 per ton for garbage in 1978. Today, they are paying \$38.00 per ton.

By encouraging re-use of items, and recycling where possible, city officials believe they can keep costs down.

"It used to be two facts of life were death and taxes," said Southfield city administrator Robert Block. "We've just added a third — death, taxes and what to do with garbage."

"It's dirty, it's become increasingly expensive and it's not an easy issue to deal with any longer."

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