



Pierce County Council

930 Tacoma Ave S, Rm 1046
Tacoma, WA 98402-2176
(253) 798-7777
FAX (253) 798-7509
Toll-Free (800) 992-2456
www.piercecountywa.org/council

Committee Amendment No. 11
Proposed Ordinance No. 2009 - 71
Orange

September 16, 2009

To: **Community Development Committee**
Shawn Bunney, Vice Chair
Roger Bush, Council Member
Timothy M. Farrell, Member
Barbara Gelman, Member

From: Terry Lee, Council District 7

Hearing Date: **September 21, 2009**

Attachments: **NA**

Subject: **Proposed Amendments to Proposal 2009 - 71, Exhibit A (T-4) and Exhibit E, concerning the Solid Waste Management Plan**

The following amendment to Exhibit A to proposed Ordinance 2009 - 71 would replace Chapter 19.80.080 with a condensed version that provides a summary of the adopted Solid Waste Management Plan. The amendment to Exhibit E is a technical amendment citing the adopted Solid Waste Management Plan in Title 19D.

1. On page 1 of Exhibit A, starting on line 9, strike the entire Section and replace with the following new Section:

19.80.080 Solid Waste Management.

A. Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan (Pierce County Code Chapter 8.28 and Pierce County Code Chapter 19D.90), as amended, provides for, and supports, efforts to increase recycling and diversion of waste to preserve and assure disposal capacity, reduce emissions, and prevent pollution.

B. Regulatory Environment.

1. Overview. In Washington, local governments manage and handle waste according to state laws – some of which are authorities delegated from the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Important authorities are detailed in Chapter 70.95 RCW (Solid Waste Management--Reduction and Recycling Act), Chapter 173-350 WAC (Solid Waste Handling Standards), and Chapter 173-351 WAC (Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills).
2. Planning. Chapter 70.95 RCW requires counties, in coordination with their cities and towns, to adopt comprehensive solid waste plans for the management, handling, and disposal of solid waste, and to keep those plans in a “current” status through periodic

review and update. The Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan, as amended, complies with this requirement.

3. Permitting. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) administers solid waste handling permit processes established pursuant to Chapter 70.95 RCW.
4. Collection. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission grants certificates (franchises) authorizing solid waste collection and residential recycling in unincorporated areas and for cities that choose not to provide service through contract or operation of a municipal utility. Commercial recycling is subject to regulation under more generic transportation and registration laws.

C. Location, Capacity, and Capacity Needs.

1. Population and Waste Generation. The Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan has established an aggressive waste reduction and recycling strategy to dramatically decrease *per capita* waste disposal needs from 4.5 pounds per day (2007) to 1.09 pounds per day (2032).
2. County Disposal System – Landfill. The LRI Landfill, a designated Essential Public Facility, located at the intersection of 304th Street and Meridian in south Pierce County, opened on December 13, 1999. At full build-out to the extent currently permitted, the 328-acre site will have sufficient capacity to provide for disposal of waste generated in Pierce County for more than 20 years. Aggressive waste reduction and recycling programs, coupled with authorization for the County and its contractor to divert wastes to disposal at an out-of-county landfill will preserve and assure local capacity.
3. Transfer Stations and Drop Box Facilities. The County owns one transfer station and three residential waste drop box facilities which are operated by a private contractor. The private sector owns and operates three additional transfer stations. All have untapped capacity that can be utilized by adding containers, expanding hours and days of operation, and transferring waste more frequently to the landfill or railhead. Aggressive waste reduction and recycling programs can also be tapped to “add” capacity.
4. Yard Waste Composting Facilities. Pierce County and its solid waste contractor each own one yard waste composting facility. With annual demand for more composting services exceeding 75,000 tons per year, both facilities have reached capacity. As a result, the County’s contractor purchased an existing compost facility in Thurston County to help meet demand. If the County relies solely on traditional composting for the handling of foodwaste and other similar wastes, new programs could be implemented only after development of new facilities or permanent decisions to ship to facilities outside Pierce County. Other processing technologies (designated as “Conversion Technologies” in the Solid Waste Plan) may be able to increase the efficiency (and throughput) of composting processes or, as stand-alone facilities, may be able to convert organic waste to electricity or to alternative fuels, such as bio-diesel, ethanol, or compressed or liquefied natural gas.
5. Tacoma Disposal System. Tacoma has a transfer station, a recycling center, the EnviroHouse education center, and a household hazardous waste facility located on a 190-acre landfill site within the city limits on the 3700 block of South Mullen Street. The landfill has approximately one-year of capacity left but that capacity is reserved for back-up emergency needs. Tacoma contracts with LRI for disposal at the LRI Landfill.
6. Fort Lewis and McChord AFB. Solid wastes generated on the two military reservations are taken to the Fort` Lewis Recycling Center and Transfer Station and then disposed, as of 2009 through a contract with the LRI Landfill. There are no capacity concerns.

2. On page 1 of Exhibit E, starting on line 21, insert the revised Chapter to show as follows:

T-4 Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Chapter 19D.90

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(2008-57s2, 2008; Ord. 2000-47s § 4, 2000; Ord. 96-111 §§ 2, 8 (part), 1996)

Code Revisor's Note: The Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan, codified as Pierce County Code Chapter 8.28, was originally adopted by Ordinance No. 87-196 in August 1989 pursuant to the requirement of Chapter 70.95 RCW. The Plan was subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 92-130 in December 1992 and Ordinance No. 95-68 in August 1995. The 1989 Plan, as amended, was replaced by the Year 2000 Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan, adopted by Ordinance No. 2000-47s in December 2000. The year 2000 plan was amended by the 2008 Supplement, Ordinance 2008-57s2, in November 2008.

The most recent version of the Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan shall be available for inspection and copying at the offices of the Solid Waste Division of the Pierce County Department of Public Works & Utilities during normal business hours or shall be available for purchase for the cost of printing or as determined by the Pierce County Executive.