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## Los Alamos County Where Discoveries are Made!

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### Solid Waste Transfer Station/Landfill Closure

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Below are the answers to frequently asked questions:

#### **Why are we closing the county landfill?**

The landfill was built prior to solid waste regulations and the New Mexico Environment Department has directed that it be closed.

#### **When is the landfill closing?**

The landfill will close when the replacement facilities are completed. We now expect to operate the landfill through June 2008.

#### **Are we building a new landfill?**

No. A solid waste management planning process revealed that it would be very costly to build a landfill and that it would be more economical to replace the landfill with a transfer station. Since a transfer station will provide the same services at a better price, stakeholders, the Solid Waste Management Board and the County Council approved building a transfer station. The transfer station is scheduled to be completed in approximately June 2008.

#### **What is a transfer station?**

It is a facility where solid waste is collected and sorted for recycling and disposal. Materials are consolidated into larger loads for hauling to a landfill or recycling markets. For details about the proposed facility, see the layout document attached to this web page. All of the services that are available to residents and businesses at the existing landfill will be available at the transfer station.

#### **Where will the transfer station be built?**

Consensus was developed that the best site for the new transfer station would be at the existing landfill.

#### **Where will our trash go?**

Through a procurement process, a contract will be established with one of the landfills in the region for disposal. Some regional landfills include the Rio Rancho Landfill, Sandoval County Landfill and the Torrance County/ Bernalillo County Landfill.

#### **Has the community been consulted?**

Yes. A public involvement and information campaign was kicked-off in February 2004 and has included four stakeholder group meetings, presentations and discussions with local community groups, utility bill inserts, Solid Waste Management Board meetings and articles and advertisements in the Monitor.

#### **What will it cost residents?**

The County has worked to minimize the cost of the new facilities. A transfer station is the most cost effective option; however, increased fees were required to pay for the new transfer station and for closing the landfill. New fees went into effect on March 1, 2006. It is estimated that the increased cost to residents will average about \$40.00 more per household each year.

#### **For more info:**

Download the PDF files below - the first two files show the site plan and rendering of the new transfer station, and the third file contains background information discussed in meeting with the County Council in December 2005.

#### **For more info:**

Download the PDF files below - the first file will show you more info about the new transfer station, and the second file contains more background information discussed in meeting with the County Council in

December 2005.

**Contact:** Regina Wheeler, (505) 662-8050

- [Transfer Station Site Layout](#) shows the location of the new transfer station
- [Transfer Station Rendering](#)
- [Council Meeting Staff Report April 26-05](#) provides more details on the transfer station
- [Stakeholder Meeting #1 Notes](#)
- [Stakeholder Meeting #2 Notes](#)
- [Stakeholder Meeting #3 Notes](#)
- [Stakeholder Meeting #4 Notes](#)
- [Solid Waste Management Plan](#)
- [Transfer Station and Plan Information](#)
- [What is a Transfer Station](#)
- [Agenda Doc SWMP and Facility](#)

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Contact the Webmaster