



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**San Joaquin County to Reopen Lovelace Road and North County  
Landfills and Household Hazardous Waste Facility to General Public  
Facilities to reopen on May 13 with rigorous public safety measures in place**

(STOCKTON) The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution today allowing the Department of Public Works to reopen to the public the Lovelace Road Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station; North County Recycle Center and Landfill; and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility on **Wednesday, May 13, 2020**. These facilities were temporarily closed to the public since March 21 in response to a COVID-19 “Stay at Home” order issued by San Joaquin County on March 20, 2020 and to ensure that the Department had sufficient healthy essential staff to process the County’s garbage throughout the health emergency.

Kris Balaji, Director of San Joaquin County Department of Public Works, reported to the Board that the County-owned Foothill Landfill has remained available to all customers, as well as the privately-owned Tracy Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station. He said both facilities were able to accommodate customers with minimal wait times with the exception of the past week where they experienced a significant increase in self-haul activity. Balaji noted, “As we continue to witness revisions to the Health Orders relaxing the restrictions related to COVID-19, County staff has been working on strategies to reopen the self-haul service in a manner that would continue to maintain the safety of employees and customers.”

For the past several weeks, Public Works staff has been working with the County Public Health Officer to develop and implement safety measures for reopening all facilities to the public which include:

- Customers will be strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings while on the facility.
- Staff and customers will adhere to social distancing and other aspects of applicable Health Orders.
- Daily staff health/symptom check. Employee schedules and work environment will be modified to maintain social distancing.
- Only electronic payment will be accepted. Protective cashier screens are being installed.
- Customers at North County will unload at landfill face. Increased stall spacing included at Lovelace.
- Customers at Household Hazardous Waste facility remain in vehicles while staff processes waste.

“While the reopening of these facilities is great news, we want to remind County residents to be patient as the new physical distancing measures will decrease the number of customers each facility can handle per day and wait times may sometimes be longer than normal,” said San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Chair, Kathy Miller. “However, reopening the closed facilities will help augment current operations at the Foothill Landfill location and should provide ample capacity to handle increased public disposal as Health Orders are revised and community activities increase.”

Public Works staff, in consultation with the Public Health Officer, will monitor conditions at the disposal facilities and adjust operations as required to maintain employee and public safety. The operations could be modified and may even include possibly closing facilities again if warranted.

Public Works is requesting the public's assistance to work together for the benefit of all. Due to modified operations in place to promote the health and safety of the public as well as staff, the County anticipates increased wait times at County-owned solid waste facilities. In order to alleviate longer than desired wait times and to help better serve the community, San Joaquin County Public Works is asking that anyone intending to visit a County-owned solid waste facility, please observe these guidelines:

- Follow staff instructions. County staff will direct the flow of traffic as well as enforce proper social distancing.
- Pay extra attention to your surroundings.
- Have payment ready prior to arriving at the cashier station.
- Load your vehicle in a manner where you can unload it quickly and safely.
- Special waste items such as mattresses, tires appliances and electronics, etc. must be separated from regular waste prior to going to the facility or store these items until operations return to normal.
- Be advised that the wait times at the North County and Foothill landfill sites are anticipated to be relatively shorter than at the Lovelace Transfer Station.
- Consider visiting solid waste facilities during the week as weekends are much busier.
- Customers may call any facility when they are open to find out current wait times.

Residents can find more information about the landfill reopening criteria at <https://www.sjgov.org/solidwaste/>. They can also use the website to determine wait times by viewing live feed of the queue at each facility in the very near future.

Residents are also encouraged to call the specific facility locations:

North County Recycle Center and Landfill:	209-887-3868
Lovelace Road Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station:	209-982-5770
Foothill Landfill	209-887-3969

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