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**Four Companies Submit Proposals to
Provide Trash to Energy Conversion Technology**

After a three year process including the development of a feasibility report, extensive public outreach, and an extensive request for proposal (RFP) process, four companies have submitted formal proposals to build and operate a conversion technology facility to process solid waste currently being disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill.

“We are impressed by the variety of technologies and number of companies who wish to participate in this unique public-private partnership,” stated Mark Schleich, Deputy Director of Public Works for Santa Barbara County.

The proposed new conversion technology facility will recover recyclables and use bacteria or high levels of heat in a highly controlled environment to speed up the decomposition of our community's waste, ultimately producing a local source of green energy and other useful byproducts.

The four companies that have submitted proposals are:

- International Environmental Solutions
- Mustang Renewable Power Ventures
- NRG Energy
- Plasco Energy Group

These comprehensive proposals will be reviewed over the Summer and results will be presented to the community in Fall 2010. The evaluation of this project will be overseen by a partnership between the County of Santa Barbara, Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton.

Although the prospective technologies are varied, each would reduce the amount of material currently buried by 60% to 100%, significantly reducing the area's dependence on landfilling.

Currently, all of the jurisdictions participating in the project recycle in excess of 65% of all solid waste generated. These rates are some of the highest in the State of California and are a true reflection of the environmental values of our community's residents. Conversion technology could be a part of our greater effort to reduce both the amount of waste we bury and the impact our waste has on the environment.

For more information about this project, please contact Public Works Deputy Director Mark Schleich at (805) 882-3600 and visit the project web site at www.conversiontechnologystudy.com.

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