



# McCourtney Road Transfer Station Renovation Project

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **1. What is the McCourtney Road Transfer Station Renovation Project?**

The McCourtney Road Transfer Station Renovation project proposes improvements to the existing facility to address current traffic and material capacity issues and to accommodate future community growth and changes in State Regulations that affect our facility.

### **2. What is the McCourtney Road Transfer Station?**

The McCourtney Road Transfer Station (MRTS) provides solid waste and recycling services for the communities of Grass Valley, Nevada City and the unincorporated areas of western Nevada County, California.

### **3. Who is responsible for the MRTS Renovation project?**

Nevada County's Public Works Department (Solid Waste Division) is responsible for the project. The MRTS is owned by the County, but operated by Waste Management, Inc., of Nevada County (WM).

### **4. Why does the County want to change the MRTS?**

The MRTS was constructed in 1994 after the McCourtney Road Landfill closed and serves a large number of self-haul customers. Since 2016 traffic at the site has increased approximately 75%, from approximately 8,000 vehicles per month to more than 14,000, this is causing long vehicle queuing and substantial wait times during peak periods for customers.

### **5. What are the proposed improvements?**

The proposed improvements at MRTS include:

- Building a new 45,000 Square foot Public Receiving Area (PRA) Building that replaces the existing PRA and improves unloading facility capacity and efficiency (providing 16 additional unloading bays)
- Adding a new access road and entrance scale facilities, with 4 scales, to reduce arrival wait time
- Improving site circulation to provide easier access to the household hazardous waste (HHW) and recyclables buy-back areas
- Rearranging the site to provide easier access for green waste unloading and construction demolition debris unloading

**6. What are the MRTS Renovation project benefits?**

There are many benefits to the renovation project including:

- Quick and easy site access through a new entrance configuration with additional scales
- A significant increase in unloading stalls and overall capacity at a new PRA Building
- Improved access to household hazardous waste and recycling facilities
- Improved areas for unloading green waste, yard waste and construction and demolition (C&D) materials
- Repurposing existing PRA to function as a food waste diversion facility to comply with new [state regulations](#)

**7. What will happen to the existing PRA at the MRTS?**

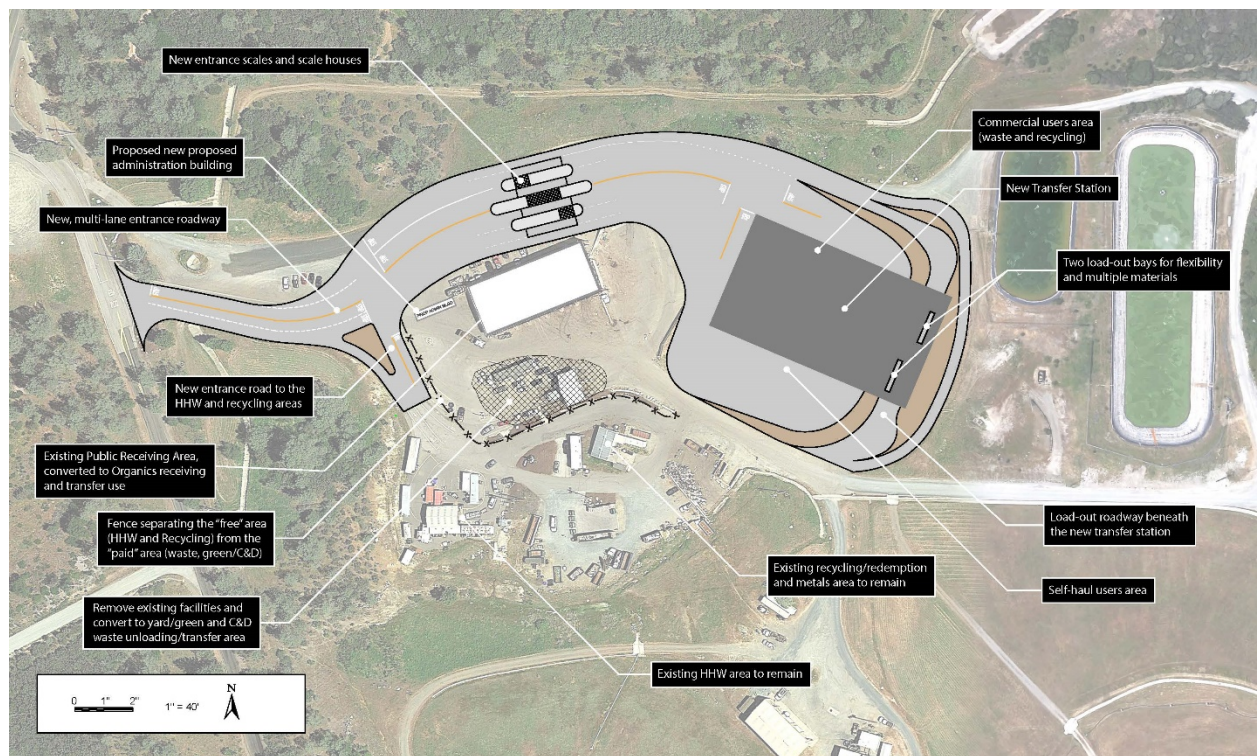
The existing PRA building will be repurposed for other uses such as a food/green waste receiving area in order to comply with new [state regulations](#) for food waste recycling.

**8. Will there be any local road improvements as part of this project?**

Yes, on-site roadway improvements will occur to enable easier access to the HHW and Recycling buyback area.

**9. What will the new facility look like?**

The following image depicts the preliminary site design (subject to change):



**10. How much will the new site cost and who will pay for it?**

Since we are still in the initial design phase of the project we have not developed a detailed cost estimate; however, we estimate the cost of construction will be approximately \$15.5 million. Waste Management has committed \$5.6 million and the County is responsible for the remainder.

**11. Will construction of the new site affect current operations?**

The proposed project will be constructed while maintaining all existing site operations. In order to achieve this construction phasing will be very important. The initial phases will include earthwork, utilities, pavement, and construction of the new PRA building. Subsequent phases will include construction of the new entrance/exit scale facility and associated roadway improvements, and ultimately decommissioning the existing scale house facility, etc. Our goal is to have a minimal impact on the existing operation, but we do anticipate that this will be one of the most challenging aspects of the project.

**12. How much solid waste will the new facility be able to process per day?**

The new facility is sized to receive and process 125,000 tons per year, or an average of 400 tons per day or roughly an increase of 50% more than the current tonnage.

**13. Will the MRTS Renovation project increase the amount the County charges me to use the site?**

No rate increase being proposed.

**14. Will the new facility cause odors or dust?**

Much of the current activities at the site are outdoors and on dirt or gravel surfaces. The new facility will provide all waste receipt and transfer on paved or concrete surfaces within a largely enclosed structure. Additionally, the new Transfer Station will be equipped with a dust and odor suppression system.

**15. Has the County evaluated the environmental impacts of the MRTS Renovation project?**

The County will be preparing an Initial Study for the MRTS Renovation Project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Initial Study will evaluate a wide range of resource issues such as air quality, noise, traffic, biological resources, and hydrology as well as identify mitigation measures to reduce the severity of these impacts, if necessary.

**16. How will this project change how I use recycling and HHW services at the MRTS?**

Customers with HHW and recyclable materials will enter a “free area” of the site without having to wait in the same queuing lanes as customers using other operations at the facility (MSW, Green Waste and C&D). Because this area will be separate from the new scales facility and PRA, there will be more queuing lanes and better traffic flow at the HHW and recycling area.



**17. How will the new facility affect the traffic problem at the site?**

The new facility is designed to accommodate the current and forecast traffic to the site. This will be accomplished in two ways:

- The new scale plaza facility that includes four weigh scales designed to accelerate the rate of traffic entering and exiting the site.
- The new Transfer Station that enables up to 26 self-haul and four commercial vehicles to unload simultaneously, which is 16 more bays than the existing facility.

**18. What is the MRTS Renovation project schedule?**

The project is currently in the Project Study & Environmental Phase. Ongoing public outreach will be conducted throughout all project phases.

**CURRENT PLANNING PHASE**

- **Project Study & Environmental Phase:** Spring – Winter 2020
  - *Draft IS/MND & Public Review Period:* Fall/Winter 2020
  - **Project Report/County Board Approval:** Winter 2020/2021

**FUTURE PHASES**

- **Final Design & Permitting:** Winter 2020 – Summer 2021
- **Bidding:** Fall 2021
- **Construction:** Winter 2021/2022 – Early Summer 2023

**19. How can I participate in the MRTS Renovation project?**

The County is committed to meaningful public engagement throughout the project development process. Community participation is vital so that project solutions serve our regional needs. The project's communications program is designed to provide convenient and timely information via the County's (Department of Public Works Solid Waste page) at [mynevadacounty.com](http://mynevadacounty.com) to educate and inform as well as seek public participation throughout the project study and environmental planning process.

As part of project development, Nevada County will be analyzing potential impacts through an Initial Study which will be available for public review in fall/winter 2020. As part of this process there will be a 30-day public review period where the County will solicit comments from all interested parties and will address substantive comments received.

**20. How can I stay informed?**

We welcome and encourage your engagement. Project information will be distributed electronically through the County's (Department of Public Works Solid Waste page) at [mynevadacounty.com](http://mynevadacounty.com), social media and email at [info@mccourtneytransferstation.com](mailto:info@mccourtneytransferstation.com). If you would like to receive regular updates, learn about project-related events or submit comments, make sure to sign-up online by completing the contact form on the project website.