

# *City of Brisbane*

## *Planning Commission Agenda Report*

**TO:** Planning Commission

For the Meeting of 12/09/14

**FROM:** Ken Johnson, Senior Planner, via John Swiecki, Community Development Director

**SUBJECT:** 515 Tunnel Avenue; Use Permit UP-4-14; Temporary Christmas Tree Storage for Recycling; Brad Drda, Recology Properties, Inc., applicant; Sanitary Fill Company, owner; APN 005-152-330

**Request:** Recology San Francisco proposes to temporarily store Christmas trees for recycling within an approximately 90 ft. by 100 ft. area of a paved storage yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue. Discarded trees will be collected in San Francisco from December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>, temporarily stored at the site, and then reloaded for chipping at Recology San Francisco's Integrated Materials Recovery Facility just over the border in San Francisco (see attached Site Plans). The chipped materials will then be used for energy production at an off-site biomass facility, rather than being landfilled. A temporary storage area is needed, because the surge of trees collected (approximately 25 truck-loads a day at the peak during the first week of January, amounting to a maximum of about 72 tons in any single day and totaling less than 550 tons overall) exceeds the rate that they can be processed at the Materials Recovery Facility. Similar Use Permits were approved by the Planning Commission at this site the previous six years.

**Recommendation:** Conditionally approve Use Permit UP-4-14 per the agenda report, via adoption of Resolution UP-4-14 with Exhibit A, containing the findings and conditions of approval.

**Environmental Determination:** Minor alterations to land, including temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15304(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions referenced in Section 15300.2 do not apply.

**Applicable Code Sections:** Per Brisbane Municipal Code Section 17.32.020.B.4, a Use Permit is required for "temporary uses of not more than forty-five days duration" in all zoning districts. The findings required for Use Permit approval are contained in BMC Sections 17.32.020.A, 17.40.060.A & B.

**Analysis and Findings:** In order to approve the Use Permit, the Planning Commission must determine whether the proposal is consistent with the general plan and whether the use applied for, under the circumstances, will not be detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood, nor will it be injurious or detrimental to property or improvements in the neighborhood or the general welfare of the City.

In determining whether the characteristics of the temporary use will not be unreasonably incompatible with the uses in surrounding areas, BMC Section 17.32.020.A specifies that the following additional factors be considered: damage or nuisance from noise, smoke, odor, dust or vibration; hazard from explosion, contamination or fire; hazard occasioned by unusual volume or character of traffic or the congregating of a large number of people or vehicles; or danger to public safety.

General Plan Consistency—The property is designated for Heavy Commercial land uses in the 1994 General Plan. While no materials storage, other than that associated with bulk sales, is permitted under this designation, the temporary proposal would operate on a short-term cycle so as not to be construed as “materials storage.” Per General Plan Policy 388, the rapid turnover of the Christmas trees would avoid decomposition and the generation of any unpleasant odors, and litter would be controlled in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Program best management practices. The proposal is also consistent with Policy 143 to “maximize opportunities to recycle solid waste.”

Not Detrimental or Injurious to Neighborhood or City— The proposed use would be located within an existing fenced and landscaped storage area. The approximately 12 ft. tall pile would be set back approximately 300 ft. from the Tunnel Avenue and Beatty Avenue frontages of the site, so as to minimize its visibility to the public. The proposed hours of operation from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. should not cause a significant disturbance to surrounding uses, the closest of which is the vacant property to the south.

To assure that the Christmas trees do not become a nuisance if stored too long, a 48-hour turnover would be required, similar to what was required for the organics reload operations (the reloading of organic waste materials from collection trucks into long-haul trucks to be sent to a composting facility elsewhere) previously approved at 501 Tunnel Avenue. In addition, conditions of approval are once again recommended to specify compliance with applicable State regulations, as administered by the County Environmental Health Division, and to require that a 20 ft. wide fire lane be maintained clear to provide the Fire Department access to the storage pile in the event of a fire. There are existing fire hydrants on both sides of the proposed storage pile location, and oscillating water sprinklers will be positioned around the pile to maintain water content in the trees, preventing accidental ignition.

Vehicles transferring the Christmas trees will use the Beatty Avenue entrance to the site, avoiding traffic impacts on Tunnel Avenue. No more than 25 trucks are expected to enter and exit the site per day to deliver the Christmas trees. The trees will then be transported back across Beatty Avenue in 40-cubic-yard roll-off boxes for chipping at the Integrated Materials Recovery Facility in San Francisco.

Recology stations a security guard at the Recycle Road entrance on Tunnel Avenue to direct non-buy-back related traffic up the road. This allows queuing space for buy-back customers. Walk in customers who tend to slow the line and increase traffic wait times are accepted at the buy-back facility during morning hours only.

In closing, staff has distributed the application to the Public Works Department, North County Fire Authority, as well as the Regional Water Quality Control Board and San Mateo County Environmental Health since the proposal is on the former landfill site. No exceptions were taken by any of these agencies or departments, nor have any concerns been raised by the public by the time of this agenda report and the City has not received complaints from the previous years' Christmas tree temporary storage operations.

Attachments:

Draft Resolution with Findings and Conditions of Approval  
Applicant's Letter of 11/7/14  
Site Plan: Christmas Tree Traffic Route  
Recology San Francisco 2014 Christmas Tree Recycling Plan



## EXHIBIT A

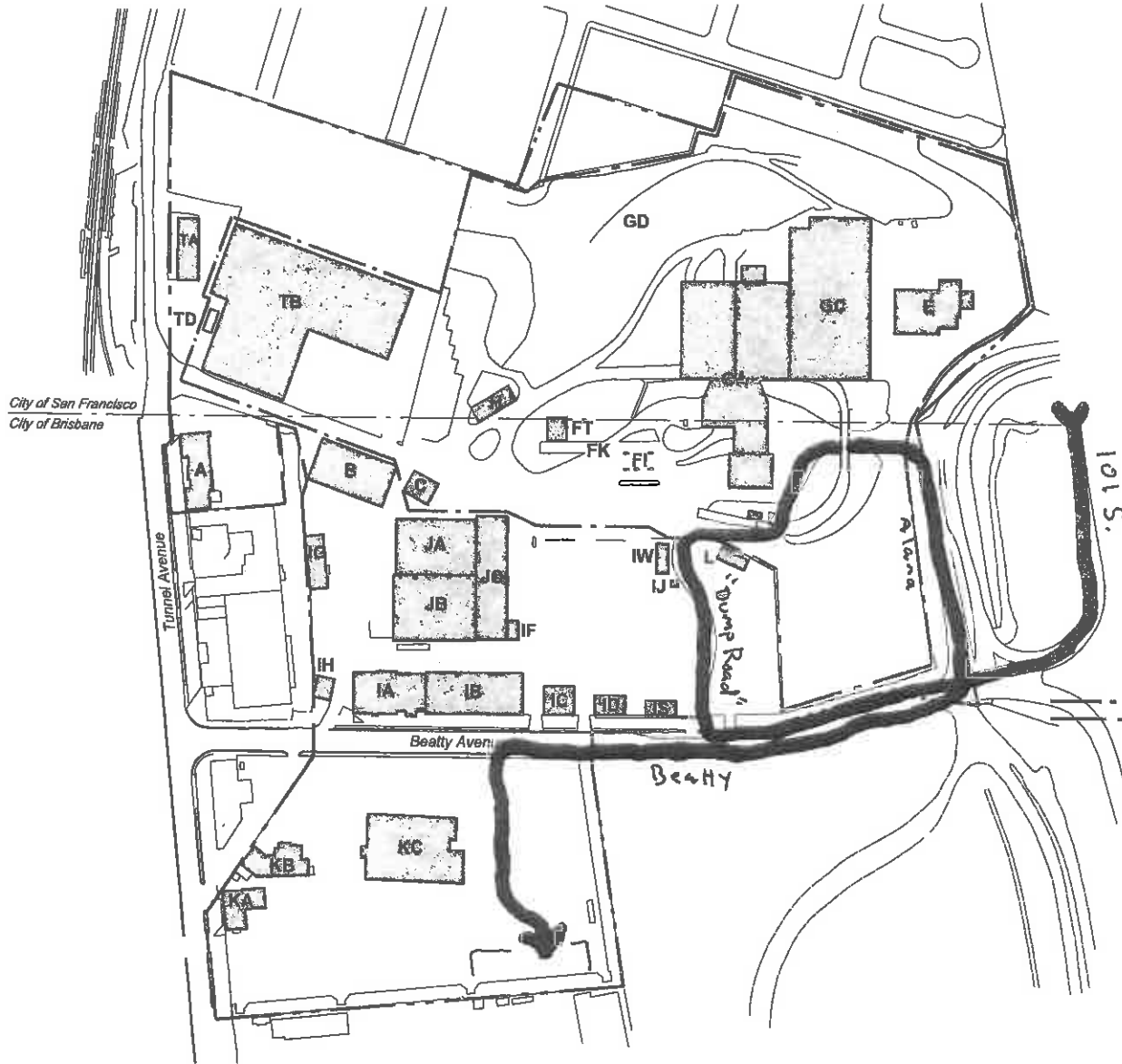
**Action Taken:** Conditionally approve Use Permit UP-4-14 per the agenda report with attachments, via adoption of Resolution UP-4-14, as amended.

### Findings:

1. Approval of the use permit is consistent with the general plan and any applicable specific plan adopted by the city council, as detailed in the staff memorandum.
2. The establishment, maintenance and operation of the use applied for, under the circumstances, will not be detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood, nor will it be injurious or detrimental to property or improvements in the neighborhood or the general welfare of the City, in terms of damage or nuisance from noise, smoke, odor, dust or vibration; hazard from explosion, contamination or fire; hazard occasioned by unusual volume or character of traffic or the congregating of a large number of people or vehicles; or danger to public safety; as detailed in the staff memorandum.

### Conditions of Approval:

- A. The Christmas trees shall be stored within the fenced enclosure in compliance with applicable State regulations as enforced by the San Mateo County Health Department's Environmental Health Division.
- B. The Christmas trees shall be stored on the site for no longer 48 hours, and shall be removed sooner if necessary to prevent the creation of any public or environmental nuisances as determined by the San Mateo County Health Department's Environmental Health Division.
- C. The operation shall be in compliance with CalRecycle Regulations: Title 14, Natural Resources-Division 7, CIWMB Chapter 3.1. Composting Operations Regulatory Requirements:
  - Article 6. Composting Operating Standards, Section 17867. General Operating Standards. subsection (a); and applicable sections of
  - Article 8. Composting Operation and Facility Records Section 17869. General Record Keeping Requirements; and
  - Article 9. Composting Facility Site Restoration 17870. Site Restoration requirements.
- D. Storage of the Christmas trees on the site shall be managed to reduce adverse impacts on stormwater quality in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Program best management practices for storm water discharge (per BMC Chapter 13.06). City rights-of-way shall be maintained clean of any debris that might drop during transit to the satisfaction of the Public Works Department.
- E. A 20 ft. wide fire lane (with no parking) shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Fire Department at all times to provide access to the stored Christmas trees. No ignition source (i.e., generators, fuel, etc.) shall be stored/used within 20 ft. of the pile.
- F. Minor modifications may be approved by the Planning Director in conformance with all requirements of the Municipal Code.
- G. This Use Permit shall expire February 1, 2015.



**LEGEND**

- A SF Recycling & Disposal, Inc. (SFRD) Admin (501 Tunnel Ave.)
  - B Buyback (and Sunset Scav. Co. Container Repair)
  - C Public Inbound Scale
  - D Main Scale
  - E SFRD Shop
  - FK Fuel Control Kiosk
  - FI Central Fuel Island
  - FT Central Fuel Tanks
  - GA SFRD Transfer Station
  - GC Integrated Materials Recovery Facility
  - GD Sculpture Garden
  - H Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF)
  - IA Sunset Scavenger Co. Admin
  - IB Sunset Scavenger Co. Main Shop
  - IC Sunset Scavenger Co. Transmission Shop
  - ID Sunset Scavenger Co. Tire Shop
  - IF Sunset Scavenger Co. Dispatch Office
  - IG Sunset Scavenger Co. Paint Shop
  - IH Sunset Scavenger Co. Storage
  - IJ Sunset Scavenger Co. Wash Shed
  - IS Sunset Scavenger Co. Steam Rack
  - IW Sunset Scavenger Co. Truck Wash
  - JA Sunset Scavenger Co. Bayshore Bldg, Safety Dpt, Storage
  - JB Sunset Scavenger Co. Bayshore Bldg., Vehicle Lube Bay
  - JC Sunset Scavenger Co. Bayshore Bldg., Storage
  - KA Sunset Scavenger Co. - Offices
  - KB SFRD Storage (leased to others)
  - KC SFRD Welding Shop
  - L SFRD LNG Fuel Station
  - TA Environmental Learning Center, HHWCF Office
  - TB TURF Building, Public Disposal & Recycling Area
  - TC DPW Disposal, Recycling and HHW Management Area
  - TD Public Outbound Scale
- Tunnel and Beatty Operations Complex Boundary  
 --- San Francisco Solid Waste Transfer & Recycling Center Boundary (SFSWTRC)  
 LEA: SFDPH / BEHS  
 Operator: Sanitary Fill Company

**Incoming Christmas Tree Traffic**

1. Candlestick Park Exit
2. West on Beatty Road
3. Right on "Dump Road"
4. Weigh at RSF scale
5. Right onto Alana Way
6. Right on Beatty Road
7. Left into RSF yard

**Site Plan**

Scale 1" = 200'

0' 100' 200' 400'

Base drawing source: SCS Engineers 5/88





RECEIVED

NOV 07 2014

Comm. Dev. Dept. Brisbane

November 7, 2014

Kenneth Johnson  
City of Brisbane  
50 Park Place,  
Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As we have done since 2008, Recology San Francisco (RSF) would like to apply for another conditional use permit to temporarily store used Christmas trees on a portion of the paved yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue.

**Conditional Use Request**

To receive, store, and reload Christmas trees for recycling from December 20, 2014 through January 31, 2015. Trees collected curbside throughout San Francisco will be unloaded, stored, and then reloaded from the yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue and sent to RSF's Materials Recovery Facility for grinding. A storage area is necessary because the surge of trees collected immediately after Christmas is greater than the rate at which they can be processed at the MRF. The yard at 515 Tunnel will be used to accommodate the trees until they can be received at the MRF, and no later than January 31, 2015. No construction or modifications will be needed and no processing will occur in Brisbane.

Attached:

1. City of Brisbane Planning Application
2. 2014 Christmas Tree Recycling Plan
3. Maps showing incoming and outgoing traffic routes for tree transport
4. Applicant's Statement

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Drda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Drda  
Environmental Manager



# **2014 CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PLAN**

**November 2014**

F.I.B.



## **A. INTRODUCTION**

This Plan describes the receipt, storage, loading, and processing of Christmas trees from Recology San Francisco's (RSF) yard located in Brisbane. The goal of this operation is to divert a large volume of San Francisco Christmas trees away from landfill toward productive reuse. As the Christmas tree selling season winds down, starting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, rear-loader compactor trucks from Recology Sunset Scavenger Company and Recology Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling will pick up Christmas trees throughout San Francisco. Filled trucks will unload used trees on to a smooth concrete pad located toward the center of the southern boundary of RSF's yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue south of Beatty. A tractor will load stored trees into 40 yd<sup>3</sup> roll-off boxes which will be driven to the RSF Materials Recovery Facility where they will be chipped and used to produce energy at an off-site biomass facility.

The Christmas tree recycling operation is controlled by Recology San Francisco. The mailing address and administrative offices are located at 501 Tunnel Ave., San Francisco. RSF is a wholly owned subsidiary of Recology.

## **B. OPERATIONS**

### **(1) Storage Site Access**

Access to the Christmas tree area is provided from Beatty Avenue. Arriving vehicles weigh in across the main scale, exit onto Alana Way, and then enter the southern RSF yard from Beatty Avenue. Containers of trees on their way to processing at the RSF MRF exit the yard turning right on Beatty and then left onto Dump Road.

## **C. HOURS**

### **(1) Hours of Operation**

Christmas trees will be received and transferred daily between the hours of 9AM – 7 PM, from December 20th 2014 through January 31, 2015.

## **D. CHRISTMAS TREE AREA SIZE**

The Christmas trees will be received, stored, and reloaded for transfer on a concrete pad area that measures 100 feet by 90 feet for a total area of 9000 square feet.

## **E. TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF WASTE TO BE ACCEPTED**

### **(1) Waste Types**

Only source-separated Christmas trees will be accepted.

## **J. FIRE PREVENTION**

A driving lane will be maintained around the entire perimeter of the pile to allow access for fire fighters. Oscillating water sprinklers will be positioned around the pile to lightly wet the trees and keep water content high enough to prevent accidental ignition. The sprinklers will be controlled to prevent excessive water use or run off. "No Smoking" signs will be posted on both sides of the pile.

## **K. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT**

Fire hydrants and hoses are located on both sides of the Christmas tree storage area. All RSF vehicles are equipped with hand held fire extinguishers.

## **L. LIGHTING**

The yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue is lit as a parking lot with light poles.

## **M. SITE SECURITY**

Unauthorized access to the yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue is prevented by perimeter fencing, locked gates (including security gates at all property entrances), and a security guard service. Guards are posed at various locations during day and night hours. The guards not only prevent unauthorized access, but also help direct traffic during busy times.

## **N. VISUAL SCREENING**

The Christmas tree area is located toward the center of a large yard which is filled with trucks and metal debris boxes which provide visual screening from Tunnel Avenue.

(2) Waste Quantities

Based on past experience the total quantity of trees should be less than 550 tons. The largest quantity of trees received in any single day will be about 72 tons.

**F. DRAINAGE CONTROL**

The paved yard at 515 Tunnel Avenue drains to a combined sewer system which is treated at San Francisco's Southeast Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**G. DUST CONTROL**

Christmas tree handling is not a dusty operation but water is available at the site for dust control if needed.

**H. SUPERVISION AND PERSONNEL**

Name	Title	Phone	Cell
Mike Crosetti	General Manager	415-657-4050	415-850-5647
Brad Drda	Environmental Manager	415-657-4003	415-740-9792
Joe Damele	Operations Manager	415-657-4010	415- 850-8526
Glenn Lydecker	Safety Manager	415-657-4006	415-716-7580

**I. COMPLAINT RESPONSE**

Public complaints are documented and addressed accordingly. Recorded information regarding such complaints include the following information:

- Date of complaint
- Nature of complaint
- If available, the name, telephone number, and address of complainant; and
- Description of the actions taken to respond/address the situation