

Recology inks pact for pickup of DN's garbage

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New contract signed with waste authority

Recology Del Norte has moved a giant leap closer to finalizing a \$55 million contract to collect refuse and recyclables in Del Norte County.

The contract was approved by the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority on Wednesday, and then signed by Chairwoman Leslie McNamer and Recology CEO Mike Sangiacomo.

“Even though the contract was signed today there are still conditions for Recology to meet,” said authority board member Kelly Schellong during the meeting.

One of the conditions is signing a contract with Julindra Recycling Inc., which Recology General Manager Tommy Sparrow said would happen at a celebration dinner Wednesday evening.

The other conditions deal with permits Recology is required to obtain.

Board members expressed gratitude to Recology for adding programs in the contract that they said benefit the community at no extra charge.

They include an education plan to help citizens learn about the new services that will be offered when the new contract period begins in July 2011 and an internship program for students.

“We’re really looking forward to doing good things,” said Sparrow.

The signing marked the end of a four-year process for the authority of producing a new set of expectations for garbage and recycling pickup, selecting a company and coming to an agreement.

Recology, which also holds the current contract for garbage and recycling pickup in Del Norte, won the rights to enter into contract negotiations with the authority after its board voted in favor of the company in June. Hambro Group, a local company that also sought the negotiation rights, received significant community support as well, and the authority board reopened a public forum on the issue.

Ultimately, the board stuck with its decision to negotiate a contract with Recology that runs through 2023.

Hambro operates the transfer station and transports Del Norte garbage to an Oregon landfill.