

**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

Western Region Solid Waste Capacity Study



*Providing Solutions - Improving Community
Serving Texas Since 1981*

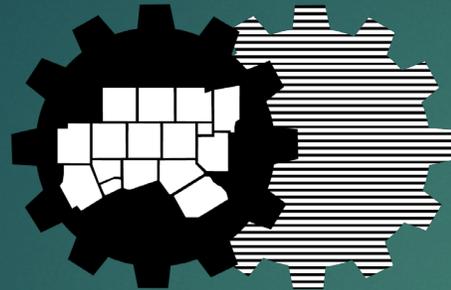


Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- Alternative Recommendations & Discussion
- Next Steps

▶ *This study was funded through a solid waste management grant provided by TCEQ through NCTCOG. This funding does not necessarily indicate endorsement of the study's findings or recommendations.*

Introductions



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

NCTCOG

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Purpose



Opportunities for assuring disposal capacity



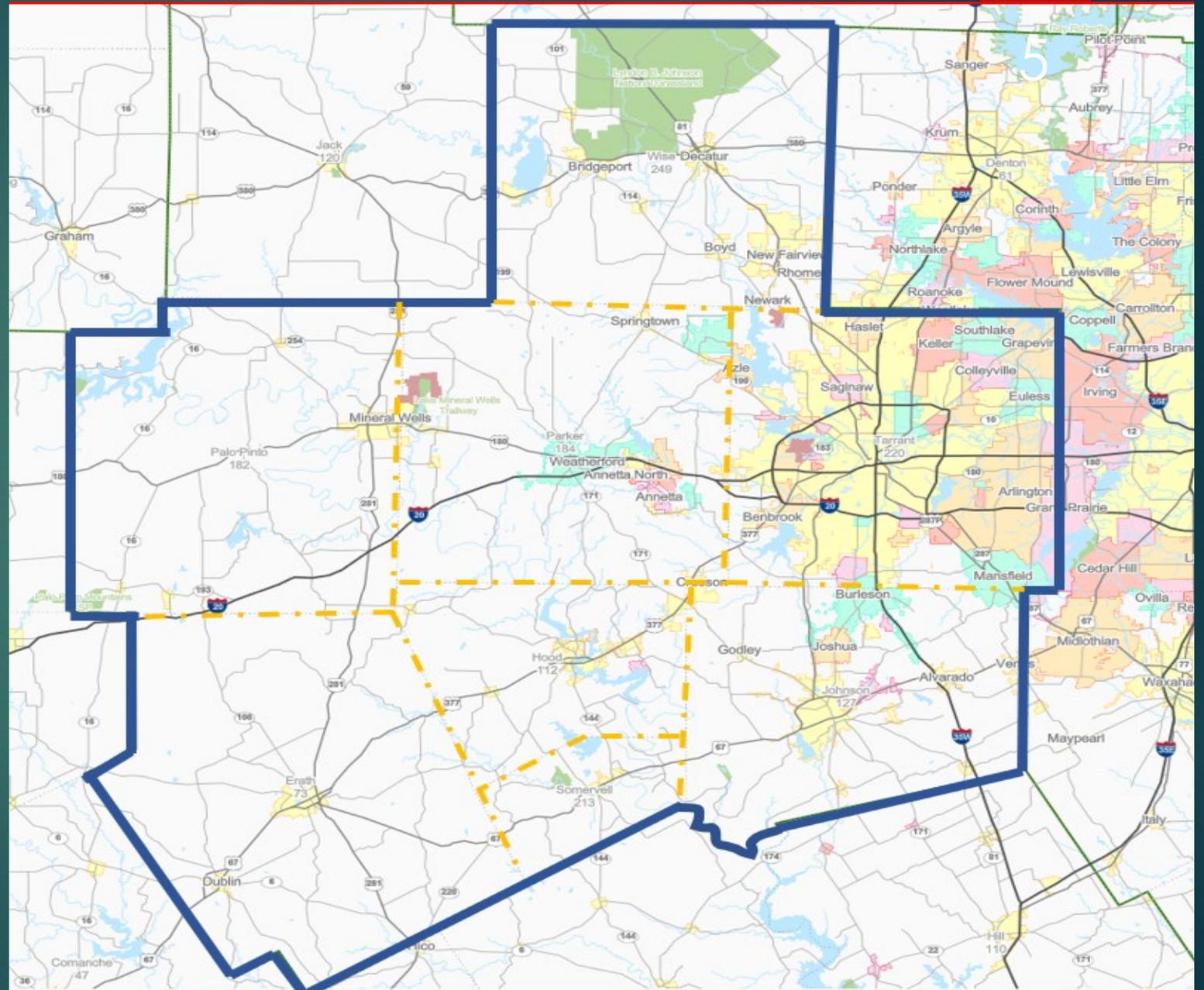
Improving the environment



Achieving greater efficiency

Background

- The western region is 8 counties with 34 cities with over 5000 population.
- Covers 7000 square miles
- Population is 2.65 million
- 70% of land is undeveloped



01

The region is running out of available landfill capacity

02

There are untapped opportunities to improve the region's environment

03

There are opportunities to provide more efficient service to residents and businesses

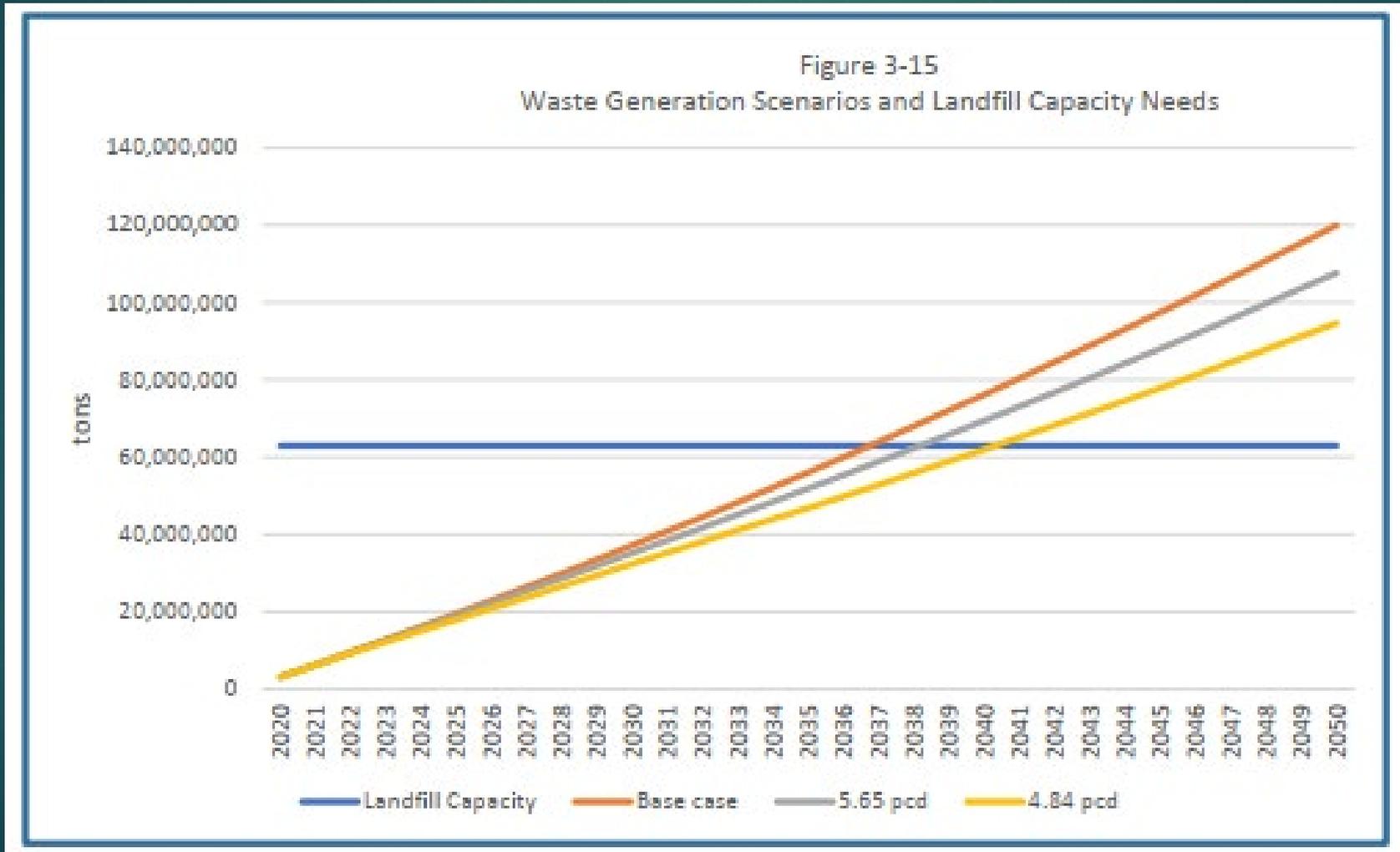
Local Government Concerns...

| What concerns you today and in the future? | Near-term Concern | Long-term Concern |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cost of Service | 3.45 | 4.00 |
| Landfill Capacity | 3.45 | 3.68 |
| Storm Events | 3.27 | 3.41 |
| Recycling Material Markets | 3.45 | 3.41 |
| Recycling Material Contamination | 3.11 | 3.22 |
| Transportation Costs | 3.24 | 3.51 |
| Landfill Ownership | 2.21 | 3.35 |
| Illegal Dumping | 3.38 | 2.49 |
| Tires | 3.26 | 3.26 |

Based on a 1-5 scoring 1= low, 3 = medium, 5= high

Source: Western Region Local Government Survey

The region needs 57 million tons of disposal capacity to meet 2050 needs



Recommended Alternatives

9 PROACTIVE OPTIONS FOR THE REGION

Table E-1 Summary of Alternatives

| Alternative | Description | Impact on Waste Capacity | Efficiency Improvements | Implementation Complexity | Fiscal Impacts *** |
|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Formalize the PAG | This is an interim step towards development of a WRSWMA. Improved communications will help identify short-term wins. | Low* | Medium | Low | Low |
| Establish WRSWMA | A WRSWMA has the potential to implement a variety of program that will lead to improvements in regional programs. | Low* | High | High | Low / Medium |
| Cooperative public Information programs | Improved program cost-effectiveness and training will lead to better management of programs. | Low | Medium | Low | Low |
| Cooperative recycling marketing | Cooperative programs present an opportunity for communities in rural areas to establish and/or operate more cost-effective recycling programs. | Low | Low / Medium** | Low | Low |
| Increase availability of convenience stations & recycling centers | Offers potential to reduce illegal dumping and can offer recycling options in areas where there is not collection program. | Low | Low / Medium** | Medium | Medium |
| Increase organics management capacity | Compost facilities offer an alternative to landfilling brush and biosolids (sludge). | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| Cooperative collection services | Multi-city collection contracts should yield lower costs. Can be a means of establishing flow control to a specific facility. | Low | High | Medium | Low / Medium |
| Cooperative disaster debris management programs | Cooperative action to address storm events can improve recovery times and reduce environmental impacts of disaster events. | Low | Medium | Medium | Low |
| Increased transfer station capacity | Transfer stations in certain areas will reduce haul costs and make collection systems more efficient. | Low | High | High | High |
| Increase landfill capacity | Region has approximately 15-20 years remaining capacity, about the time it takes to identify, permit and construct new capacity. | High | High | High | High |

Formalize the PAG

- PAG formalizes the process started several years ago to expand regional programs
- PAG provides a communication link that didn't exist before
- A potential steppingstone to developing a regional entity



Discussion

Alternative 1: Establish Western Region Solid Waste Management Agency

- ▶ Modeled after other Cooperative Programs including BVSWMA, NTMWD and the Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management Agency
- ▶ Purpose: To further advance regional programs and Projects
- ▶ Not Mandatory – (Discuss DART Syndrome)

| Issue | Rating |
|--|---------------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | High |
| Costs | High / Medium |
| Implementation challenges | High |
| <i>Agency can help drive cooperative programs throughout the western region</i> | |

What is the Agency?

An organization designed to manage cooperative and regional programs

- ▶ It is new.
- ▶ It is assumed to be voluntary.
- ▶ It is assumed to be a local government corporation.
- ▶ It is assumed to have a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of local governments in the western region (participating cities).
- ▶ It is assumed to have an Executive Director and staff adequate to carry out the Agency's responsibilities.

Discussion



Alternative 2: Cooperative Public Information Programs

- ▶ Provide a focused, regional solid waste educational program.
- ▶ Messaging focusing on the western region's unique position, i.e. limited landfill capacity.
- ▶ Secure necessary financial resources to maintain an on-going program.
- ▶ Establish an on-going training program that serves local solid waste officials.

| Issue | Rating |
|---|--------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | Medium |
| Costs | Low |
| Implementation challenges | Low |
| <i>Need for regional understanding of the challenges facing cities</i> | |

Alternative 3: Cooperative Marketing for Recyclables



Opportunities to collaborate and increase revenues through cooperation.



Existing examples of these programs in place and successful, ie PRPC's Panhandle Environmental Partnership



Current contracts, interest, infrastructure may have an impact on feasibility.

| Issue | Rating |
|---|----------------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | Low/ Medium |
| Costs | Low |
| Implementation challenges | Low |
| <i>Especially needed in rural areas of the western region</i> | |

Discussion

Alternative 4: Increase Convenience Stations & Recycling Centers

- ▶ Can help reduce illegal dumping
- ▶ Provides an additional service - especially bulky wastes.
- ▶ Provides an additional opportunity for recycling



| Issue | Rating |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | Low / Medium |
| Costs | Low |
| Implementation challenges | Low |

Helpful in reducing illegal dumping a high priority issue

Alternative 5: Increase Organics Management Capacity

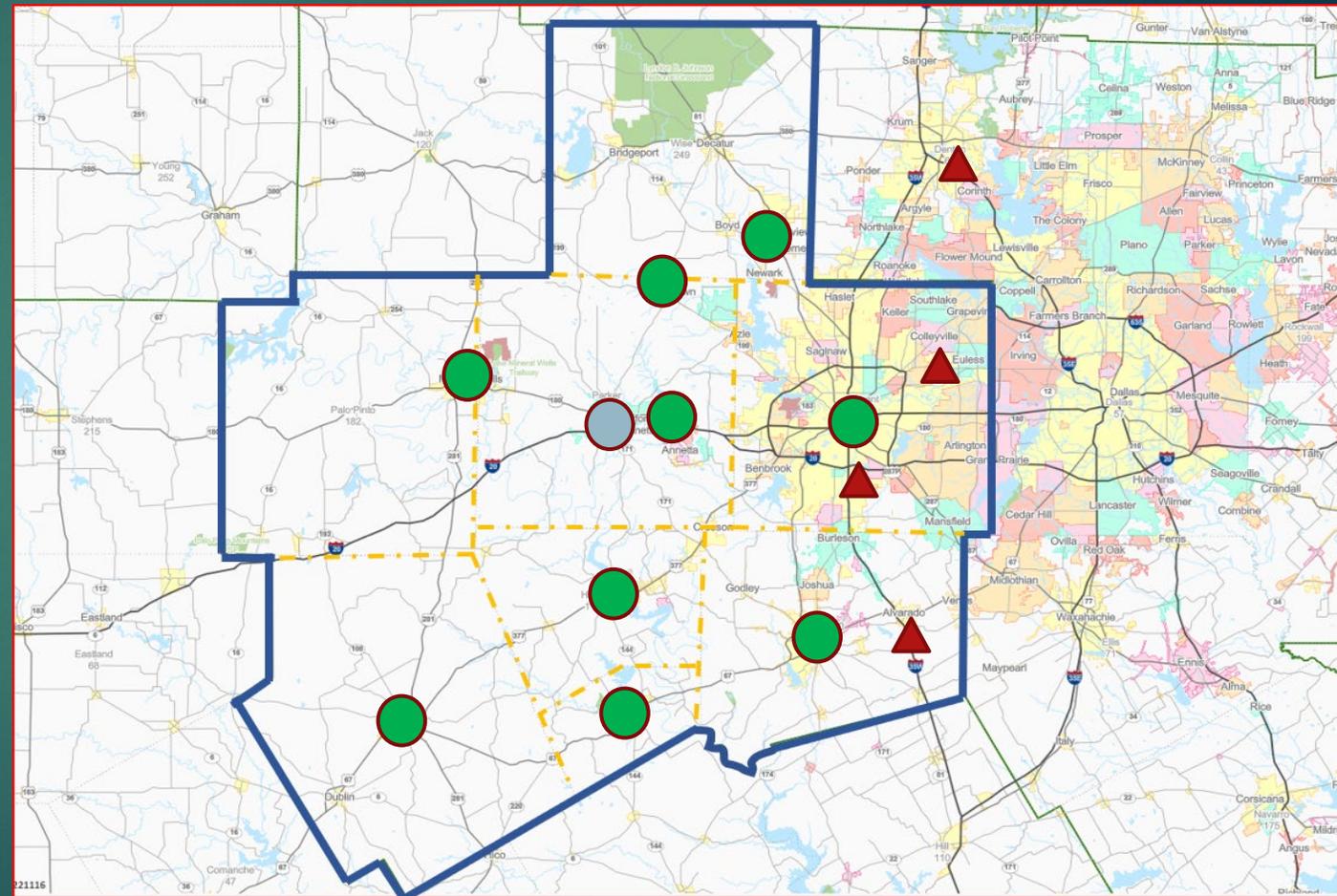
- Increase disposal capacity by removing organics from landfills (especially biosolids)
- Biosolids can't be managed through transfer station
- Several small communities in western region rely on Weatherford Landfill for biosolids disposal

| Issue | Rating |
|---|--------|
| Impact on waste | Medium |
| Efficiency improvements | Medium |
| Costs | Medium |
| Implementation challenges | Medium |
| <i>Biosolids transportation and landfill are a near-term issue for several local governments</i> | |



Composting & Regional Approach

Example of possible regional cooperation in an organics program



- City of Weatherford
- Current Potential Partners
- Landfills

Discussion

Alternative 6: Cooperative Collection Services

- ▶ Commitment to cooperation
- ▶ Supply of materials & material specifications
- ▶ Fee structures
- ▶ Revenue sharing (or not)
- ▶ Risk sharing
- ▶ Indemnification

| Issue | Rating |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | High |
| Costs | Medium |
| Implementation challenges | Medium |

Potential for collection cost savings



Alternative 7: Cooperative Disaster Debris Management Programs

- ▶ Shared resources for disaster debris management will provide quicker response times in times of emergency.
- ▶ Regional disaster debris management plan, approved by FEMA can generate more relief dollars.

| Issue | Rating |
|---|--------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | Medium |
| Costs | Medium |
| Implementation challenges | Low |
| <i>Improved readiness and potential cost savings</i> | |



Discussion

Alternative 8: Increase Transfer Station Capacity

- ▶ There are existing private facilities and facilities that have been permitted but not operating.
- ▶ Haul distances in western region will increase due to closure of Weatherford Landfill in short-term and Fort Worth and Turkey Creek in the mid-term.
- ▶ Reliance on private sector for collection complicates this option.

| Issue | Rating |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Impact on waste | Low |
| Efficiency improvements | High |
| Costs | High |
| Implementation challenges | High |

Reduces long-haul transport costs



Alternative 9: Increase Landfill Capacity

- ▶ Region has approximately 16 years of remaining capacity. Weatherford Landfill has less than 1 year.
- ▶ Process takes 10-15 years to site, permit and build new capacity.
- ▶ There are plans to increase capacity at Arlington Landfill

| Issue | Rating |
|---|--------|
| Impact on waste | High |
| Efficiency improvements | High |
| Costs | High |
| Implementation challenges | High |
| <i>Essential infrastructure for long-term acceptable disposal of waste</i> | |

Securing New Landfill Capacity

Options

- ▶ A city or group of cities develop a new landfill.
- ▶ The region relies on the private sector to secure new landfill capacity.
- ▶ The region establishes an Agency to build new capacity.
- ▶ The region does nothing and relies on landfills outside the region to meet its long-term needs.

Discussion

What Else is Needed?

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- ▶ Are there alternatives that should be listed that are not?
- ▶ Are there alternatives that do not belong on the list?
- ▶ What are the priorities?

Potential Next Steps

Workshops focusing on opportunities and implementation

Presentation to the RCC

Formalize the PAG for long-term program implementation

AZ&B one-on-one meetings, if requested

Acceptance of the Study

Thank You

Questions?

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