



# Cowlitz County

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County Administration Building  
207 Fourth Avenue North  
Kelso, WA 98626  
TEL (360) 577-3020  
FAX (360) 423-9987  
[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us)

## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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Contact
Commissioners Office Phone: (360) 577-3020

## County selects Republic Services for continued negotiations toward potential management of the Cowlitz County Headquarters Landfill

On Thursday, May 3, 2018, the Board of Commissioners moved to identify Republic Services as the preferred party for a potential public-private relationship to manage the Cowlitz County Headquarters Landfill. Commissioner Mortensen made the motion and Commissioner Weber seconded. Commissioner Joe Gardner was opposed.

Commissioner Mortensen said of the decision, "Republic Services is well known for its positive community involvement and its award winning landfill management. Add strong economics to that and we have an exciting opportunity."

A review committee consisting of Commissioner Arne Mortensen, Chief of Staff Axel Swanson, Finance Director Kurt Williams, Attorney Steve DiJulio, and Solid Waste Advisory Committee Member Wayne Wooster, has been meeting regularly to evaluate proposals and provide information to the Board of County Commissioners about the merits of each proposal.

The Board of Commissioners has yet to decide if a public-private relationship makes the most sense for management at the landfill and is awaiting a county proposal for future operations from the Public Works Department. Director Mike Moss said the proposal will be available in the coming weeks.

The Board also gave direction to staff to set up a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) for review and input into both the county's internal proposal and Republic Services' proposal for future management of the landfill. The county anticipates that this meeting will be held toward the end of this month.

It is anticipated by the Board of Commissioners that the SWAC meeting will be followed by at least two public hearings in June to get input from the public regarding the merits of the proposals and potential benefits to the community moving forward. Actual dates will be advertised later.

Commissioner Dennis Weber said of his decision to move forward, “my bottom line is to preserve preferential rates for Cowlitz County while generating non-tax revenue for programs.”

In response to the announcement, Republic Services NW Area President Gregg Brummer said, “there is still a lot of work to do before we are done. However, we are extremely thankful to have the opportunity to work with the Commissioners and the community to develop a partnership for the benefit of all Cowlitz County.”

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