



**Incorporated County of Los Alamos
Public Works Department
Environmental Services Division**

**Public Information and Involvement Plan
(PIIP)**

Bear Tough Roll Carts and Dumpsters

Date: August 30, 2021

PIIP Revision #: 1 - One

Project Manager: Angelica Gurule, Environmental Services Manager

County Engineer: N/A

Department Director: Anne W. Laurent, Public Works Director

PIO Assigned: Louise Romero

PIIP Phase: ☒ Conceptual ☐ Design ☐ Construction

- 1. Project Purpose and Scope:** Replace all residential trash roll carts with fully automated bear resistant roll carts. Replace all commercial trash dumpsters with bear resistant dumpsters. The purpose of this project is to protect our residents and the wildlife, particularly bears that live within the community.
- 2. Does this project support any of the Council's Strategic Goals? If so, which goal(s) apply?** A) Investing in Infrastructure. Appropriately balancing maintenance of existing infrastructure with new investments in county utilities, roads, trails, expanded transit options, facilities and amenities, which will help improve environmental stewardship, sustainability, and quality of life, while allowing for sustainable growth. B) Protecting, maintaining and improving our open spaces, recreational and cultural amenities.
- 3. Is this an approved CIP?** During the FY22 budget cycle, County Council approved \$2.4 million for the procurement of 7,000 automated unlocking bear resistant roll carts and 260 bear resistant dumpsters @\$2,500 for \$650,000.

4. **What is the project location? Describe or supply map.** This project will encompass all 7,000 households and 260 dumpsters in both White Rock and Los Alamos.
5. **Who is your audience – who are you talking to?** Los Alamos County residents and business owners.
6. **Explain the steps for accomplishing the project and provide estimated timeframes for each step.**
 - a. September – December 2021. The County will start the procurement process to obtain the bear resistant carts and dumpsters. The County will issue an Invitation for Bid for the bear resistant dumpsters and possibly for the bear resistant roll carts. The carts may be purchased off of a cooperative price agreement. Once the vendor is selected, an agreement will be drafted and then will be taken before County Council for approval.
 - b. January 2022. The County will then purchase bear resistant carts and dumpsters from the selected vendors. The dumpsters and carts may take several months to manufacture.
 - c. July 2022 – September 2022. Estimated cart and dumpster delivery date of carts and dumpsters.
 - d. July 2022 – July 2023. The County will replace every trash roll cart with a bear resistant cart and every trash dumpster will be replaced with a bear resistant dumpster. Deployment plan: the carts will be delivered on the current date of trash service. For example, if your trash day is Monday, the County will empty your trash and replace the cart with a bear resistant roll cart. A priority will be made for areas with high bear traffic. Alternatively, the County will allow residents to bring their cart to the Eco Station and swap it for a bear resistant cart. Environmental Services may offer special “Bear Cart Swap” dates where staff will stage carts in convenient locations and will invite residents to bring their carts and swap them.
7. **Does this project relate to projects in progress or in the future?** Unknown.
8. **Project start and completion dates:** July 1, 2021 to July 2023
9. **Project cost and funding source:** \$2.4 Million
10. **Is the intent to inform** ☒ **, educate** ☐ **, and/or involve** ☐?

- 11. Describe the issues the public may have regarding the project:** a) Some community members may not want the bear resistant cart or dumpster, exceptions will be identified by Environmental Sustainability Board. b) Trash pick-up will not be delayed due to the project and swapping out of carts. c) If a resident feels they need a bear cart right away, even if they are not identified in high bear traffic area, the Environmental Services will take their request into consideration and will try to fulfill this request. The resident also has the choice to visit the Eco Station to pick up their bear cart. This will help expedite the process. d) If someone has more than one trash roll cart, the County will replace additional bear roll carts after all residents have received one roll cart. Residents will be encouraged to utilize the first roll cart as a primary to discard bear attractants such as food, dog food, used diapers. e) There may be minimal disruption to the flow of traffic in areas where carts are being swapped as staff are required to unload the bear cart and load the old trash cart. In addition there may be some additional noise as the carts are loaded and unloaded; however, staff will start the swapping process no earlier than 8:00am.
- 12. Location of staging area** – Los Alamos County, Closed Landfill, 3701 E. Jemez Road, Los Alamos, NM 87545. Staging will not impact traffic flow or the public.
- 13. Describe constraints on the project (regarding public information), such as critical timeframes, other.** There is time constraint for this project and the goal is to reduce the risk for both residents and bears, and eliminate bears from rummaging through trash and putting their lives at risk. The County aims to distribute bear resistant carts and dumpsters as quickly as possible.
- 14. Will you be holding a public meeting/open house to solicit input or inform the public of a project?** The County will discuss and review this Public Information Plan at the September 2021 Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting.
- 15. Is public comment limited to this meeting? Will you allow the public to provide written comments for a period after the meeting? What will you do with the comments?** The Environmental Sustainability Board plans to conduct a community Open Forum Survey for the community to provide public comments regarding the deployment of the bear resistant dumpsters and carts and the public information plan. The open forum results will be shared at the Environmental Sustainability Board meeting and may be used to further refine the deployment plan.
- 16. Estimated PIIP Budget?** \$3,000 budget for advertisement and education.
- 17. What is the detailed plan for the PIIP?** [Click here to enter text.](#)
- ☒ Door hangers will be distributed with information regarding how to use the bear cart or dumpster will be distributed with the delivery of each cart/dumpster.

- ☒ A press release will be submitted to the media regarding public meeting(s) and start of bear resistant cart/dumpster deployment.
 - ☒ An ad announcing the start of deployment will be placed with the LA Daily Post, Facebook, and Recycle Coach notification.
 - ☒ The Environmental Services website will be updated as needed to keep citizens informed of progress and to share future project milestones.
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Please sign below and date:

Submitted by Project Manager: _____ Date _____
Angelica Gurule

Approved by Department Director: _____ Date _____
Anne W. Laurent

Assigned Public Works PIO: _____ Date _____
Louise Romero

*Approved by County PIO: _____ Date _____
Leslie Bucklin

***If the PIO does not approve the PIIP, the PIO must provide justification for the disapproval below. The Department Director can override this decision but must also provide justification below or via an attached memo.**