

S.A. trash assured firm resting places

Private dumps win long-term contracts

By Susie Phillips Gonzalez
Express-News Staff Writer

San Antonio's search for a final resting place for its trash entered a new era Wednesday with the City Council's approval of long-term contracts with three private companies.

The action marked a departure from previous council policies of making short-range agreements with private firms while trying to build a municipal landfill.

The decision, which acknowledges the city's failure to establish a regional landfill in Frio County, gives the council that takes office today some breathing room if it opts to pursue a city-run facility at

another location.

An estimated \$4.5 million and three years would be required to find a new site for a city-owned landfill and obtain necessary state permits, Public Works Director John German said.

Meanwhile, the contracts approved Wednesday guarantee that landfills operated by Browning-Ferris Industries, Texas Disposal Systems Inc. and Waste Management Inc. each will receive at least 50,000 tons of solid waste annually for the next 30 years.

On a separate motion by Councilman Howard Peak, the public works staff was told to continue developing the concept of a region-

al environmental enterprise zone to attract waste-related industries.

German said each of the three companies had expressed interest in building an environmental complex and that he would analyze the possibility of establishing one in partnership with one of the firms or independently.

A report to the council on the matter is expected in mid-November.

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Private landfill contracts OK'd

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southern Travis County, while the other two are in Bexar County.

First-year prices range from \$9.23 a ton to \$12.95 a ton but can escalate at varying rates, depending upon inflation.

Savings factored into the rates will mean no immediate increases in the monthly household collection rate of \$10.60, German said.

Mayor Nelson Wolff and Council-

men Roger Perez and Lyle Larson, whose last day in office was Wednesday, said they were glad to lock in long-term landfill agreements at reasonable rates instead of ducking a decision.

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