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SANDOVAL COUNTY BUYS A \$1.3M COMPACTOR FOR LANDFILL OPERATION AT NO COST TO TAXPAYERS

Trash-crushing equipment bought with landfill revenues

Bernalillo, NM, May 2, 2024—Sandoval County announced today that its trash compactor fleet has expanded to three. The new \$1.3M state-of-the-art piece of equipment was purchased from funds earned by the landfill and at no cost to taxpayers. This compactor, the largest one made, runs on diesel fuel. Tier 4 compliant, the strictest EPA emissions requirement for off-highway diesel engines, it measures 14’ H x 31’ L x 17’ W with the straight blade attached and weighs 127,000 pounds. This new unit allows an older compactor to be taken out of service for repairs. Compactors of this type have an estimated useful life of five years before they need to be rebuilt.

The county landfill operates six days a week. It takes in an average of 614 tons of trash daily such as mattresses, tires, appliances, green waste, concrete, and more. The landfill has approximately 100,000 customer visits annually, representing both residents and commercial trash haulers.

In making the announcement, **Sandoval County Manager, Wayne Johnson**, said “What’s important for people to know is that our landfill is not a *dump*. It is a component of the county’s comprehensive Solid Waste, Recycling, and Composting Complex. This complex provides for an eco-friendly, regulatory-compliant, and aesthetic community. We are very proud of our efforts and of our teams who manage these programs.”

Mark Hatzenbuhler, Director of Sandoval County Public Works, shared this information: “Our complex strives to meet the needs of our residents and businesses throughout the county—cities, villages, and tribal communities, and beyond. We have collection centers and stations in our more rural areas and of course, the complex is located at 2708 Iris Road NE, Rio Rancho. Best practices are in place to meet regulatory criteria and provide excellent customer service. The county started this work in 1970 and it continues today. Our goal is that our customers, from our county and from all over the state, have convenient and affordable access to waste disposal. Also, we are a recycling center and accept flattened cardboard, plastics, scrap metal, mixed paper, electronics, computers, and construction materials. In addition, when available, we offer green products including mulch (wood chips) and compost.”

The facility, which is a cash or business check-only operation, is open Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 4 PM (hours subject to change due to weather conditions). Landfill customers are both commercial haulers and residents. According to *Christopher Perea*, landfill manager, technicians are on-premise to assist visitors with the disposal process. Mr. Perea identified the accepted materials as residential waste, residential recycling items, residential household hazardous waste, and construction and demolition waste. He also encourages all landfill visitors to review the complete listing and descriptions for accepted and non-accepted materials on the county website (www.sandovalcountynm.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste/). Landfill fees are itemized there too.

Sandoval County, the fastest-growing county in New Mexico, encompasses 3,714 square miles of diverse geography and has a population of approximately 154,000 people. It includes the incorporated municipalities of Bernalillo, Cuba, Corrales, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho, San Ysidro, and the Town of Cochiti Lake as well as numerous unincorporated communities, and all or portions of 12 Indian Pueblos and Tribal Nations. For more information, visit www.sandovalcountynm.gov.

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Sandoval County Landfill Compactor



Sandoval County Landfill Compactor at Work