

# Watsonville dump expansion gets supervisors' approval

SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors approved a 53-acre addition to the city of Watsonville's dump Tuesday despite protests from Buena Vista Road residents and a just-released county grand jury report that criticizes the county's management of its two dumps.

The Board of Supervisors were involved in the proposed land split and variety of land-use and zoning changes because the 53 acres off Buena Vista Road in the unincorporated area of the county. County approval was needed before Watsonville city officials can begin the process to annex the land.

Watsonville needs the expansion since its current dump on Buena Vista Road is expected to run out of

room for garbage in 2½ to three years. City public works officials say the 53-acre expansion will have a useful life of about 16 years. The recently expanded county dump across the road has a 20-year life.

County approval came on a 3-2 vote, with Supervisors Gary Patton and Joe Cucchiara opposed. Both were displeased with the failure of strong enough conditions to require Watsonville to cooperate with the county on landfill operations.

The county grand jury report released Monday called for major changes at both county dump sites, criticizing management for "procrastination."

Buena Vista Road residents,

meanwhile, angrily protested the expansion.

Andrew Nevitt asked that other areas take their "fair share" of garbage, while other neighbors protested the devaluation of their homes, increased traffic and concerns about their water quality.

Supervisors did add a condition that the city pay for monthly water-well testing for an adjacent resident.

Once the land is annexed to Watsonville, the county will no longer have any direct say over what goes on there. Watsonville still must obtain approvals from the state Coastal Commission, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the state Waste Management Board.