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DATE: June 5, 2023

TO: Wade Bryson, Chair  
Public Works and Facilities Committee

THROUGH: Katie Koester, Director Engineering and Public Works

FROM: Denise Koch, Deputy Director Engineering and Public Works

SUBJECT: New Landfill Site Selection Report Summary

At the April 24, 2023 PWFC meeting, the Assembly requested information on the previous landfill site selection report.

A "Technical Reconnaissance Study for New Landfill Site Selection<sup>1</sup>" was produced for CBJ in 1993. The goal was to identify the most suitable location for a new landfill that could meet the community's needs for at least 20 years. A total of nine potential sites were identified and evaluated based upon economic, land use, and human impact criteria. The sites were then narrowed down to the first three sites (Upper Lemon Creek, Peterson Creek, and Lower Lemon Creek).

1. North Peterson Creek: The western edge of the potential area is approximately 0.5 miles northeast of and paralleling Peterson Creek. Access to the site is the Glacier Highway at Mile 26 to the gravel firewood road just south of the turn-off for Amalga Harbor. The site is ~23 acres. (58° 29', 134° 46')
2. Upper Lemon Creek: ~1.3 miles upstream from the Lemon Creek Correctional Center on the west side of Lemon Creek. It is situated on a bench above Lemon Creek, ~0.5 miles upstream from the confluence of Sawmill Creek and Lemon Creek. The site is ~22 acres. (58° 23', 134° 28')
3. Lower Lemon Creek: Located ~0.4 miles northeast of the Lemon Creek Correctional Center. It is situated on a bench above the prison and creek, at the point where the slope breaks and steepens. (58° 22', 134° 29').
4. Cowee Creek: The area is located on the west side of Cowee Creek valley at approximately Mile 40 on Glacier Highway, ~0.5 miles south of the highway.
5. Herbert/Eagle River Area: The area is located within the drainage of the Herbert and Eagle Rivers beginning approximately 0.5 miles northeast of Glacier Highway at Mile 28.
6. Upper Montana Creek: The area is located in the vicinity of the confluence of Montana Creek and McGinnis Creek. The general area is designated in the Comprehensive Plan as a potential municipal water supply watershed.
7. Auke Nu Bench: The area is located on bench lands in the vicinity of Auke Nu Creek north of Glacier Highway at approximately Mile 13.5. It is a highly visible area from many areas of Auke Bay and Fritz Cove Road and is heavily used for Nordic skiing.
8. Fish Creek Quarry, North Douglas: The area is located at the Fish Creek Quarry off of Fish Creek Road, ~0.5 miles south of North Douglas Road. This site was eliminated when it was determined that the site lay within 10,000 feet of the Juneau International Airport runway end.
9. North End of North Douglas Road: The area is located at the northwest end of North Douglas Road.

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<sup>1</sup> Technical Reconnaissance Study for New Landfill Site Selection; Brown, Vence, & Associates and R&M Engineering; 1993. [https://juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Technical\\_Reconnaissance\\_Study\\_for\\_New\\_Landfill\\_Site\\_Selection-October\\_1993.pdf](https://juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Technical_Reconnaissance_Study_for_New_Landfill_Site_Selection-October_1993.pdf)

This intent of this study was to find the most suitable locations for a potential new landfill. It did not look into any engineering or construction needs for the individual sites.

The Upper Lemon Creek site was also thought to be the least expensive to develop. The cost of planning and construction was estimated at \$6,310,000. Please note that this number is the original 1993 estimated value and has not been adjusted for inflation or to account for additional regulatory cost. This estimate is 30 years old and does not represent what the construction of a new landfill would cost in 2023.

The study suggested that the next step be a more detailed engineering and environmental assessment for the sites. I found no record of any such follow-up assessments. However, we did find a 2015 memo on landfill planning from Mr. Watt to the Lands Committee with additional thoughts.

Enclosures: Maps of the sites from the original report  
Landfill Planning Update, 2/25/15