

Belmont Cleanup
Redwood City Tribune
Feb 11, 1987

Disposing of a bureaucracy

* APR 1 1987

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3) THE SOUTH COUNTY Garbage and Refuge District, a government entity that lost its reason for being when the Marsh Road dump in Menlo Park closed, is finally going out of business. The district's seven-member board is to hold its last meeting this month, exactly three years after the dump closed.

The district should have vanished from the bureaucratic landscape at least a year ago, but a prolonged debate developed over how to divide up the district's treasury. Had the matter not been resolved to every director's satisfaction, the district would have been forced to spend \$90,000 on an unnecessary special election and make voters from Belmont

to Menlo Park approve its demise. But to the directors' credit, they instead agreed to address two important, regional concerns — park improvements and toxic waste. Of the roughly \$270,000 left, about \$200,000 will be invested in Bayfront Park, the Menlo Park-run stretch of greenery that now sits atop the old dump. The remaining \$70,000 will be set aside for two years in case toxic problems occur in an old Belmont dump the district once operated and, after that, it may be used in case such problems result in Bayfront Park.

Good decisions sometimes take time. While this process took too much time, it is the decision that counts.

The agreement also must be approved by the LAFCO board on Feb. 18 and then by the county Board of Supervisors, probably in March, according to LAFCO's executive director, William Davis.

Davis said it probably will be another six weeks before the district is legally defunct.

Under the agreement, \$70,000 of the money would be set aside for two years to take care of any state-required testing for the Belmont

Please see DISSOLVE, A-12

Agency votes to dissolve

Refuse board decides to go out of business

By Janet McGovern
Times Tribune staff

5) A San Mateo County garbage district without a landfill to run is finally about to go out of business after more than a year of determined efforts to dissolve it.

The San Mateo County Garbage and Refuse District Board voted unanimously Monday to dissolve the district, whose job for 30 years was to run the Marsh Road dump in Menlo Park. BELMONT

The dump was closed in April 1984, and Menlo Park is turning it into a park.

The seven members in the district are Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont and San Mateo County government.

Initially, the only hitch to closing down the district was what to do with about \$270,000 left in its trea-

Fearing the potential for a toxic waste cleanup, Menlo Park wanted most or all of the money. The other cities at first wanted a share, too.

The problem with a settlement was that a unanimous vote was needed to avoid holding an election to let the voters decide, which could have used up about \$90,000 of the money.

Finally, the Local Agency Formation Commission, which has the ultimate say in dissolving the district, came up with another idea: Spend the leftover money on Bayfront Park, the park that Menlo Park is creating on the old landfill site.

But subsequently, the existence of a second and long-forgotten dump in Belmont came to light to further complicate matters.

Under state law, all former landfills must be monitored to make sure toxic waste is not leaching into the ground. Faced with unknown liabilities, Belmont balked at dissolving the district without being protected from liability.

The former Belmont landfill now is used as an athletic field and is designated as a hotel site.

Late last year, however, the refuse district board agreed in principle to an agreement to dissolve the district and set aside money to cover potential toxics-related claims at both landfills.

The agreement was approved by the Belmont and Menlo Park city councils on Jan. 27 and was unanimously approved by the refuse district board on Monday.

DISSOLVE

MP FEB 11 1987

Continued from A-1

landfill, Davis said. Menlo Park would hold that money in trust, and after two years the remainder would go to Menlo Park.

The second priority for the funds will be to take care of any testing that may be required at the Marsh Road landfill.

The third priority for the funds will be improvements to Bayfront Park, Davis said. In return, both Belmont and Menlo Park have agreed to hold the other five members of the refuse district harmless from legal claims, he said.

It is hard to say how much of the money will have to be spent on testing for either of the former landfills, Davis added, but he said it could be in the "tens of thousands of dollars."

Belmont News
Redwood City Tribune
Feb 1969

Belmont Dumping Easy

FEB 7 1969

Belmont residents, as of next Friday, will no longer have to make the 16 mile round trip to Marsh Road in Menlo Park to get rid of their trees and grass clippings and other "big rubbish."

They will be able to haul the stuff to Belmont's corporation yard, on O'Neill Street east of Bayshore Freeway, and dump it in two large debris boxes, Councilman Joseph Zucca announced today.

The two boxes, with a 50 cubic yard combined capacity, will be accessible to Belmont residents from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

An attendant will require identification of residents.

These things may be dumped: shrubs, branches up to five feet long, lawn cuttings, weeds, paper, cold ashes, wood, metal, glass and dismantled furniture.

These things will not be accepted: rocks, concrete, soil, garbage, fruit or vegetable matter, anything which has a strong odor or anything which is subject to rotting.

Belmont's 'Select' Garbage Plan

FEB 13 1969

Tomorrow will be the first day of a plan for Belmont residents to get rid of their select garbage without driving 16 miles to the Marsh Road Dump in Menlo Park.

Starting tomorrow, residents will be able to leave inoffensive refuse Fridays and Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Belmont corporation yard, on O'Neill Street east of Bayshore.

Refuse can be shrubs, small branches, lawn clippings, weeds, paper, cold ashes, wood, metal, glass and dismantled furniture. Anything which may develop bad odor is unacceptable as are rocks and concrete.

Dump Closes, Area Fears Trash Deluge

FEB 17 1968

By ALLAN CUNNINGHAM
Tribune Staff Writer

Illegal dumping is expected to increase sharply after this weekend when the Belmont dump shuts down forever.

The long drive to Menlo Park to dump trash — a ritual residents of Belmont, San Carlos and northern Redwood City happily abandoned six years ago — will come back to life at 5 p.m. Sunday.

At that hour, the last shovelful of refuse will be unloaded at the dump east of Bayshore Freeway and north of the Ralston Avenue overpass.

City and county officials predicted the closure will create the same problem of illegal dumping — especially in Belmont — that prevailed before the dump opened in 1960.

The biggest pinch will be for those who must load their station wagons or trailers and haul their refuse from the hills back of Belmont to the Marsh Road dump in Menlo Park — a traffic clogged 20 minute drive each way.

As of Monday, this will be the only site available to residents of the six communities making up the south county disposal district: Redwood City, Woodside, San Carlos, Belmont, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

Belmont City Mgr. Arthur H. Brandow says his city has tried at length to find a new dump site, but with no success.

Best hope now is for a contract with the San Mateo County Scavenger Co., a private firm, which would allow residents to drive up ramps at a central point and dump their trash into garbage trucks.

Even this is not likely to happen for more than a year.

Brandow says he hopes the scavenger firm, which already hauls Belmont citizens' wet garbage, will be interested once the developers of Redwood Shores buy the firm's present transfer site. He expects this to happen once Marine World — the aquatic amusement park linked with the shores development — opens in May, 1968.

The company uses its property to transfer garbage from little trucks to big trucks for the haul to Marsh Road. Brandow hopes to interest the firm in using a corner of the about-to-be-closed dump for its truck transfers on week days, making the ramps

available to the public on weekends.

The city negotiated with the scavenger firm to start the ramp service sooner, but gave up when it became clear the cost would have to be borne through exorbitant dumping fees or a city-wide tax increase.

Marvin Phillips, the disposal district's operations superintendent, said "They'll have quite a bit of illegal dumping in the Belmont area. We already do on Mondays when the Belmont dump is closed. People drive up and dump it in front of the gate."

*Belmont Cleanup
Redwood City Tribune
Feb. 1967*

Redwood City Mayor Sidney D. Herkner, chairman of the district board, agreed. "It's human nature," he said. "It will probably continue unless the local officers crack down."

Brandow promised that officers will do just that. He said Lake Road, a favored illegal dumping site in the past, has been barricaded. It will be patrolled often, as will the entrance to the closed dump.

Herkner pointed out that residents can drive to the San Mateo dump as well as to the one in Menlo Park. Non-San Mateo residents, however, must pay a dollar for every cubic yard of refuse they dump.

In about 10 years, the Marsh Road site will be full and will become a municipal golf course. At that point, the south county's only official dump site — at least as far as is known now — will be Ox Mountain east of Half Moon Bay.

The county hopes by then to set up transfer points of its own, so trash dumpers will not face an even longer drive.

Herkner hopes that more modern methods, such as incineration and composting, will be perfected before the Ox Mountain site is opened.

Brandow, meanwhile, insisted that any news story on the subject should include this "free plug" for the scavenger company:

"Remind your readers that the company is agreeable, for a slight extra charge, to pick up boxes of trash left alongside the garbage cans. This is the best answer for people who don't have time to drive down to Marsh Road.

"As a matter of fact, that is what I expect to be doing myself."

Belmont To Close Dump on Feb. 19

FEB 7 1967

The Belmont disposal site—long on its last legs—will be closed “definitely” on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m., directors of the South County Disposal District agreed yesterday.

All possible available land has been exhausted, according to operations Supt. Marvin Phillips. The dump operation only can be saved if the City of Belmont comes up with some other plan.

In the past, several innovations have been used to prolong the dump's life, including the filling of marginal areas along the fence next to Bayshore Freeway.

Belmont Councilman Joseph Zucca, a member of the district board, has adamantly opposed an end to the disposal operation. He was not present yesterday to protest, and may have something to say before the dump is finally closed.

The site is located just east of Bayshore Freeway at the end of Ralston Avenue. If closed, the South County district would be left with only one remaining site—the one at Marsh Road, Menlo Park.

The district serves Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Menlo Park, Woodside and East Palo Alto.

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Belmont news
Redwood City Tribune
Feb - 1967



—Tribune Photo

They Beat the Deadline

FEB 21 1967

These station wagons and trucks serpented into the Belmont Dump Sunday before 5 o'clock, when the disposal facility was closed forever. South San Mateo County residents now have only the Marsh Road Dump in Menlo Park, and officials fear a sharp increase in illegal dumping.

Use of Trucks for Dumping Proposed in South County

FEB 21 1967

Belmont Dump

BELMONT — City Councilman Joseph Zucca, who lost his fight to keep the dump here open, sees hope in a plan to build ramps so south county residents can toss their refuse into garbage trucks instead of hauling it to Menlo Park.

But he will ask that all six communities in the South County Disposal District, as well as the San Mateo County Scavenger Co., share the cost.

The Belmont Dump closed Sunday, leaving residents of Redwood City, Menlo Park, Woodside, East Palo Alto, San Carlos and Belmont with only the Marsh Road dump in Menlo Park.

Belmont City Mgr. Arthur H. Brandow said last week that the city has tried in vain to get the ramp operation going, but now doubts it will get underway before next year. If done now, he warned, it could bring excessive fees or an unduly high tax rate in Belmont.

Zucca, who is also a disposal district director, said today he will bring up the matter at the district board's March 6 meeting, proposing that the district and the private scavenger firm help Belmont pay for the operation.

Meanwhile, at least one infraction of the dumping laws was reported shortly after the Belmont disposal site closed its gate for the last time.

Brandow said a load of household trash was dumped close to the city corporation yard on Arata Road, about a quarter mile south of the dump — possibly by someone who found the disposal area closed. Papers in the trash indicated the culprit was a Redwood City resident. Police were investigating today.

'Probation' May End

SEP 13 1967

With a seepage problem apparently solved at the no-longer-used Belmont Dump, the South County Disposal District may soon go off the water pollution "probation" list.

Operations advisor Ira E. Bonde told directors Monday he is about to send to the Bay Region Water Quality Control Board what he hopes will be the last of a year-long series of reports on what has been done about the problem. This one, he said, shows that pollution is now well below the control board's safety limit.

The control board threatened in May, 1966, to take legal action unless seepage was halted. But it gave the district, and the city of Belmont, until now to seek a solution.

'Temporary' Dump Site Proposed

MAR 14 1967

BELMONT — Councilman Joseph Zucca last night proposed that the city try to get the South County Disposal District to create a temporary "debris transfer station" at the recently closed city dump. Zucca told his council colleagues that this would permit Belmont residents to use the dump site for another six to eight years until the disposal district develops a permanent debris transfer point elsewhere.

The councilman said he believes a temporary dumping area could be erected at the site for "about \$20,000." The structure would consist of a chute leading to parked dump trucks. Local residents could dump their trash into the chute to be hauled away in the trucks.

He said he would propose that the disposal district pay for the project and be re-imbursed by the dumping fees.

Nearest dump site available to Belmont residents since the Belmont dump was closed Feb. 19 is at the foot of Marsh Road in Menlo Park.

The Council also:

—Introduced an ordinance amending the city's code to provide for keeping purchasing records for the time period required by the state's government code. Councilwoman Sterry, who wanted a seven-year period stipulated, failed to gain the necessary support.

—Set March 27 for public hearings on a use permit for the Family Billiard Center at 990 Ralston Ave. and the appeal by the Happy Host Coffee Shop for a new sign at 510 El Camino Real.

—Empowered the city's zoning administrator to grant temporary permits for Christmas tree lots and fireworks stands, which formerly required the approval of the planning commission.

—Set a public hearing April 24 on proposed parking limitations at Ralston Avenue and the Alameda de las Pulgas.

Belmont Herald
Redwood City Tribune
May-Aug-Oct 1966

Irked Chief Halts Dumper

AUG 20 1966

BELMONT — The fire in the debris in Belmont's west hills, which has been flaring up since Tuesday, has made the Belmont fire department a little cross with illegal dumpers.

So when Asst. Chief Jack Morrissey yesterday spotted a freshly dumped pile of trash near the new and remote water tanks behind Hallmark homes, he dug around until he came up with a name, then contacted police.

"Clean it up or we'll prosecute," snapped the police to the Belmonter whose name was in the junk.

"Sure, Sure," mumbled the resident, "You see what happened was the man hauling the trash for me didn't know the way to the dump and, etc., etc. . .

Refuse district near end

Belmont dump

OCT 18 1966

No dump, but member cities fight over assets

By Janet McGovern
Times Tribune staff

The long struggle to dissolve a San Mateo County refuse district that has stubbornly clung to life finally may be nearing an end.

The South County Garbage and Refuse Disposal District has remained intact, despite the fact that its sole reason for existence during 29 years in business — the Marsh Road dump in Menlo Park — was closed in 1984 to make way for Bayfront Park.

But like heirs fighting over an estate, the district's Board of Directors have been squabbling over which member city gets the \$270,000 in leftover assets.

The Local Agency Formation Commission, which has the ultimate say in dissolving the refuse district, this week appeared ready to accept a solution to which the feuding parties have finally agreed.

All that is hanging it up is the recent discovery of a second district dump in Belmont, which operated until 1967 on part of what is to be the Island Park project.

Soil tests now have to be conducted to determine whether there are any toxic wastes on the site and, if so, who is liable for any cleanup, according to LAFCO's executive director, William Davis.

Assuming the site is trouble-free,

Please see DISTRICT, A-4

Belmont Refuse Site To Be Closed June 5

MAY 4 1966

The South County Disposal District served notice today that it will close down its Belmont disposal site on June 5 at 5 p.m.

Only the finding of additional ground for disposal purposes can keep the facility open after that date, directors agreed at a meeting Monday.

And that possibility seems remote.

Virtually the only hope for additional space is realignment of "Neill Slough, which passes through the disposal site. If the slough were moved to another location and the old channel filled, the disposal area could be kept open for another year or two, directors said.

But no agreement has been reached with Marina Gardens Inc., owners of adjacent land, to move the slough. Such an agreement cannot be expected for at least a year, and permits from such agencies as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers would be required.

Marina Gardens also has refused to allow dumping on a strip of former Western Pacific Railroad right-of-way bisecting

the disposal site. The land is needed for a future road and, if filled, construction of the road would be more expensive, according to the owners.

"If there's no more room to dump," explained Director Byron D. Kimler of Woodside, "we have no choice."

The disposal district has squeezed and pressed all the refuse it can onto the present site, provided by the City of Belmont, officials said. For months, the

(See Refuse, Pg. 2, Col. 1)

Refuse Site At Belmont To Be Closed

MAY 4 1966

(Continued from Page 1)

facility has been threatened with closure. Attempts to find additional land in the area for dumping have failed.

Councilman Joseph Zucca of Belmont was the only director who voted against shutting down the disposal area. He said it will be difficult for the district to come back in a year or two and reopen a Belmont site, after equipment is sold and men are laid off.

"It was not difficult before" when the Belmont facility was first leased to the disposal district in May, 1961, replied chairman Sidney D. Herkner, Mayor of Redwood City. "We can't keep a man on the payroll doing nothing."

Herkner said the district will stand ready to return to the area "if someone will give us more land."

The 22-acre site originally was provided by Belmont as a means of creating a recreational area just east of Bayshore Freeway north of Ralston Avenue. A baseball diamond and other facilities now are in existence on the first part of the site filled.

DISTRICT

Continued from A-3

LAFCO members would then be able to dissolve the garbage district and appoint Menlo Park as a successor agency.

All seven board members of the district, which stretches from Belmont to the Santa Clara County line, have agreed to let Menlo Park have the money to spend on capital improvements at Bayfront Park.

Davis said at first Menlo Park was unwilling to assume responsibility for defense costs in any third-party lawsuits that might arise from the Marsh Road dump.

But he said the City Council has discussed the issue and agreed to that condition, in exchange for receiving the remainder of the park lands.

The members of the South County Refuse District include representatives from Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Menlo Park, San Mateo County and the public at large.

LAFCO commissioners postponed a final decision until Nov. 19 to allow Belmont to conclude soil reports.

OCT 18 1986

When the refuse board started talking about dissolving the district a year ago, many felt that splitting the money among the seven members, based on assessed valuation, was the fair way to do it, according to Bill Rhodes, a former Redwood City Councilman and member of the refuse board.

His city would have received the largest share -- about 29 percent.

All seven members had to be in unanimous agreement, he said, but Menlo Park balked. City Council members were concerned about having to pay legal claims or for cleanup fees if toxic wastes are dis-

covered in the future, he said.

Had the board not reached a unanimous agreement, the alternative would have been to put the matter to a public vote. An election could have cost an estimated \$90,000.

Over many months, the board members either weren't all present or weren't able to agree. Finally, Rhodes said, the board sent the matter on to LAFCO to decide.

LAFCO members came up with a new concept, Rhodes said: Spend the left over \$270,000 on Bayfront Park.

Meanwhile, the existence of the all-but-forgotten second dump in Belmont came to light.

Because of a recent state law, all former landfills must be monitored to make sure toxic waste is not leaching into ground water, Rhodes said.

Suddenly faced with unknown liabilities, Belmont balked at dissolving the district without being protected, according to Rhodes.

The former Belmont dump now is used as a ballfield and is designated as a hotel site.

The refuse district board finally agreed unanimously in September to dissolve itself and use the money for the Bayfront Park, after taking care of any problems at the two landfills, Rhodes said.

"We all just gave up as far as getting any assets out of it," he said.

According to Belmont's assistant city manager, Richard Haffey, Island Park's geotechnical consultant is checking with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to see what additional air- and ground-water monitoring is needed.

Following that, a determination of the district's responsibility for any cleanup will have to be made before the district can be dissolved, Davis said.

The LAFCO board hopes that the matter can at last be laid to rest at its Nov. 19 meeting.

Belmont Klumpf
July 1961

SM Discount:

Belmont Dump Loses Patrons

JUL 13 1961

By WARREN GROSHONG
Tribune Staff Writer

Unauthorized discounts at the San Mateo City Dump are taking a big bite out of business at the new South County Disposal District's dump at Belmont. District Manager Dean Haug reported yesterday.

Haug told the district board of directors that personnel at the San Mateo dump are not adhering to rate structures set by the city and as a result many Belmont and San Carlos loads of refuse are passing by the Belmont dump for a cheaper rate further north.

"We need this business until we get customers used to using the Belmont dump," Haug said.

Don Mueller, assistant city manager of San Mateo, said that the San Mateo dump has a rate of 80 cents a cubic yard for users south of San Mateo. The Belmont dump rate is 50 cents.

Mueller sharply denied that there is any rate war going on.

"We don't need any more customers and we have every intention of co-operating," he said.

The assistant city manager added:

"If what Mr. Haug says is true, we definitely intend to tighten up on the situation."

The San Mateo city dump is operated by a contractor, James Mangini.

"It is not uncommon for a Belmont or San Carlos truck driver to come through our gates, ask the rates, then turn around and go on up to San Mateo to dump his load," Haug said.

District Director L. C. Reynolds said the City of San Mateo had given the district assurance "there would be no cutthroat competition," but he said it exists anyway.

Reynolds told of one contractor who dumped a two-yard load at Belmont for \$1, then took his next load, a larger one, and dropped it at San Mateo for 75 cents.

The board instructed Haug to

go first to the City of San Mateo, then to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, if necessary, to put a stop to the rate cutting.

The Belmont operation also faces a number of other shake-down problems.

One is that some agencies, such as the City of San Carlos, still operate under contractual arrangements with the scavenger company and therefore still dump at the San Mateo facilities because it's cheaper.

"But this arrangement will be changed within 60 days," Mueller said today.

Haug said business for the Belmont site by city, school and other public agencies is a very important part of the operation and not yet much of it has appeared yet.

Haug told the board he has been running into a major problem of getting good cover material.

He took on contractors Fisk, Firenze and McLean for sending "exceptionally poor" cover material to the Belmont dump. The district had agreed to pay 43 cents a cubic yard for 10,000 yards.

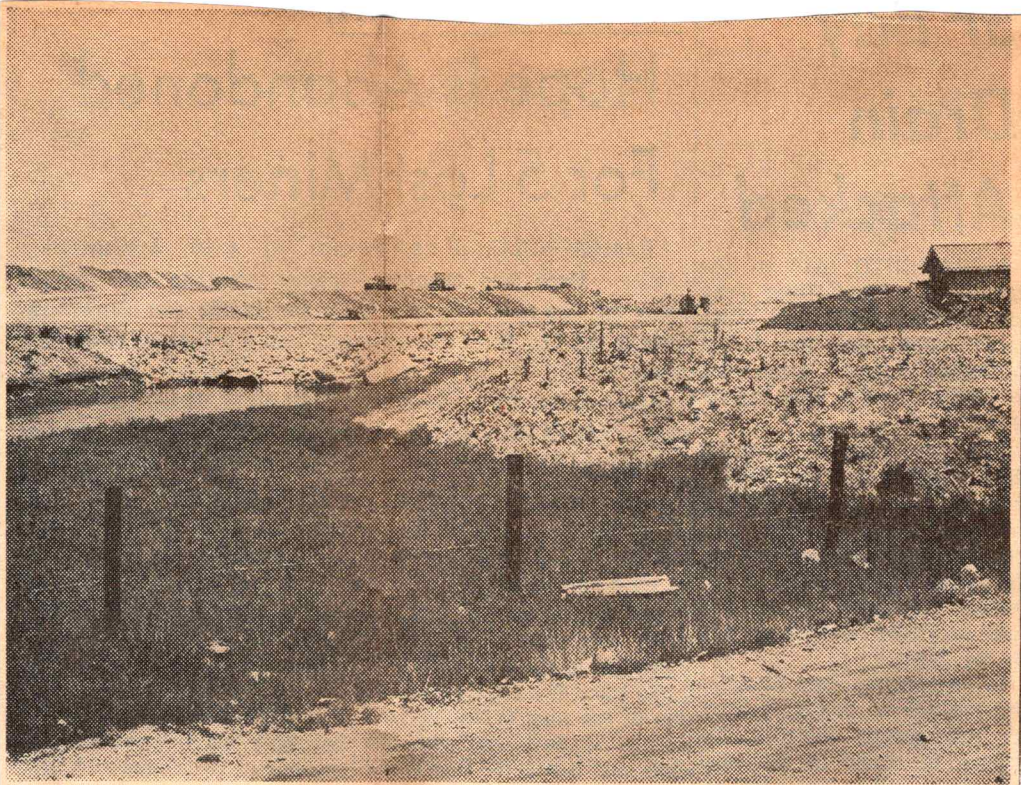
"The first few loads were mediocre," Haug said. "Yesterday, the loads were absolute dust and I stopped the job."

He said he discovered that the poor cover material for the job had been going to the Belmont dump and better material, containing rocks, had been going south to Redwood City.

It's impossible, he said, to get the necessary compaction with the cover material that has been coming in.

This and a series of other more minor problems, Haug said, should be ironed out within the next few weeks.

Belmont Dump
Redwood City Tribune
July - 64



—Tribune Photo

Belmont Dump Site

This is the area in which a Belmont citizen says the county plans to condemn land to create a fill and cover operation, or in his words, a "big stink in Belmont," as an interim use before it is turned into a recreational area. The 76-acre area will be near the present dry dump in the background, which can be seen by motorists from the Bayshore. A sign facing Bayshore Freeway says "Belmont Marina Park," a project which was announced with great fanfare years ago. It has since dropped from sight.

Protest AUG 6 1964 On Dump Planned

BELMONT — What one citizen called "the Big Stink in Belmont" will be fought by a large group of citizens at Monday night's council meeting, the citizen said today.

Walt Worthge said he used the term "Big Stink" to dramatize a proposal by the county to condemn industrially zoned land in Belmont for interim use as a wet dump or, in the county phrase, a fill and cover operation. Worthge lives at 1919 Oak Knoll Drive.

Worthge said that he got the impression from a County Board of Supervisors meeting last week that the land, about 76 bayside acres near the present dry dump, would be set aside for scavenger operations that were being forced out of a nearby fill and cover dump operation in the northern tip of of the Redwood Shores project.

The county proposal had been represented at Belmont council meetings by councilmen as a proposed recreation area with a golf course. Worthge, however, said the supervisors seemed unclear about what recreational use would be eventually planned for the area and one supervisor told him after the session that this was not a good location for a golf course. He told Worthge he would oppose the golf course.

E. R. Stallings, county manager, is scheduled to outline the county proposal at Monday night's session.

Councilmen Wallace Benson and Raymond Faber, main council proponents of the county plan, have argued at previous meetings that Belmont was in need of more recreational facilities and that such facilities in this area would greatly enhance the rest of the city. Benson also has said the land would be unsuitable for industrial development.

Worthge said that the acreage represented more than 50 per cent of Belmont's industrially zoned land and that there were no other open areas in the city which would be readily acceptable for industry.

Under the Courthouse Dome:

Man Has Right To Breathe Clean Air

By RAY SPANGLER

(Substituting for vacationing Al Bodi)

Wally Benson, the mayor of Belmont, presented me with a captive audience at the Villa Chartier the other day, and I took the opportunity to tell his Belmont Kiwanis Club about air pollution.

☆☆☆

Belmont, you know, gets undeserved blame for the big garbage dump in the marshland. That's where all the domestic garbage from Millbrae to Menlo Park is dumped, fed to hogs, then burned.

☆☆☆

The day I talked to the Kiwanians, the smoke plume was blowing right in on Belmont. You could smell the garbage until you got over the hill into San Mateo. Later in the afternoon the wind carried it south into Redwood City, where it greeted me on my return to the county seat



SPANGLER

☆☆☆

This aboriginal hog-feeding and open pile burning operation is the child of San Mateo County. It was set up and approved by the county health department.

☆☆☆

In justice to the department, let it be said that the plan was originated by people no longer with the county, and that it seemed a good idea at the time. At least it was an improvement over what had been going on before.

☆☆☆

It is entirely outside the city limits of Belmont and the city has no control over it.

☆☆☆

Time and the advance of civilization are certain to doom this operation and the nuisance it creates. Feeding raw garbage to hogs breeds vesicular exanthema, a disease in hogs similar to hoof and mouth disease in cattle. Even liberal Nevada prohibits feeding raw garbage to hogs. California will come to it someday.

☆☆☆

And some day our citizens will demand that their cities cease burning trash in open dumps. San Mateo has an immediate problem, but apparently will merely move it from one location to another.

☆☆☆

The Bay Area Council points out that neither San Francisco nor Oakland scavenger companies permits burning at their respective disposal sites, and that it has urged our municipalities to abandon their procedure with little success.

☆☆☆

Actually, no success.

☆☆☆

Yet people downwind from the marshland hog dump, or from any of the city trash dumps, complain. Particularly those with touchy sinuses.

☆☆☆

*Sumner newspaper
Redwood City Tribune
1953-54*

The county health officer, with the backing of the board of supervisors, recently proposed a county-wide district for fill-and-cover disposal of trash and garbage. Nothing came of it because our city officials weren't interested enough to so much as talk about it.

☆☆☆

Air pollution is not viewed an immediate problem. The nuisance is obnoxious only when the wind changes, or when there is a prolonged atmospheric inversion. It can be put off while we tend to the more immediate problems of local government.

☆☆☆

It can be put off until the problem grows beyond control.

☆☆☆

I believe in man's right to breathe clean air, and if contaminated air is forced upon him at his home, his office or his factory, he should complain about it.

☆☆☆

He should complain first to his city officials, for as long as they set the example of burning trash in city-controlled dumps, no one else is going to mend his air-polluting ways.

Belmont Fire Chief Bans Afternoon Dump Burning

BELMONT — Yesterday's noon by Edwin L. Buck, operator of the dump, "smog" picture on the front tor of the dump.

He also is seeking the city's co-operation in changing Buck's day off from Friday to Monday, eliminating burning on the day usually set aside by housewives for doing the family wash. The fire chief explained he has received "about 20 complaints" from Belmont residents during the past two or three months concerning Monday burning and the tear-jerking smoggy substance which has been drifting over Belmont. The chief has also asked that the dump operator abandon the practice of burning old tires.

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Belmont To Move Dump, Increase Rates

BELMONT — Effective March 1, Belmont's fill-and-cover garbage dump, nearly filled to capacity, will be moved 60 feet south of its present location. With the move will come in-

creased garbage disposal rates for neighboring San Carlos, Belmont City Council agreed last night.

Val Arata, head of the San Mateo County Scavenger Company in San Mateo, has contacted the owner of the adjacent property and informed the council, through Councilman Wallace Benson, the property is available for a new dump site.

Only string attached to the proposal, Benson explained, is that the city hold the unnamed

property owner harmless from damage claims.

The city's insurance will cover this, Benson told fellow councilmen.

Benson cited increased costs as the reason for upping the charge on San Carlos from \$100 to \$150 a month.

He said, in his opinion, the city should increase the rate since it carries the insurance and uses its street department equipment periodically to cover and smooth out the dump site.

The dump is now located east of Bayshore Highway between O'Neill and Ralston Avenues.

County-Wide Dumping Plan Faces Study

A county-wide program for garbage and refuse disposal to replace the present dump system will be discussed Nov. 4 at a meeting of San Mateo city and county officials.

County Mgr. E. R. Stallings said that representatives of the 13 incorporated cities are being asked to attend the session at which the Allen report will be outlined.

The San Francisco engineering firm recommended last month that three fill and cover dumps—in the north end of the county, at Coyote Point, and east of Belmont be established.

If it is determined at the meeting that a county-wide program should be undertaken, Stallings said, a decision will be made as to the advisability of setting up a garbage and refuse disposal district under the jurisdiction of the board of supervisors.

Failing that, cities and county will attempt to adopt standard ordinances controlling the pickup, hauling and disposal of garbage, trash and refuse.

The Allen report recommended elimination of burning at the dumps. Dump burning has received partial blame for the county's smog problem.

No Vacancy In Old Dump; Canyon Eyed

BELMONT — Within the next two to three weeks, Belmont and San Carlos residents may have to scour the hills for a place to dump their refuse.

That's when the Belmont dump site is expected to be filled to capacity, creating an unique problem for users of the dump site.

Benson promised the city council last night he will come up at the July 12 council meeting with a recommendation for a new dump site.

After the meeting, Benson said he has been thinking of the possibility of asking council to relocate the dump in the foothills behind Belmont—in a canyon west of McCune property excavation on upper Ralston Avenue.

Benson said he has received preliminary promise from the property owner that he will dig a deep culvert at that location and lease the land to the city as a dump site.

Redwood City (Cal.) Tribune, Tues., July 13, 1954—Page 3

Belmont Dump Issue Not So Bad After All

BELMONT—The San Carlos-Belmont dump situation isn't as acute as Belmont City Councilman Wallace Benson led the public to believe two weeks ago.

City Administrator Fred J. Nelson said last night there is enough room on the present dump site to serve the twin cities for another three to six months.

Two weeks ago, Councilman Benson indicated the dump site would have to be abandoned since it would be filled to capacity within the next "two to three weeks."

C. D. Allen of Allen Engineering Company, San Francisco, currently undertaking a survey of San Mateo County's dump situation, asked the city council last night to hold in abeyance any designation of another dump site.

His report, Allen declared, will cover San Mateo County's refuse disposal problem for the next 25 years through recommendation of a fill and cover method, instead of the present smog-provoking burning means of disposal.

Belmont Dump
Redwood City Tribune
1955

Dump Plan Stalled In SC - Belmont Area

BELMONT—Negotiations for a new dump to serve both Belmont and San Carlos are at a standstill, Councilman Charles H. Cook said today.
Cook said he is dealing with Piombo Construction Company for use of an abandoned slough

east of Bayshore at the Holly Street overpass in San Carlos.
Cook said Piombo officials will not be available until Friday, at which time he will be out of town. How soon thereafter a meeting will be arranged he did not know today.
The Belmont city dump closes Friday because there is no more space. San Carlos has used the dump at an annual fee of \$1,800.

Until the negotiations are more complete the councilman said it is impossible to tell when the dump might be available to the public.
He said he did not know what method would be used to take care of the refuse. He said he hoped that fill and cover might be possible.

Incinerator Sans Smoke Urged Here

BELMONT — A smokeless incinerator which cremates both garbage and rubbish was advanced last night as the answer to the South Peninsula's critical dump problem.

Such method of disposal is presently in operation in Hoquiam, Wash., a city of about 12,000 persons. The city also has about 100 inches of rain annually.

Robert Martin, representative of the Simplex Incinerator Corporation of Seattle, gave a brief rundown to the city council last night on this latest substitute for fill and cover methods being investigated by Belmont, San Carlos and Redwood City.

He said his company has, with complete success, installed these incinerators in all parts of the Pacific northwest and believes it would be feasible in South San Mateo County.

Martin offered to fly city officials to Seattle where they could learn first-hand of benefits to be derived from the smoke-less incinerator.

But City Administrator Fred J. Nelson said the need for a tri-city dump site is immediate since closing of the San Carlos-Belmont dump, and the county is expected to come up with the solution.

Belmont Dump To Reopen?

BELMONT—Councilman Wallace Benson said today he will propose at Monday night's council meeting that the city re-open the Belmont dump exclusively for Belmont residents for a month.

At the end of that four-week period, Benson said he plans to ask the council to investigate the possibility of purchasing flat land on the Peninsula's Bay side for a permanent dump site.

The dump, closed since last August because of a space shortage, does not have sufficient room to accommodate, as before, San Carlos residents, Benson said. This is the reason for taking action exclusively for Belmont home owners.

Benson said he has received a number of complaints from residents who say it is too far to drive to the county dump to get rid of grass and tree trimmings, and dry refuse.

Private Dump Law Suggested in Belmont

BELMONT — City Administrator Fred J. Nelson last night proposed the city council adopt an ordinance regulating the dumping of material on private property in the City of Belmont.

The council, however, tabled the proposal at the request of newly-elected Councilman Warren R. Mendel. He asked more time for study.

Nelson explained the practice of dumping on private property is causing a problem. In many cases, he said, sewer mains are being covered and drainage structures are encountering interference.

He proposed, and said the city attorney and city engineer concur, that before a lot is filled a plan be submitted to the city by the applicant.

Councilman Victor G. Wandmayer, also attending his first regular meeting since the April 10 election, suggested such project plan be submitted through the planning commission and then recommend to the council.

Nelson's proposal would give the building inspector power to grant the permit, inspect the property and require the engineer to draft specific plans at the applicant's expense.

The council also:
Instructed City Attorney Paul A. McCarthy to draft an ordinance extending the probationary period from six months to a year for regular and promotional civil service appointments.

Denied a request from the Carmonet branch, American Red Cross, that the city donate a flagpole for the new branch office located adjacent to the city hall in San Carlos. McCarthy ruled it would not be legal to make it an outright gift.

Adopted an ordinance changing the meeting place from Central School auditorium to the new Belmont City Hall addition when the council chamber is completed. Completion is expected by May 15, with the first meeting there May 28.

Approved a resolution from the Belmont County Water District, asking permission to open mains along Ralston Avenue. Approval is contingent upon the water district restoring the pavement to standard specifications of the city, with the City Engineer Raymond F. Murphy making final inspection.

Belmont Dump Closes Down On Saturday

BELMONT—The Belmont city dump, opened Nov. 19, will be closed after Saturday because it has reached its capacity.

Residents may contact the San Mateo County Scavenger Company to have tree trimmings, grass cuttings and refuse removed from their property for \$1 a month. The company will collect up to 300 pounds of debris a week.

City Administrator Fred J. Nelson informed the city council last night that the dump has reached the saturation point.

He said another reason was the state's reluctance to approve burning on the dump site, part of which is state property.

The fill and cover method employed when the dump was opened has resulted in the dump becoming filled with no more space for depositing refuse, he said.

What To Do About Dumps: *Problem*

Readers Offer Some Ideas

By RAY SPANGLER

CORRESPONDENCE — "Several years ago when Mr. Claud Cummings, president of the Standard Dredging Co. was out from New York he had me contact Wilbur Frost, the engineer. He made a survey from the Bay Shore Hwy. northeast to Bair Island where we had offered an industrial site to the cast iron division of the U.S. Steel at Birmingham, Ala.



"At this time Mr. Cummings suggested that we in San Carlos grade a road on top of the levee which extends along the line between Sections 18 and 19, Range 3 West and Township 5, South, from the Bayshore Hwy. (now the new Freeway), at a point between Redwood and San Carlos, due east to Bair Island, north of the Hearst lands.

"Out along this levee road beyond Smith and Corkscrew Creeks would, in my mind, be an excellent place to create a three-city dump; at the same time fill and cover the tulle marsh future industrial lands, comparable with what the City of San Francisco is doing opposite the Southern Pacific yards.

"There is a vast area of waste land out there, Ray, that should be reclaimed in this manner and the prevailing west to east winds would carry smoke, etc., out onto the bay."

FRED H. DRAKE, San Carlos.

In this connection, Sam Cheatham presented me with a page advertisement from Time for Caterpillar. The title: "The playground that garbage built."

There's a picture of a little girl in a swing. The text: "She's swinging over what might have been a plague spot, a permanent menace to the health of the community. Instead, it's a clean, healthy playground for youngsters and grownups to enjoy.

"Yet it was built from the town's collection of garbage, trash and refuse—the very ingredients that often produce the old-fashioned dump, a breeding place for swarms of flies, rats and other dangerous disease-bearing vermin.

"What made the difference? Just one thing—a modern method of disposal known as sanitary landfill. This method, now in use in many towns and cities, is simple, inexpensive and practical . . . In making good riddance to bad rubbish, it turns the site used into a park or playground, property that's an asset to the community . . ."

"Dear Mr. Spangler: I don't believe it is the dumps altogether that is causing smog. People around this locality do nothing but burn paper and trash in their back yards.

"It is impossible to get up of a morning and breathe clean air any more. We have to keep our windows closed at all times. I will not sign my name to this as I do not want it published. I did write about an incident sometime ago and someone broke our large front windows, knowing our address.

"I am afraid of leaving the place any more, but it is around Topaz Street. I also see this burning all over town.

"Is there something you can say about this in your articles and bring it before the commissioners passing an ordinance on no backyard burning?"

I might point out to Fred Drake that it would do no good for regional air pollution control to burn refuse in a bayside dump—since the winds would merely pollute the air over the east and south bay.

We have been trying to co-operate with the weather bureau to predict when burning may be done with relatively little damage—those times when there is no inversion and when there is good drainage.

Last Wednesday's forecast said burning conditions were favorable—and we had it. Somebody burned something—I question it was the north bay refineries as reported—and a horrible stench settled over downtown Redwood City.

The problem we face is to find a fill with which to cover the garbage. Trucking that much dirt is a difficult problem, not alone from a cost standpoint but because the dirt must move over crowded city streets and state highways.

Perhaps suitable cover could be dredged from the bay—a disputed theory. Perhaps it could be carried across the towns and highways by tramway, or beneath them on a belt . . . Perhaps it could be brought in by rail, but essentially the cover problem is unsolved.

Composting may provide an answer. Or efficient, centralized incineration.

Backyard incineration, of course, is no answer. Los Angeles demonstrated that to its extreme sorrow.

I'm supposed to talk on smog tomorrow before the San Carlos Kiwanis Club, and I hope the outlook will be more hopeful than it looks today.

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*Belmont Klump
Redwood City Tribune
1955*

Timely Meeting Set On Dump Problem

The cities of Redwood City, San Carlos and Belmont are to be commended on their decision to meet in an effort to work out a satisfactory solution to their dump burning operations.

All three communities face a crisis. The Belmont dump adjacent to Bayshore Freeway and Harbor Boulevard, has run out of room for dumping. San Carlos has used the Belmont facilities on a lease basis.

Redwood City anticipates that its dump facilities will be exhausted within the next two years.

This makes it essential that adequate land is found for long-term dump operations. Councilman Charles H. Cook of Belmont had indicated he may have such a chunk of land on the bayside of Bayshore.

We hope that the cities are successful in finding adequate land for the new dump. We also hope they give careful consideration to fill-and-cover method of refuse disposal and that the operations be keyed toward reclaiming presently unusable land for future industrial expansion.

The best wishes of three cities are with the officials of these communities as they sit down together Thursday morning.

Temporary Dump Set Up By San Carlos Council

SAN CARLOS—Following Belmont's lead, the San Carlos City Council announced last night it has tentatively completed arrangements to solve this city's dump problem.

Residents of this community have been without dumping facilities since the close last August of the joint Belmont-San Carlos dump in Belmont.

Mayor Robert L. Beckwith said at last night's council study meeting that within the next 3½ weeks he hopes to complete negotiations with Piombo Construction Company for use of five acres northeast of the San Carlos Airport.

This site, due to be a combination fill-and-cover, and burning dump, could be used for the next six months, possibly even longer if residents adhere to restrictions, Beckwith said.

Meanwhile, officials of Belmont, San Carlos and Redwood City will continue exploring possibilities of a permanent solution by agreeing on a tri-city dump.

Cost of the six-month Piombo solution would be about \$8,500, Beckwith estimated. A breakdown showed about \$1,000

a month for operation including an attendant's salary, periodic policing and placing of additional rock fill as necessary; \$2,000 initial expense for fencing, rock and posting signs, and about \$500 to mail notices to residents and supply them with auto stickers or wallet cards for identification.

But before entering into an agreement with Piombo, Beckwith wants to hear reaction from this city's estimated 18,000 residents as to whether they approve the plan.

Action probably won't be taken until the Dec. 14 council meeting, although the mayor plans on bringing up the subject at tonight's council session at 8 o'clock at the city hall.

Beckwith said the fill and cover method will be used with a foot of material placed as necessary, but that burning will be allowed "only when weather permits" and then probably only at night.

Belmont recently entered into a somewhat similar agreement with David D. Bohannon for its own city dump on a six-month interim basis in the flat lands.

Bohannon, Belmont Agree on Dump Plan

BELMONT — City Administrator Fred J. Nelson today was authorized to enter into an agreement with David D. Bohannon to give Belmont residents a fill and cover dump site on four acres of land, east of the Belmont overpass.

Authorization was voted unanimously by the Belmont City Council last night after Councilman Wallace Benson said he had talked with Bohannon about using the property.

The new dump site, however, will be for the exclusive use of Belmont residents, who will be required to show evidence of residence. It will last six to

eight months. The Belmont dump has been closed since last August when it was filled to capacity.

Only cost to the city, Benson said, will be that of providing the fill. He said in answer to a question from Councilman George L. McCain that he "can personally assure you" that he can get the fill free.

He said he believes that Trucker Charles H. Berger and Contractor L. C. Smith, currently hauling fill out of two development projects, will contribute the necessary dirt to assure the "fill-and-cover" method of dump operation.

Tri-City Dump Costs Told In Belmont

BELMONT — A Tri-City dump, utilizing a smokeless incinerator, would cost Belmont's 11,000 residents an estimated 72 cents a year, Councilman Robert S. Hunter said last night.

This is in contrast with Mayor Wallace Benson's plan for a San Carlos-Belmont \$110,000 incinerator which would cost about 25 cents a month.

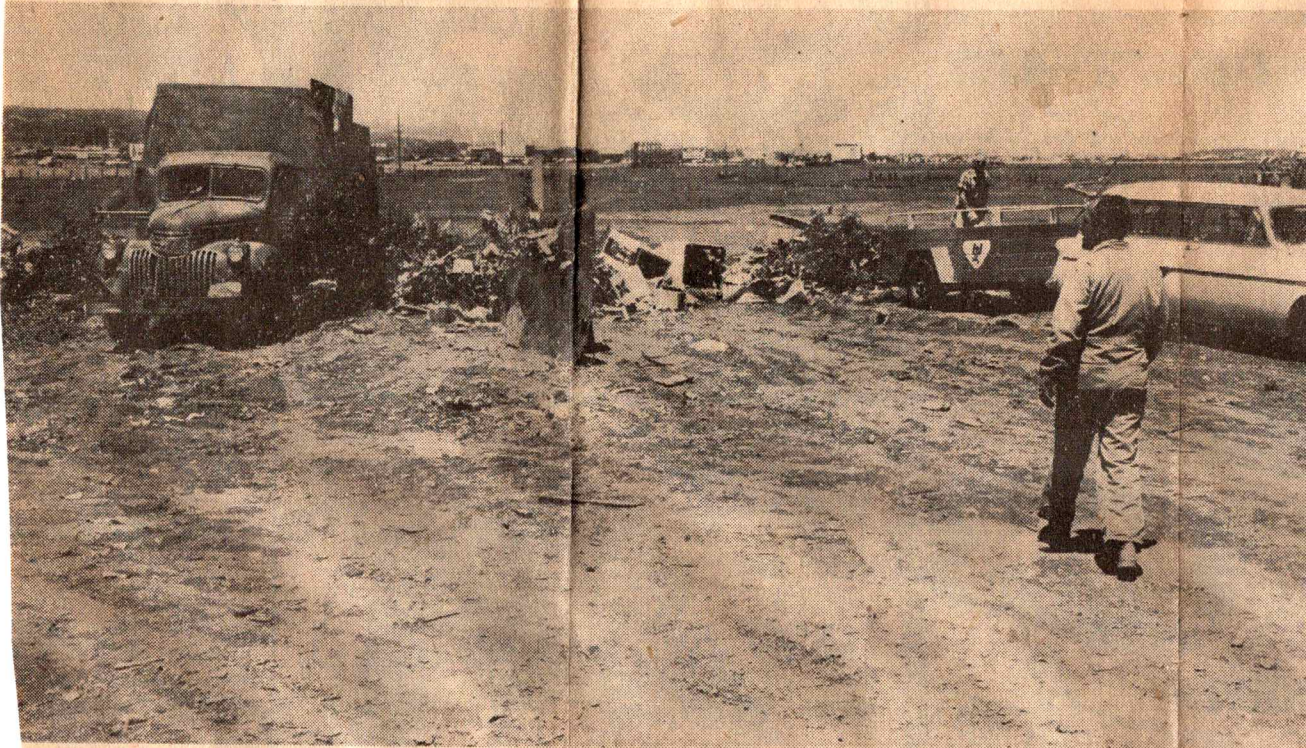
Hunter reported to the council last night on the latest refuse disposal meeting among Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont and county officials.

All four entities are hard pressed for a place to dispose of refuse since the closing of the Belmont city dump and the Redwood City dump fast approaching capacity.

The agreement among the three cities and the county will be entered into, Hunter said, only after individual city councils indicate their willingness to the county board of supervisors.

No action is contemplated in any of the cities, however, until County Manager E. R. Stallings submits a letter to each city outlining the proposal in detail, Hunter said.

New Belmont Dump



UNLOADING TRASH AT THE NEWLY-OPENED BELMONT DISPOSAL FACILITY
... Foreman Frank Benevento directs activities

—Tribune Photo

Volume Called Key To Success

By WARREN GROSHONG
Tribune Staff Writer

BELMONT — Many residents of Belmont may not know it, but they have a first class refuse dump right at the edge of their city beside the Sea Scout base at the end of Ralston Avenue.

The new outlet for the South County Disposal District opened officially last Saturday and this week was going through the usual shake down to iron out all the problems.

For residents in Belmont, San Carlos and even northern Redwood City, the new facilities will be much more convenient than the South County dump at the east end of Marsh Road in Menlo Park.

**No vacancy
At Belmont Dump**
BELMONT — The Belmont city dump, used by Belmont and San Carlos residents, is filled to capacity and will be closed on July 1.
The 30,000 residents of the two communities will either have to transport their own rubbish to the San Mateo County or San Mateo city dump, or sign up for collection service with the San Mateo County Scavenger Company.
City Administrator Fred J. Nelson informed the council last night that the dump has "reached the point of exhaustion."
He said residents of the two cities can avail themselves of the scavenger company service by paying \$1 a month for one curbside pickup each week of dry garbage and rubbish.

And everything depends on volume, says Dean Haug, director of the disposal district.

"The program here depends completely on the support of the people in the adjacent areas," Haug said.

"Because of the tremendous volume at Marsh Road," the director said, "we have been able to keep the cost down below 35 cents a yard. This makes our rate schedule lower than many facilities in the Bay Area."

Haug compared the South Mateo County operation with the Los Angeles area where a lady complained several months ago that she had paid \$2 to dump 10 pounds.

The Belmont operation probably never will be as large as the big one on Marsh Road.

"We handle 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards a month at Marsh Road," Haug estimated. "We hope to hit 5,000 a month here at Belmont."

Belmont facilities will utilize the same type of fill-and-cover operation that has been successful at Marsh Road.

The dump is open every day except Monday and will stay open every day if the volume warrants, the director stated.

The rates are the same:

—Inside District: 25 cents minimum for less than one yard; 50 cents per yard for all materials.

—Outside District: \$1 minimum charge; 75 cents a yard for all

The disposal facilities are being operated on land owned by the City of Belmont. After the 20 acres have been filled the city will take over the area again and use it for recreation purposes.

"We want to do a first-class job," Haug said. "The board of directors realizes that we are reclaiming this land for municipal purposes and we intend to maintain the highest health standards."

"We have never had any rat problem at Marsh Road and we won't here," he said.

The disposal district official said volume is the primary key to success of the operation and this includes volume that comes from municipalities, school districts and other agencies which require dumping facilities.