

U.S. firm to get nod for waste treatment project

By **SONG NGUYEN**

(SGT-HCMC) U.S.-based California Waste Solution Inc. will likely get blessing for developing and operating the Da Phuoc Solid Waste Treatment Complex as a large-scale sanitation project in the city.

HCMC authorities last week petitioned the Government to allow the company to build and operate the 128-hectare waste treatment complex of Da

Phuoc Ward in the outlying district of Binh Chanh in 50 years, a city official said. The project is touted as one of key waste treatment plants in the city's environment protection strategy until 2020.

The project, which requires US\$426.5 million investment, includes a plant to sort out and treat waste for recycling at a daily capacity of 6,000 tons, a fertilizer factory that uses organic waste as production

material, and a dumping site. The complex upon completion is expected to treat more 24 million tons of waste in the first 22 years, at a fee of US\$16.4 per ton. After closing the dumping site, California Waste Solution will continue operating the fertilizer factory which uses organic waste to manufacture compost.

According to the company's plan, 30 to 50% of the city's solid waste will be

dumped, 20 to 30% will be burnt, and 20 to 30% will be used to produce compost and the remaining will be recycled into paper, glass or plastic.

Da Phuoc complex will be considered as the city's biggest dumping site with its capacity of 6,000 tons per day until 2010. From 2010 to 2020, the project developer will invest more in waste treatment technology and diversify the forms of waste treatment.

In July, the company started building a bridge crossing the treatment complex, also the first construction work in the first phase of the project. After finishing the first phase, costing some US\$107 million, the complex can treat 3,000 tons of solid waste per day.

In the long-term environment protection strategy, HCMC needs at least two waste treatment plants with a size similar to Da Phuoc complex.