

## Results: GovGuam must work with federal receiver instead of against it

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**Rain cap:** In this 2011 file photo, workers with Black Construction and Northwest Linings pull sheets of rain cap to cover a cell at the Layon landfill. Pacific Daily News file photo

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With all the problems facing the government of Guam and our island, it's ridiculous that the Calvo administration continues its efforts to undermine the federal receiver for solid waste and its efforts.

The latest salvo was fired late Wednesday afternoon. The governor's office issued a press release that alleged the federal receiver -- Gershman, Brickner & Bratton -- spent excessively on travel, food and lodging.

But the receiver transparently reports details of all the money it spends to the District Court of Guam. The court reviews those expense reports. Surely the federal court would have rejected any expense deemed to be extravagant or excessive.

And the Office of Public Accountability has twice conducted full audits of the receiver. None of the reports mentioned anything about unnecessary or improper spending.

The simple truth is that the receiver has done what was necessary to close the Ordot dump; open a new, modern, sanitary landfill; and fix a host of problems with solid waste operations -- something the government of Guam and elected officials failed to do for decades. And it did this in the face of repeated attempts by elected officials to stall progress.

The results show the receiver has done its job. Ordot dump was shut down and a contractor has been hired to properly close the facility. Trash is picked up on a reliable basis, and from more customers when the receiver took over. Less waste is going into the landfill after some materials were banned. Recycling programs have been launched.

David Manning, the receiver's representative, also noted that when the receiver took over, the government of Guam was spending \$11,000 a day to rent equipment for solid waste operations. Now that was excessive spending.

Elected and appointed government of Guam officials need to start working with the receiver instead of against it. Doing so will minimize the amount of time the receiver has to remain in charge of solid waste operations, while ensuring that our community's trash is properly handled.