

**MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

9:30 A.M., Friday
September 19, 2003

Boardroom
Monterey Peninsula Landfill
Marina, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Barlich, Vice Chair

Gary Bales
William Gianelli
Edith Johnsen
Tom Mancini
Sue McCloud
David Pendergrass
Jim Perrine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Albert, Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

J. David Myers, General Manager
William Merry, District Engineer/Assistant General Manager
Robert Wellington, Legal Counsel
Rick Shedden, Senior Engineer
Don Prescott, Finance/Information Systems Manager
Heidi Feldman Public Education Coordinator
Don Prescott, Finance/Information Systems Manager
Jim Griffith, Site Superintendent
Richard Petitt, Assistant Site Superintendent
Rebecca Aguilar, Administrative Support Supervisor
Julia Partida, Administrative Support Specialist
Cheryl Hall, Public Education Assistant
Baldo Trujillo, Senior MRF Operator/OE3 Shop Steward
Suzan Fine, Recycling Attendant/SEIU Shop Steward

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Jennings, Monterey County Health Department

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Notice having been duly given and the presence of a quorum established, the September 19, 2003, Regular Meeting of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District Board of Directors was called to order by Vice Chair Barlich at 9:30 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Following a motion by Director Johnsen and seconded, the Board approved the following actions:

- 1) **Approve Minutes of August 15, 2003 Regular Meeting.**
- 2) **Approve Warrants #41193 - #41389.**

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2004

General Manager stated that staff has placed legal notices in the *Herald* about the public hearing and the proposed rate increase. A rate increase fact sheet, which gave detailed information on the need of the increase, was sent to all of the District account customers and it was posted at the scales and Last Chance Mercantile. General Manager reviewed the fact sheet with the Board.

Vice Chair Barlich opened the public hearing for any comments. There being no public comments, Vice Chair Barlich closed the public hearing.

It was moved by Director Gianelli seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Approve Rate Increase Effective January 1, 2004.*

ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3) Adopt Resolution (2003-09) of Appreciation for Director Perrine

It was moved by Director Gianelli, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Adopt Resolution (2003-09) of Appreciation for Director Perrine.*

Vice Chair Albert presented the resolution to Director Perrine. Director Perrine stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the District Board. He commented that the District Board and staff can be proud of its many accomplishments and wished continued success in being the leaders in the solid waste industry.

General Manager commented that Councilmember Ken Gray had been appointed as the replacement to serve out Director Perrine's term as representative from the City of Marina.

4) Approve Draft Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002-2003

General Manager stated the draft annual report was in the same format as last year's report, except that the numbers and the highlights had been updated. He stated that Cheryl Hall had done a great job and had completed the report in a timelier manner this year. Last year she had waited for the State recycling numbers

to be finalized which had delayed the process considerably. This year it was decided to go ahead with the best estimates on diversion rates to get the report out sooner. The report will be mailed out to the Board of Supervisors, city council members, PBCSD boardmembers, and other important people in the Monterey Peninsula area.

Director McCloud stated that it would be nice to have the expected site life included in the facts on Page 5. General Manager responded that it was listed on Page 20 of the annual report. She recommended listing the site life on Page 5, as well.

It was moved by Director Perrine, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Approve Draft Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 to Include Recommendation of Director McCloud of Listing Site Life Expectancy on Page 5.*

5) Authorize Three Year Agreement with New Uniform Service Provider, AmeriPride Uniform Services

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Site Superintendent, Jim Griffith, regarding authorization to sign a three year agreement for a new uniform provider. Staff had received proposals from four firms, including Mission Uniforms, the current supplier, Aramark, Cintas Uniform Services, and AmeriPride. After staff review, it was decided that the best overall proposal was from AmeriPride, headquartered in Fresno with an office in Salinas.

General Manager stated that the District has been with Mission for many years, but in recent years has encountered many problems with the service. The District will save about \$20,000 a year on uniform services by switching over to AmeriPride.

It was moved by Director Bales, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Authorize Three Year Contract With AmeriPride Uniform Services for Employee Uniform Services.*

6) Authorize Staff to Apply for Revised Combined Solid Waste Facility Permit for Landfill and MRF Operations, and Revised Waste Discharge Requirements for Landfill

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Senior Engineer regarding Agenda Items 6, 7, and 8. General Manager stated that state regulations require that solid waste facilities have a Periodic Site Review (PSR) every five years performed by a registered civil engineer, such as District Senior Engineer, Rick Shedden. A required component of the PSR is to review and update the Report of Disposal Site Information (RDSI) for the landfill and the Report of Station Information (RSI) for the MRF. The District's existing RDSI was prepared in January 1998 and the RSI was prepared in September 1995. Senior Engineer and other management staff members have also been working on issues related to the District's solid waste facilities permits (SWFPs) and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

General Manager also stated that staff has discussed this issue with the Monterey County Health Department staff since there have been problems in recent months regarding the vehicle trips into the MRF. Staff plans to get an interim amendment to combine the number of trips to the landfill and MRF until a joint technical document, which is a revised permit combining the RDSI and RSI, can be obtained. The revised permit will require CEQA. General Manager reminded the Board that the new site master plan for the landfill operation conducted by Vector Engineering provided for steepening of the side slopes or "sliver filling" above the existing solid waste to increase the landfill capacity, improve drainage of rainwater off of the landfill site, and delay the filling of Modules 4 and 5. General Manager commented that staff had met with the RWQCB and they seemed supportive of the sliver fill concept which would be discussed in Agenda Item 8.

Director Gianelli inquired if staff anticipated any problems with the additional height of the landfill because of the sliver filling. General Manager asked the Board if it was appropriate to address the issue listed in Agenda Item 8 at this time. The Board agreed to consider Agenda Items 6, 7, and 8 together since they were all related.

General Manager stated that the new facilities permit would incorporate the new master plan and, as stated in the Manager's report, the additional height of the landfill from 260 feet to 445 feet above sea level could present some problems particularly from the FAA, Monterey County Airport Land Use Commission (MCALUC), and the Marina Airport. The airport would oppose any height exceeding 284 feet because of the navigable airspace. Another issue with the increased height would be the birds flying closer to aircraft using the airport.

General Manager stated that staff is requesting authorization from the Board to act as the lead agency for preparation of any environmental impact reports (EIR). General Manager stated that staff would also like to use the services of EMC Planning Group to prepare the initial study/environmental review, provide environmental noticing, and usher the CEQA process through to completion at a cost not to exceed \$38,622. General Manager asked the Board to consider whether EMC should model the proposed 445 foot height at the landfill, at an additional fee, so that it can be incorporated in the new permit. General Manager recommended limiting the height to 284 feet in the new permit, potentially eliminating any opposition in the CEQA process. He stated that the Board could delay any plans to increase the landfill height to 445 feet until sometime in the future.

Board discussion followed regarding the potential risk of not addressing the 445 foot height now and not conducting a full environmental review. Director Perrine stated that the staff and Board needed to be clear that a future Board would need to decide the 445 foot height and that it was not something that the current Board was contemplating. Continued reference to the 445 foot height could be misconstrued, therefore requiring a longer and more expensive CEQA process. Legal Counsel advised that EMC should also consider Director Perrine's comments when preparing any documents.

It was moved by Director Gianelli, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Authorize Application for Revised Combined Solid Waste Facility Permit and Revised Waste Discharge Requirements (Agenda Item 6); Authorize District to Act as Lead Agency for Purpose of Conducting Environmental Review Under CEQA (Agenda Item 7); Accept Proposal from EMC Planning, Inc. to Prepare and Process CEQA Documents Without the Height Increase Modeling Option (Agenda Item 8).*

7) Authorize District to Act as Lead Agency for Purpose of Conducting Environmental Review Under CEQA Re: Landfill and MRF Operations

As motioned in Agenda Item 6.

8) Accept Proposal from EMC Planning, Inc. to Prepare and Process CEQA Documents Re: Environmental Review for Landfill and MRF Operations

As motioned in Agenda Item 6.

9) Grant Concept Approval of Improvements to MRF Sortline Residuals Handling Equipment

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Senior Engineer regarding proposed improvements to the MRF sortline residue handling operations. General Manager stated that staff has been looking at possible changes in

the MRF for the last few years. One of the objectives in the three-year strategic plan was to “present to the Board for their consideration staff’s recommendations regarding the construction of certain MRF modifications, with a timeline, to increase operational cost efficiency, employee safety, and diversion.” Last year, HDR Engineering had prepared a report which included several expensive options to modify the MRF to provide for safer and more cost effective handling of residuals coming off of the sortline. Due to budget constraints, none of the options were acceptable.

General Manager stated that as an alternative, staff had asked Mike Ellinger, owner of Ptarmigan Equipment Company, designer and supplier of most of the MRF processing equipment, to look at the situation and make recommendations. Mr. Ellinger had suggested the conveyor be extended so that residual materials can be loaded into trucks and trailers at the back end of the MRF, using the existing loading docks. A second screen would also be added to capture more fines for use as alternative daily cover at the landfill.

General Manager stated that, as shown on the cost benefit analysis requested by the Board at the August meeting, this was a cost-effective way of improving the flow of material through and out of the MRF and increasing diversion. The total estimated cost for the improvements was \$625,000 including two truck tractors and three walking floor trailers, considerably less than the \$2,000,000 cost of the improvements suggested by HDR.

General Manager stated that if the Board granted concept approval, staff would return to the Board at the November meeting for adoption of a resolution allowing the use of Ptarmigan Equipment as a single source vendor and to give final authorization to purchase the equipment and the tractors and trailers.

It was moved by Director Mancini, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Grant Concept Approval of Improvements to MRF Sortline Residuals Handling Equipment.*

10) Authorize Staff to Proceed with Refurbishment or Replacement of Primary Water Well

The Board reviewed a memorandum from District Engineer regarding the need to refurbish or replace the primary water well. General Manager stated that the well had been drilled in 1972 and water from the well was used for fire protection and compost operations. The well has failed to produce water due to heavy siltation. Staff plans to clean out the well and determine where the sand is coming from and fix it at a relatively low cost of approximately \$10,000. Staff was asking the Board to give the General Manager, Chair, and Legal Counsel authorization to proceed as necessary, which could include building a new well at a cost of \$200,000, since it was vital to have fire protection on site.

Director Gianelli asked if staff had talked to the MRWPCA about using the reclaimed water. Director Perrine expressed concern of not making the best long term decision because of the urgency of having an operational well and felt that there was not enough information to justify the purchase and installation of a new well.

District Engineer explained that the three options were (1) immediately replacing the pump for a cost of less than \$10,000; (2) refurbish the existing well, at cost of around \$40,000; or (3) drilling a new well to a depth of up to 900 feet to obtain potable water at a cost of \$200,000. He stated that it could be necessary to do one or all three options. General Manager stated that if option 3 was needed, the work would have to go out to bid.

Board discussion followed regarding the options. Legal Counsel stated that the Board could authorize staff to proceed with options 1 and 2, and if 3 were necessary, authorize staff to go out to bid. Director Gianelli expressed reservations about drilling a new well. General Manager stated that the fire system was not

operational. If there were a fire on site, no back up water was available to extinguish the fire. Site Superintendent explained the fire system to the Board. The Board expressed concern that the fire protection was reliant on the water well. Director Gianelli stated that there were too many uncertainties with regard to the installation of a new well and suggested that staff try options 1 and 2 and report back to the Board if further action was necessary

It was moved by Director Gianelli, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Authorize Options 1 and 2 With No Action on Option 3.*

11) Authorize Preparation of Specifications and Acceptance of Bids to Purchase Miscellaneous Vehicles, Equipment, Electronics, and Software

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Site Superintendent regarding authorization to prepare specifications for purchase of miscellaneous vehicles and equipment. General Manager stated that these purchases are included in the 2003-2004 budget. He also stated that some of the items will not require staff to go out to bid, but staff will come back to the Board for approval of the purchases.

It was moved by Director Pendergrass, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Authorize Preparation of Specifications and Acceptance of Bids to Purchase Miscellaneous Vehicles, Equipment, Electronics, and Software.*

12) Consider Cancellation of October 17, 2003 Board Meeting

General Manager stated that several staff members as well as Director Bales would be attending the SWANA International Conference in St. Louis the week ending October 17th. On the annual calendar approved at the beginning of the year, October 24th had been listed as a possible date for a rescheduled meeting. General Manager stated that since staff would be busy preparing for St. Louis it would be preferable to cancel the October meeting unless the Board felt that a meeting was necessary.

It was moved by Director Johnsen, seconded, and *Unanimously Carried To: Cancel October 17th Board Meeting.*

STAFF REPORTS

13) Status of Fort Ord Demolition Projects

The Board received updated information on the Fort Ord demolition projects. District Engineer reported that there was nothing new to report on variance application.

14) Discuss Santa Cruz County Proposal to Consider a Waste Incinerator in Moss Landing

The Board reviewed articles from the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* and *Monterey Herald*, regarding Santa Cruz County's possible interest in locating a waste burning incinerator in Moss Landing. The Board also reviewed a letter sent by the General Manager to the *Monterey Herald* in response to their article. Director Johnsen stated that the Board of Supervisors had sent a letter to Santa Cruz County stating that they would not allow a waste burning incinerator in Monterey County.

15) Financial, Operating, and Recycling Reports

The Board reviewed the revised fiscal 2002-2003 year end reports as well as financial reports in a new format for July and August. The District's financial condition is satisfactory, but should improve with the January 1st rate increase. The Board also reviewed the operating and recycling reports. Overall tonnage was down from 34,577 tons in July to 30,896 tons in August due to a decrease in sludge brought to the site. Diversion rates were up from 30% to 33% without sludge.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

General Manager stated that the SWANA Annual Installation and Awards Banquet would be held at the Embassy Suites in Seaside on October 25th. He invited all Boardmembers and asked that they contact staff if they were interested in attending.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the September 19, 2003, Regular Meeting of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District Board of Directors was adjourned to November 21, 2003 by Vice Chair Barlich at 10:35 a.m.

RECORDED BY:

Rebecca G. Aguilar
Administrative Support Supervisor/
Recording Secretary

AUTHENTICATED BY:

J. David Myers
General Manager