



# Memorandum

## MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**DATE:** March 9, 2007  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Information for the March 16, 2007 Board Meeting

### CALL TO ORDER AT 9:30 AM

### ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Anyone wishing to address the Board on matters not appearing on the Agenda may do so now. The public may comment on any other matter listed on the agenda at the time the matter is being considered by the Board.

### CONSENT AGENDA

These matters include routine financial and administrative actions, which are usually approved by a single majority vote. Individual items may be removed from Consent for discussion and action.

- 1) **Approve Minutes of February 16, 2007 Regular Board Meeting**
- 2) **Approve Report of Disbursements**
- 3) **Ratify Purchase of Backup Generator**

Enclosed for your information is a memo from Assistant General Manager Tim Flanagan requesting the Board to ratify the purchase of a backup stationary diesel engine/generator. The unit was purchased and installed in December 2006. Funds were included in the budget for the purchase.

***Recommendation: Ratify Purchase of Backup Generator.***

**4) Adopt Resolution 2007-02 to Renew Department of Conservation Certification Number for On-Site Recycling**

Enclosed for your information is a memo from Public Education and Recycling Manager Jeff Lindenthal requesting the Board to adopt a Resolution to renew the certification of the District's site as a collection center for Department of Conservation bottle and can recycling. The certification the District has held since 1995 has lapsed. With the certification, the District will be able to obtain more favorable pricing for sales of bottles and cans recycled as part of the drop off center and MRF operations.

***Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2007-02 to Renew Department of Conservation Certification Number for On-Site Recycling.***

**ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**5) Receive Presentation from SCS Engineers on District and Community Recycling Programs**

Enclosed for your information is an outline SCS Engineers will follow during their presentation on recycling and diversion. At the February meeting, SCS Engineer Bruce Clark made a presentation at the Board on conversion technologies being considered for processing the municipal solid waste stream. Enclosed are two articles passed out by Mr. Clark, one on the proposed Geo-plasma Plant in St. Lucie County, Florida and the other titled "Turning Garbage into Power" at the Trail Road Landfill in Ottawa, Canada. In late February I attended SWANA's Senior Executive Seminar in Tampa, Florida. The subject of the proposed \$425 million geo-plasma plant proposed for St. Lucie County, Florida came up, and how could a community spend that amount of money on such an untried technology. The conclusion was that it will be a good opportunity for the industry to observe the success or failure over the next few years. The general observation by the group is that it's a risky venture for the community. Finally, enclosed is a March 1, 2007 *Herald* article on a proposed bio-solids processing plant in San Bernardino County.

At the March meeting, SCS Project Director Michelle Leonard will make a presentation on different types of recycling and diversion programs used in several California communities. Her presentation will also suggest what type of additional diversion programs could be pursued locally in the near term. The efforts of SCS Engineers in reviewing local diversion and recycling programs will be summarized in a report for use in the upcoming Board Strategic Planning session scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>.

***Recommendation: No Action Required.***

**6) Approve Waste Disposal Agreement with Santa Cruz County to Accept Waste for Disposal at Rate of \$27 Per Ton (May be Adjourned to Closed Session)**

At the February meeting the Board considered this matter, and directed staff to provide further information at the March meeting. Enclosed is a memo from Assistant General Manager Tim Flanagan, along with Questions and Answers related to acceptance of regional waste, dated September 6, 2005, and the proposed Agreement. Tim's memo addresses the questions and concerns raised at the February meeting. The Question and Answer information sheet, was provided in the September 2005 Board packet, and continues to be good information. The Agreement has been revised to incorporate the changes requested, and the Exhibits are now included with the Agreement.

Patrick Mathews, of Santa Cruz County, plans to attend the meeting. Upon approval of the Agreement by the District, the County will consider the Agreement for approval in April.

On a related regional waste note, for your information, we have enclosed a newspaper article from the February 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Herald* on plans by the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority to expand the transfer station on Sun Street in Salinas. The expansion proposal is being met with community opposition. Also enclosed are two letters to the editor, as follow-up to the newspaper article.

***Recommendation: Approve Waste Disposal Agreement with Santa Cruz County to Accept Waste for Disposal at Rate of \$27 Per Ton.***

**7) Provide Direction on Strategic Planning Session**

Enclosed you will find an announcement for the Board Strategic Planning Session planned for April 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites. Candace Ingram will facilitate the session. She has informed me that she has contacted all Board members by phone to gather your opinions and views for the session. She has also conducted a similar survey with management staff. Candy and I will be meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> to begin to put together the agenda for the session.

***Recommendation: No Action Required.***

**8) Authorize Analysis for Establishing Department of Conservation (DOC) Recycling Buy-Back Center On-Site**

Enclosed is a memo from Public Education and Recycling Manager Jeff Lindenthal. In the memo, staff is requesting authorization to conduct an analysis of the feasibility to

locate a recycling buy-back center at the District site. Upon your authorization to proceed, the results of such a feasibility study will be incorporated into the Preliminary Budget discussions in May.

***Recommendation: Authorize Analysis for Establish Department of Conservation (DOC) Recycling Buy-Back Center On-Site.***

**9) Reclassify Position of Power Systems Technician to Assistant Power Systems Supervisor With an Increased Salary Range of \$4,652/month to \$5,937/month**

Enclosed is a memo from Administrative Services Manager Rich Norton, recommending reclassification of a position in the Landfill Gas to Energy Project. The existing technician has given notice to leave the District. The recommendation comes at a time when staff has been considering making adjustments to the duties, responsibilities, and compensation of the Power Systems Technician position anyway, to provide better backup for the Power Systems Supervisor for the project. Following your approval, staff will move to fill the position as soon as possible.

On a related personnel matter, Safety Manager Gary Metzler has given notice to leave the District. March 15<sup>th</sup> will be his last day. He has accepted another position locally. We have been very fortunate to have him with us for the last two years and we wish him well.

***Recommendation: Reclassify Position of Power Systems Technician to Assistant Power Systems Supervisor at an Increased Salary Range of \$4,652/month to \$5,937/month.***

**10) Appoint Ad Hoc Personnel/Finance Committee**

At the February meeting, Chair Laska solicited volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Personnel/Finance Committee, to fill the position previously held by former Board Chair Albert. Director Pendergrass has volunteered to serve. If anyone else is interested, please contact Chair Laska or me prior to the Board meeting. Board Chair Laska will serve as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, and Board Members Bales and Gray will continue service on the four-person committee. The Committee is scheduled to meet with staff from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Pebble Beach Community Services District Administration Building to discuss the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008.

***Recommendation: Appoint Ad Hoc Personnel/Finance Committee.***

## STAFF REPORTS

### **11) Financial, Operating, and Recycling Reports**

The financial statement for the month of January is enclosed. Total Operating Revenues for the month were \$1,282,700. For the month, total Operating Expenses were at \$1,345,695 and Net Operating Income was a minus \$62,994.

The Operating Reports for January and February have been combined into one report, which is enclosed. As reported last month, January's Operating Report was delayed due to start-up problems with the new scale software system. The Total Solid Waste Accepted into the site during February decreased 12% from January to 24,629 tons, and was down 7%, from February last year. The trend of total solid waste into the site has been downward since October 2006. The franchised garbage and the cash customers into the site for the month compare favorably with February 2006. The commercial and industrial tonnages have trended considerably lower over the last three months. This downward trending may be due to reduced construction activity locally, a slowing of the economy, material being hauled out of the wasteshed, or some other reason. Staff will continue to research the cause as we prepare the preliminary budget for next year.

The AB939 Recycling Rates, as of March 1, 2007 are enclosed. The Peninsula communities continue diversion at record high levels for 2006. As reported to you in November, beginning in 2004 the CIWMB made available an alternate adjustment rate factor methodology. This alternate methodology was optional for use, but District staff took the time to investigate its impact on the recycling rates for local jurisdictions. As the rates show, the impact was significant. Additionally, for Seaside, staff successfully submitted a Request for Disposal Year Modification to remove the Department of Army RCI disposal tonnage from Seaside's recycling rate. The CIWMB accepted the request and Seaside's rate rose 11% to 59% for 2004.

### **12) Public Education, Recycling, and Litter Report**

Please refer to the enclosed memo from Jeff Lindenthal. Staff plans to partner with Ecology Action to write a continuation grant to the Department of Conservation for additional Special Event Recycling activity in the community. The Scope of Work from Ecology Action is enclosed for your review.

Also enclosed is a news article about banning plastic grocery bags in San Francisco. This is noteworthy as this idea was proposed a year or so ago, but the grocery store industry in the area put up \$100,000 to develop a program to discourage the use of plastic bags. That program has apparently not been satisfactory there, hence this renewed interest. There is

no doubt that plastic grocery bags are a very common piece of litter there and in our community. The topic of litter, and perhaps even banning use of plastic bags locally, may be on the agenda for Board Strategic Planning.

### **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **13) Letter From Monterey County Department of Health RE: Liquid Waste Spill Incident of November 18, 2006**

The enclosed letter was received from Monterey County and passed out at last months Board meeting. The items outlined in the letter are primarily matters within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and which have been or are being addressed between the District and the RWQCB. However some items listed in the enclosed letter are also being addressed between the Monterey County Department of Environmental Health and District staff.

### **GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Inter-Agency Discussion on Biogas.** On March 8<sup>th</sup>, District staff met with staff from the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency to discuss the potential to jointly develop a biogas to energy plant. I reported on this topic last fall. Since then, several meetings have occurred and a draft report has been prepared by the consultant. There seems to be mutual interest in considering such a joint project. At the same time, it may be mutually beneficial for each agency to proceed with its own biogas project upgrades. At the April Board meeting, District staff will provide a report on the topic.
- **SWANA 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Landfill Gas Symposium in Monterey.** The District assisted with the organization of the Symposium held this week at the Hyatt. A record number (650) of participants attended. Tim and Mario presented a paper titled "A Day/Week/Month/Year in the Life of Your Typical Landfill Gas Project". The paper outlines the challenges of operating our Landfill Gas Project. A copy of the paper is enclosed for your information. On Wednesday, 90 attendees toured the site and the Landfill Gas Project. Many favorable comments were received about "all the things going on" at the site and "how nice the site looks". On a related note, staff is preparing an application on the District's Landfill Gas to Energy Project for submittal into SWANA's Excellence Award Competition.
- **Landfill Buffer Zone.** We have just received information from the County Department of Environmental Health (and Local Enforcement Agency ([LEA]) with a proposed draft Landfill Buffer Zone Ordinance. We have scheduled a meeting with the LEA to discuss the draft and will place the item on the April Board agenda.

- Enclosed, for your information, is a letter and background information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) and related organizations, sponsoring an effort called Green Landfills. At their invitation, I have agreed to join the Steering Committee of the group, in coordinating the September 2007 Green Landfills meeting to be held in Sacramento.
- The *Herald's* Environmental Reporter, Laith Agha, was on-site last week, and again this week to tour the District facilities in preparation for two articles he is writing. One is on the topic of faux ordnance and similar suspicious devices in the waste stream, which appeared in the March 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Herald* (copy enclosed). The other article is broader, covering the programs and operations of the District. Lewis Leader has been instrumental in this three-year effort to have the *Herald* environmental reporter come to the site.
- For your information, I will be making presentations to the Pacific Grove Rotary on March 13<sup>th</sup>; the Monterey Kiwanis on March 15<sup>th</sup>; and the Carmel Valley Rotary on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The presentations will describe the programs and operations of the District, the importance to the community in having an infrastructure for solid waste management, the need for the community to work together in management of such issues as recycling and hazardous materials, the growing interest in sustainability, and the District's role as environmental steward.

## BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

### CLOSED SESSION

There is an enclosed confidential packet related to the closed session.

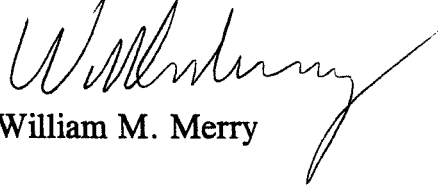
As permitted by Government Code Section 54956 et seq., the Board may adjourn to a Closed or Executive Session to consider specific matters dealing with pending or prospective litigation, real property negotiations, certain personnel matters, or to confer with District's Meyers-Milias-Brown representative.

- 1) Conference with Property Negotiators
  - Property: Landfill Site Space/Capacity
  - District Negotiators: William Merry, Tim Flanagan, and Rick Shedden
  - Negotiating Parties: Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County,  
Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority
  - Terms: All Terms and Conditions

- 2) Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation
  - a) Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Section 54965.9: 1 case
- 3) Conference with Labor Negotiators
  - District Negotiators: William Merry and Richard Norton
  - Employee Organizations: Service Employees International Union

**NEXT MEETING DATE: APRIL 20, 2007**

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Merry