



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

DATE: October 19, 2007
TO: MRWMD Board of Directors
FROM: Directors Gary Bales and Don Jordan
SUBJECT: Wastecon 2007

We attended SWANA's Wastecon Conference 2007 in Reno from October 15 to October 18. This conference was attended by some 3,000 solid waste professionals from all over the world. The purpose of the conference is to share information on solid waste practices and programs and to offer training solid waste employees. The meeting was also attended by several staff personnel as this is the only opportunity they have for professional training and exposure to the rapidly changing profession of solid waste management. A copy of the conference program and CD's of conference proceeding are available for your review in the General Manager's office.

Our impression was that it was a very worthwhile conference and provided both us, as directors, and staff with information which will benefit the District. Our operations and employees are held in high esteem by SWANA and are held up as a model for other service providers. On behalf of the District, we accepted the SWANA Gold award for 2007 Landfill Gas Utilization.

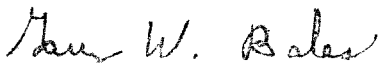
We attended as many sessions as possible which were applicable to our operations. We believe our attendance will give us some background as these types of issues and programs are presented to our Board. It was difficult to cover all the sessions which might impact us, but some of the information gained can be summarized as follows:

1. Many states are allowing waste to energy combustion operations to handle solid waste being generated. They consider this to be a renewable resource and Florida seems to be one of the leaders. There are three waste-to-energy plants in operation in California today, but they are older and would probably not be permitted again. This is not considered to be a renewable resource in California today and there no tax credits allowed.
2. There is a new Supreme Court case called United on waste flow control. This case will allow cities and districts to regulate the flow of waste to help support bonds for needed facilities. This will be important as the District updates its various flow control agreements.
3. The number of landfills is decreasing in the U.S., but there is still sufficient capacity to handle waste flows.
4. There is a lot going on concerning diversion technologies. One session covered the new plasma combustion project in Florida. This will be very expensive and much too costly for a small District like ours. But the thought is that in the next few years there will be some major breakthroughs on how waste can be processed. The District's consultant has recommended that we see what develops in the next few years before looking at specific forms of treatment or disposal.
5. There was a lot of discussion that waste is a renewable resource and that, if addressed properly, it can generate a lot of power that is presenting provided by the burning of fossil fuels.
6. There was discussion on climate changes and how solid waste may play a major role in helping to reduce reliance on importing oil for energy needs.

7. One of the speakers talked about the handling of animal wastes and the health problems this is creating for all the world and food and water resources.
8. One recurring theme of all the participants and programs was the need for partnerships for regional solutions.

The next Wastecon conference will be held in Tampa, Florida, next October with the theme of Energy-Climate-Resources.

Thanks to the Board for allowing us to attend and gain additional information we can share during the year.



Gary Bates



Don Jordan