



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

DATE: February 8, 2008
FROM: General Manager
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Initiate a Joint Feasibility Study with the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority to Investigate Possible Changes to North Monterey County Waste Flow Boundaries and Waste Management Practices

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board authorize a Feasibility Study with the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority to investigate the possible adjustment of the boundaries or redirecting portions of the waste flow of both organizations to be more geographical and logistically logical while remaining revenue neutral to both organizations.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2007 there was a coordinating meeting between staff and board members of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority and Monterey Regional Waste Management District. The attendees were:

MRWMD

Leo Laska, Board Chair
 Gary Bales, Board Director
 William Merry, General Manager
 Tim Flanagan, Assistant General Manager

SVSWA

George Worthy, Board President
 Lou Calcagno, Board Vice-president
 Stephen Johnson, General Manager
 Jose Gamboa, Operations Manager

Among the subjects discussed was the upcoming Monterey County unincorporated area franchise collection contract and the possibility of how the current waste flows gave a great advantage to the current hauler (Waste Management) because they have the only transfer station serving the North County area. Several alternatives were discussed which would reduce or eliminate the need for a transfer station to consolidate loads from North County, including:

1. Change the boundaries of the District and Authority to include all of North County within the District boundaries.
2. Leave the boundaries as they are, but direct North County franchise waste to the Monterey Peninsula Landfill rather than the Johnson Canyon Landfill and possibly direct other areas of the District's waste to Johnson Canyon Landfill, by Agreement.
3. Investigate other options that may be in the best interest of the both the Authority and the District, with an emphasis that the solution must be a win-win for both organizations.

The Board members present directed both general managers to carry this concept to their respective Boards for consideration at the earliest opportunity and to alert the Monterey County Environmental Health Director of a possible change in the County's upcoming hauler bidding process relative to where the waste would be delivered.

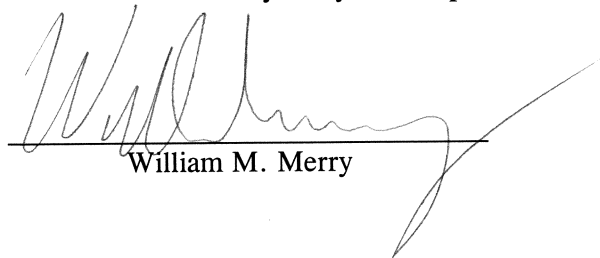
DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

A Feasibility Study would identify and quantify the options to achieve the goals of:

1. Providing an equal level of efficient franchise collection services at the lowest possible cost to all customers
2. Creating an “even playing field” for the up-coming County-wide franchise collections bid
3. Making the haul distance for franchise collection vehicles from North Monterey County the shortest possible
4. Analyze and evaluate the economic and other impacts of a contract whereby either party could allow the delivery of waste to the other for a per ton disposal fee plus an amount to satisfy the receiving party’s system costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. The costs of the various options identified in the feasibility study will be presented to both Boards.



William M. Merry

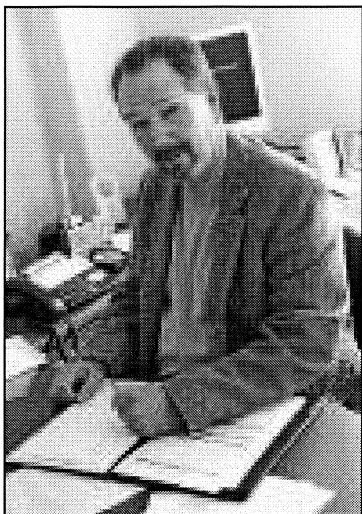
Salinas waste manager Johnson stepping down

Landfills closed, controversy over dump brewed during his nine-year tenure

By CLAUDIA MELÉNDEZ SALINAS

Herald Salinas Bureau

01/31/2008



Stephen Johnson is retiring after nine years with the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority.

Depending on the time of year, Salinas Valley residents produce up to 1,200 tons of garbage a day. For the past four years, Steve Johnson has been in charge of making sure there's a place to put it.

Johnson announced he will retire in May as the general manager of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, ending an almost nine-year career with the organization and an 18-year foray into the messy business of waste management.

"It's time," Johnson said Monday. "I think I need to move on to do other things in life before I wilt."

When Johnson came to Monterey County in 1999, the solid waste authority was two years old and earnestly looking to build a new dump to make up for the impending closure of two landfills. Since then, the agency closed Lewis Canyon and Jolon Road landfills, purchased land for a processing facility on Sun Street near downtown Salinas, and become independent from the city of Salinas, which originally housed its administrative and financial operations.

The agency's short history has not been without controversy. An ambitious plan to build a dump in the canyons near San Lucas sparked a backlash among property owners, who hired a public relations firm and lobbied elected officials to stop its development.

Johnson had to defend the agency's plan to develop a garbage processing plant at the Sun Street location, where business owners complained it would exacerbate traffic problems and contaminate the air.

The agency has since scaled back its plans, and Johnson said other sites could be considered for a processing plant if a timely alternative was found.

"It is very, very difficult to site any new facilities, and that's the reason that existing facilities are more commonly expanded or developed," Johnson said.

But the trouble arising from the effort to find more room persuaded once-reluctant Gonzales officials to allow the expansion of their landfill. Mayor George Worthy is one of the converts.

"We were saddled with Johnson Canyon road as a waste site long ago," Worthy said. "It's one of the few with the ability to expand. Even though it's uphill from the city, it's already there. The (environmental report) was approved, and the Solid Waste Authority is working with the city of Gonzales very well to mitigate any damage from trucks coming up there."

The waste authority is governed by elected officials from Monterey County and every city in the Salinas Valley — Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield and King City. It was formed when Monterey County decided to abandon the trash business, and Salinas Valley officials were looking for alternatives to process their garbage.

Johnson will be "difficult to replace," said Salinas City Manager Dave Mora.

"He has a unique work situation, very different from working with the county on its own or a city on its own. You have to bring together citizens of the county and residents of five cities."

Although the Crazy Horse Landfill in Prunedale is slated to close by the end of the year, agency representatives have pledged to reduce the Valley's waste by 75 percent in the next seven years, using new processing technology, recycling and public education campaigns.

Johnson said he feels he is leaving the agency on solid footing, and the board hired Bob Murray and Associates to search for his replacement.

Johnson plans to spend time in a little house in Panama he owns, and expects to continue contributing to the agency.

"It's been a fun ride," he said. "The authority is pretty grown up now. It's fully staffed, people are well trained. I've done a pretty good job."

Steve Johnson Job: General manager, Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority Salary: \$125,000 Experience: Operations manager, Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. Operations and facilities manager, County of Santa Barbara. Environmental education program instructor, administrator at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles Education: B.A. from CSU-Stanislaus, California teaching credential