



# Memorandum

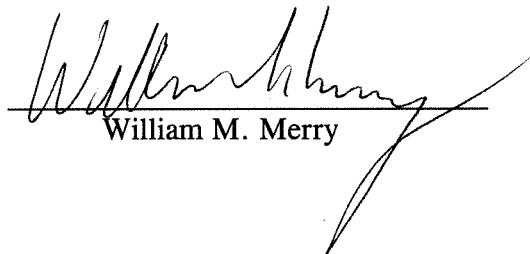
## MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

DATE: March 10, 2008  
 TO: Board of Directors  
 FROM: General Manager  
 SUBJECT: Summary of March 6, 2008 Meeting of SWANA Legislative Task Force

The Legislative Task Force of the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) met in Sacramento on March 6<sup>th</sup>. I attended as Vice Chair of the Task Force. An agenda of the meeting is attached and my summary notes from the meeting are presented below.

1. **Increased Waste Diversion Efforts**. There are three bills proposed in the legislature to address statewide efforts toward existing and increased efforts for recycling and waste diversion. The wording and intent of the bills continues to evolve over time. Two huge issues affect these bills, one is more a southern California issue, where they would like to see conversion technology diversion be more fully allowed; the other more a northern California issue calling for strong producer responsibility requirements.
  - a. **SB 1016 (Wiggins): The Solid Waste Disposal Measurement Act**. This bill is supported by the California Integrated Waste Board (CIWMB), and is aimed at simplifying the "numbers game" in calculating statewide and community specific recycling/diversion achievements. There appears to be a significant amount of "game playing" with the numbers by the jurisdictions, in an effort to exceed the state mandate of 50%. The Waste Board is more interested that communities "run the programs", and is proposing a shift to a "per capita disposal rate" calculation for each community. This bill is not aimed to increase diversion efforts, but rather would set up a "per capita" indicator to measure success in reducing what is disposed of in landfills. SWANA is working closely with the author of this bill on language.
  - b. **SB 1020 (Padilla)**. This bill would increase the diversion level from 50% to 75%. This bill is further along in the legislative process than SB1016, but will face considerable debate and discussion as it moves along.
  - c. **AB 2640 (Huffman)**. This bill is intended to promote the highest and best use of organic materials in California and will set up a "Compostable Organics Management Program" that will incentivize the development of environmentally superior alternatives to landfilling organic compostable materials. The bill would charge a fee of \$1.40 per ton of green materials used for "beneficial reuse" in landfills, including use as daily cover, and this money will be used to promote activities that divert these materials from landfills. By 2015, the bill would also phase out the practice of counting green materials used as landfill cover as being "diverted" from landfills. SWANA opposes the bill.
2. **AB 2866 (DeLeon)**. This Waste Management Inc. sponsored bill calls for a \$0.60/ton increase in the tipping fee, with the money being used to offset the cost to retrofit trucks to comply with state air emission standards. SWANA opposes this bill because of uses of fees.

3. ***CIWMB Executive Director Mark Leary*** and several top staff made a presentation to the LTF on the Waste Board's position and support for SB 1016 and why revisions are needed to the present method of calculating diversion. The Waste Board has set statewide diversion at 75% as only a goal, not a mandate. Mr. Leary also spoke regarding AB 32. Implementation of this 2006 bill will be the driver for much more environmental work.
4. ***Meet With CIWMB Members***. The Chair of the LTF, Grace Chan of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and I will be meeting individually with five waste board members on March 17<sup>th</sup>, including Chair Margo Reid Brown and Jeff Danzinger, Wes Chesbro, Cheryl Peace's advisor John Nuffer, Rosalie Mule and Gary Petersen.



William M. Merry