



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by Wmm Date 10/10/08
General Manager

DATE: October 10, 2008
TO: General Manager
FROM: Public Education and Recycling Manager
SUBJECT: Report on Public Education, Recycling and Litter Activities

Pacific Grove Community Recycling Forum

At the invitation of the City of Pacific Grove, the District hosted a "Community Recycling Forum" to discuss local and regional recycling programs on October 7th from 7-8:30 p.m. More than 60 residents turned out, including a large number of high school students, to hear William Merry describe District operations. William was followed by Whitney Jacobs, local recycling coordinator for Waste Management Incorporated (WMI), who described the curbside and commercial recycling programs available to local residents. The audience asked a wide range of questions including "Could e-waste and HHW collection be offered at the weekly Farmer's Market" and "Why is commercial composting for food waste not available?" Speaking for WMI, Ms. Jacobs announced that WMI is now accepting plastic bags in their local curbside recycling programs. Previously Monterey Disposal was the only local hauler accepting plastic bags. Waste Management asks that residents "bag their bags and tie" before placing them in the curbside recycling bin. District staff will be happy to host Community Recycling Forums for other member cities upon request.



William Merry speaks to Pacific Grove residents at the Natural History Museum on October 7th, 2008.

Food Waste Composting Pilot Project Underway

In cooperation with the City of Monterey and Monterey Disposal, the District launched a food waste composting pilot project on October 7th. Source separated food waste material, along with compostable food packaging the store uses, is being accepted once per week from Whole Foods Market in Monterey. Formerly, this material had been sent outside District boundaries to a composter in Gonzales. The District's Solid Waste Facilities Permit allows up to 20 tons per day of food waste to be composted on site.