



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

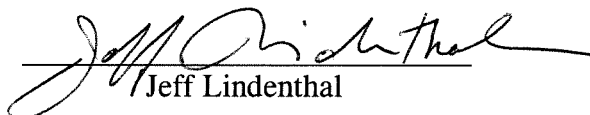
Reviewed by W/m/m Date 1/9/09
General Manager

DATE: January 9, 2009
TO: General Manager
FROM: Public Education and Recycling Manager
SUBJECT: Summary of 2008 District Accomplishments

Summary of 2008 District Accomplishments

The year 2008 will be remembered for many things, not the least of which was the increased media coverage of environmental stories from around the world. From climate change, to plastic bags and polystyrene packaging, to the crash in market value for recyclable commodities, the environment figured prominently in the news of the day.

Closer to home, the wide range of programs carried out by District staff play a major role in the environmental stewardship of the Monterey Bay region. District managers compiled the attached short summary of key accomplishments achieved in 2008. Most of all, the Summary of 2008 Accomplishments is a real tribute to the employees of the District that carry out these activities and programs throughout the year.


Jeff Lindenthal

Attachment

SUMMARY OF 2008 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Safety

This year we have seen a reduction in lost days and modified workdays. In 2007, we had 161 lost days and 521 modified workdays. In 2008 we had 17 lost days with 260 modified workdays.

Scales

Scales staff continues to enforce the District tarping and waste screening policies (which is not always well received by customers). Scale staff is the public face of the District everyday and prove that you can provide excellent customer service while adhering to District policy.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

- Reduced overall line staffing time by 11% (from 13.5 hrs per day previously to 12 hours run time per day) with no significant loss of diversion.
- Reduced green waste line run time by 50% over previous run time under old grinder, saving 10 hours per day operator time and 5 hours per day laborer time; a labor savings of \$156,000 per year.
- Performed upgrade to cans and bottles from Z wall recognizing an increase in approximately \$100,000 in recycling revenue due to separation and processing of containers prior to sale.

Last Chance Mercantile (LCM)

Despite these challenging economic times, sales at the LCM are up more than 11% over this time last year, the third straight year of increasing sales which is a tribute to the staff at the MRF that salvage reusable goods and staff at LCM that receive and process salvaged and donated items, get the products on the sales floor and write up price quotes, and receive payment.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Our HHW program received a bronze excellence award from SWANA in October 2008. This is a tribute to the long history of the program and its accessibility to local residents six days a week. It's also a validation of the enhanced waste screening, load checking and documentation program that staff implemented. In the last eight months of 2008, staff completed 1,842 visual inspections of incoming loads. Overall, tonnage collected in the HHW program increased 10% this year over the prior year, while costs were held or reduced.

Landfill

This was the third year of the landfill sliver fill construction and final cover placement by District staff and it again went very smoothly. By utilizing District staff and equipment versus hiring an outside contractor to do the work, significant cost savings were realized. District forces placed the one-foot thick clay barrier layer over the completed two-foot sliver fill foundation layer. Upon construction of the clay barrier layer, a one-foot vegetative soil layer was placed over the clay to complete the final cover.

Site Operations

Agricultural plastic recycling is a new pilot program that launched in 2008. This effort is being led by Heavy Equipment Supervisor Randy Evanger with support from site laborers and has diverted more than 2,000 tons of plastic over the last 10 months, a significant amount of diversion for a problem waste that was previously landfilled.

Food Waste Composting is another new pilot program beginning in 2008 and is headed up by Maintenance Supervisor Curtis Marshall and Senior Maintenance Worker Ted Melicia. We are now receiving 50 tons per month of source separated food waste from two local generators. The experience we gain from this program is valuable in learning how best to handle larger quantities of food waste for composting in the future.

Site Support Assistant Regina Vallez did a good job updating the fuel tracking data so we can better evaluate how much fuel each piece of equipment is consuming daily and annually.

Information Technologies (IT)

Staff is in the final stages of renegotiating the Power Purchase and Sales Agreement with PG&E. This new 10-year contract is expected to increase the price we are paid for electricity by more than 36%. As a result, the District will be earning \$1 million more per year in power sales.

Engineering

Work was done to bring in outside waste and our waste acceptance criteria has been re-evaluated. A Report of Facility Information (RFI) amendment was also completed to our Solid Waste Facilities permit to allow for the expanded agriculture plastic recycling program, the enhanced Waste Screening Program and the new sand washing operation.

In April 2008, the District completed the construction of a \$250,000 Fire Protection Water Pumping Plant, located adjacent to the existing 92,000 gallon storage tank. District staff was instrumental in providing engineering design, construction management, and day-to-day contact with the contractor to resolve issues during construction. The pride the site crew takes in their work is evident in the physical appearance of the new Pumping Plant including the landscaping around the building and the sign on the door.

Maintenance

The shop has continued to perform cost effectively and under budget for the second straight year by almost \$300,000 compared to 2005/2006. Also, Heavy Equipment Maintenance Manager Ron Mooneyham's work on the AB 32 projections and compliance measures has allowed the District to be on the leading edge of compliance in the State. This month the first particulate muffler was installed on a grader as part of our AB 32 compliance program.

Landfill Gas Facility (LFG)

It has been a busy year at the LFG. The installation of engine #4 is now almost complete, a big undertaking and one that will increase our power output to five megawatts. The other major accomplishments included trouble shooting engine #1, and the installation of a new gas skid and a backup skid.

Administration

Among all the things they do day to day, this past year the administration staff implemented a new policy to upload complete board packets to the District website on the Friday before the monthly board meetings. This has served to make our packets available to the public sooner, and has reduced mailing and postage expenses, while saving a lot of paper.

Accounting

Accounting staff has continued to work closely with operations staff to monitor cost cutting, repair and maintenance costs. Staff is also providing our largest customers with electronic data on individual transactions, and tracking data on the flow of recyclable materials to vendors. A tribute to the fine work done in accounting is represented in the annual audit of District finances which was completed on time and required no adjustments by the auditors.

Public Education

A Waste Free Schools curriculum and intensive school recycling program at the two Marshall Elementary Schools in Seaside was implemented by staff. The school went from generating approximately 70 tons of waste per year to 31 tons, at an annual savings of \$7,574 per year based upon their initial disposal costs.

The District also provided 15 schools in our local jurisdictions with recycling containers to help with their campus wide recycling endeavors. Staff was also part of a subcommittee of the Litter Abatement Task Force that drafted a model ordinance to prohibit the use of polystyrene fast food packaging. So far, the cities of Carmel and Pacific Grove have adopted the ordinance and the Monterey City Council will consider it in January.