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MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Home of the Last Chance Mercantile

STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

WILLIAM MERRY, P.E., BCEE
GENERAL MANAGER/
DISTRICT ENGINEERTIMOTHY S. FLANAGAN
ASST. GENERAL MANAGERRICHARD SHEDDEN, P.E.
SENIOR ENGINEERRICHARD NORTON
ADMIN. SERVICES MGR.ROBERT WELLINGTON
COUNSEL9:00 a.m., Wednesday
December 3, 2008Boardroom
Monterey Peninsula Landfill
Marina, CA

The Strategic Planning Advisory Task Force met for a second time on December 3. The minutes of the meeting are reported below. A subcommittee of the Task Force will continue meeting in 2009 to further discuss agenda items and will report back to the entire Task Force.

1. Increase Revenues to Maintain Service Levels. The Task Force is not supportive of reductions in services or reductions in recycling programs. A tipping fee increase of \$5 per ton effective January 1, 2010, which represents an increase in the range of \$0.50 - \$1.00 per month for a residential customer, has been proposed by staff and would be used to maintain service levels, recover costs of unfunded state mandates, provide adequate funds for maintenance and capital outlay expenditures, and to sustain existing diversion programs. Staff will evaluate a phased-in increase, instead of one larger increase. The amount of increase will be expressed in terms of cost to the resident per month. With Board approval, staff will prepare justification for an increase in the landfill tipping fee, and will then meet with staff of each of the member agencies to explain the need to increase the fees, prior to placing a final recommendation for a tipping fee increase on the Board agenda.
2. Strengthen Waste Flow Control to Support the District "Community Infrastructure". The District has leveraged millions of dollars in bond financing, constructed facilities and operated effective and efficient programs for processing and diversion of recyclable materials, managing regulated and hazardous materials, and the safe disposal of municipal solid waste. If solid waste originating within the District joint powers agreement service area bypasses the Monterey Peninsula Landfill, the corresponding loss in revenue compromises the community infrastructure for diversion and disposal the District provides.

To ensure continued financial support of this infrastructure, the District will be revising a "Construction and Demolition Material Processing and Recovery Ordinance" to strengthen waste flow provisions. It is essential that C&D materials are delivered to the District for processing and disposal. The draft ordinance will clarify what is a "certified" facility for C&D processing, along with the types of materials processed and maximum throughput of the District Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Task Force members will receive a draft copy of the ordinance for review and comment. As a follow-on action, the District will pursue the legislative authority to adopt its own Waste Flow Control Ordinance, which would apply across all member agencies.
3. Expanded Organics Processing. The District launched a pilot food waste composting program in October of 2008. Planning is underway to expand the District composting program to receive organics from other jurisdictions in the region and to divert additional organic materials such as food waste from the waste stream. As tonnage of compost production increases, it is increasingly important for our member agencies to "close the loop" and "take-back" (buy-back) recycled mulch and compost. Such "take-back" efforts will assist in market development of these materials while providing benefits of soil enrichment, water conservation, and the reduction of our community "carbon footprint". Staff is completing a Request for Proposals to solicit proposals from qualified compost firms in early 2009.

4. Adopt a District-Wide Diversion Goal of 75% by 2015. The proposed County General Plan proposes a 75% diversion goal; the State legislature has proposed such a goal and will again consider it in the next legislative session (SB 25). Surrounding communities have adopted a 75% goal including Santa Cruz County and the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority (SVSWA). A 75% diversion goal would allow District staff, in partnership with member agencies, to identify and plan for the next generation of diversion programs to achieve this goal in anticipation that it will become a State mandate. It was noted that the CEQA provisions of AB 32 will require additional efforts toward conservation and recycling and there is community-wide support for more sustainable practices and programs to reduce our “carbon footprint”. There was consensus to establish a diversion goal of 75% within the District. The importance of balancing “green” regulations with the costs associated with green programs was discussed. It was agreed that it is important to convey this message to the public: *recycling costs money, and facilities and processing cost money*. It was suggested that AB 32 is the “next big thing” and the District can play a huge role in earning carbon credits in the future. The topic of “carbon footprint” could be a 7th action item for future discussion.
5. Single Franchised Hauler Contract. The concept of having a single franchise agreement for member agencies within the District is recognized as having significant potential to increase the level of service to the customer for the most reasonable, competitive price, while retaining individual services of importance within each city. Staff suggested that member agencies not extend the franchise terms of any of their current franchise agreements, and to establish July 1, 2015 as the mutual date of termination for member agency franchise agreements. There was not consensus to do so, pending answers to questions related to individual terms and provisions of franchise agreements, operations of MRFs, and cost related implications. There was consensus to continue to convene subcommittee meetings to further analyze this topic. While significant differences exist among franchise agreements, such as a 10% fee to maintain local roads in Monterey, it was mentioned that existing agreements are “90 – 95% the same”. The benefit of public ownership of local MRFs was discussed and it was pointed out that Peninsula cities have paid for the Castroville MRF, but do not own it.
6. Explore Alternative Financing Strategies to Support Diversion. As recycling and diversion increase, landfill disposal decreases. Financing diversion through disposal fees is becoming an outdated funding mechanism. District staff suggested the following alternative examples to finance District operations:
 - Add a solid waste management surcharge to residential and commercial garbage bills.
 - Add a household hazardous waste (HHW) management fee to residential garbage bills.
 - Charge a user fee at the HHW facility.The Task Force added the following examples:
 - Assess the two regional wastewater treatment agencies a fee to assist in covering the costs to operate HHW collection since this program directly benefits their education and outreach efforts to keep toxics out of waste water treatment plants.
 - A second source of revenue, besides the tipping fee, was attractive to the County representative.

What is Your Vision of the Future for MRWMD?

The meeting concluded with a discussion of programs and concepts that can play a key role in the future of the District.

1. District MRF – the Next Generation. District staff provided an overview of the essential contribution the MRF has made to member agency diversion efforts since it was constructed and placed into operation in 1996 (local diversion rates now average 65%). The facility has been on-line for more than 10 years and there is a need to update the equipment and operational layout, to replace worn out equipment, and install more efficient and effective equipment to accommodate expanded diversion efforts.

In particular, two facility upgrades were presented:

- New Processing Capacity to Support a Wet/Dry Commercial and Multi-Family Collection Strategy. Challenges for multi-family and commercial recycling were discussed including trash and recycling enclosure limitations, and collection efficiency. The concept of adding new processing capacity to support a wet/dry commercial and multi-family collection strategy was discussed. This would allow for source separated recyclables to be bagged separately from refuse, but collected in the same container by the same vehicle. Such a scenario can improve collection efficiency by taking trucks off the road and improve diversion through a convenient collection strategy while serving a traditionally hard to service sector of the wastestream,
 - An Improved Construction & Demolition Processing Line. C&D materials have been the main target for MRF diversion. Operational processing capacity would be improved by establishing a dedicated C&D processing line.
2. At a time when government seeks to reduce green house gas emissions and promote alternative sources of energy, the District landfill gas recovery program now produces five megawatts of renewable energy. The District is poised to take action at the December Board meeting to enter into a new 10-year agreement with PG&E to deliver this renewable power for approximately \$100 per megawatt, thereby increasing project revenue by 45%.

The District will consider setting a goal in its Strategic Work Plan in 2009 to maximize energy recovery from materials in the waste stream, and will consider other sources of energy production on the District property. The energy produced could be used to support a regional water supply project, the regional wastewater treatment plant, or similar public benefit projects.

3. A statement was made by the County Environmental Health Director at the October meeting that the District and the SVSWA should combine at some future date into one entity for the purposes of providing waste management programs county-wide. With one such entity, programs could be more effectively and efficiently promoted and carried out countywide. This topic was mentioned, but there was no substantive discussion at the meeting. Staff suggested the matter will be taken up at the Board level at the appropriate time.
4. The Monterey Regional Waste Management District is a name often confused with Waste Management Incorporated and is not fully reflective of the wide range of District programs operating today. As we look to future diversion efforts, the word "waste" may be replaced by the word "resource". Alternative names for the District could include:
- Monterey Regional Resource Management District
 - Monterey Regional Recycling and Disposal District
 - Monterey Regional Environmental Park
 - Monterey Regional Recycling and Solid Waste Disposal District (suggested at meeting)
5. Other Items of Local Interest: None.

District Mission Statement: "It is our mission to provide the highest quality, cost-efficient, integrated waste management services to the greater Monterey Peninsula, while preserving our environment and protecting public health through the reduction, reuse, recycling and safe disposal of our wastestream."

Meeting of the Strategic Planning Advisory Task Force

December 3, 2008

NAME	AGENCY	SIGNATURE
Guillen, Rich	City of Carmel-by-the-Sea	ATTENDED
Burch, Heidi	City of Carmel-by-the-Sea	
Evans, Dewey	City of Del Rey Oaks	
di Iorio, Christi	City of Marina	<i>Christi di Iorio</i>
Hudson, Neil	City of Marina	<i>Neil Hudson</i>
Riechmuth, Bill	City of Monterey	<i>Bill Riechmuth</i>
Uslar, Hans	City of Monterey	<i>Hans Uslar</i>
Brantley, Angela	City of Monterey	<i>Angela Brantley</i>
Milton, Leslie	City of Monterey	
Greenway, Paul	Mo. Co. Dept. of Public Works	
Stroh, Allen	Monterey County Environ. Health Div.	<i>Allen Stroh</i>
Ramirez, John	Monterey County Environ. Health Div.	
Fore, Matt	Monterey County Environ. Health Div.	<i>Matthew R. Fore</i>
Matarazzo, Steve	City of Sand City	
Ingersoll, Diana	City of Seaside	
Anderson, Jill	City of Seaside	
O'Halloran, Tim	City of Seaside	
Hodgson, Daphne	City of Seaside	<i>Daphne Hodgson</i>
Martinez, Celia	City of Pacific Grove	
Becklenberg, Jim	City of Pacific Grove	<i>Jim Becklenberg</i>
Niccum, Mike	PBCSD	<i>Mike Niccum</i>
Kilic, Suha	PBCSD	
Merry, William	MRWMD	<i>William Merry</i>
Flanagan, Tim	MRWMD	<i>Tim Flanagan</i>
Shedden, Rick	MRWMD	<i>Rick Shedden</i>
Norton, Rich	MRWMD	<i>Rich Norton</i>
Evet, Glen	MRWMD	<i>Glen Evett</i>
Hunzie, Harry	MRWMD	<i>Harry Hunzie</i>
Petitt, Richard	MRWMD	<i>Richard Petitt</i>
Prescott, Don	MRWMD	<i>Don Prescott</i>
Rees, Chuck	MRWMD	<i>Chuck Rees</i>
Aguilar, Becky	MRWMD	<i>Becky Aguilar</i>
Herring, Kimberle	MRWMD	<i>Kimberle Herring</i>
Laska, Leo	MRWMD Board/PBCSD	<i>Leo Laska</i>
Gray, Ken	MRWMD Board/City of Marina	<i>Ken Gray</i>
Ingram, Candace		<i>Candace Ingram</i>
Myers, David		<i>David Myers</i>
Leader, Lewis	MRWMD	<i>Lewis A. Leader</i>
Jeff Lyndenthal	MRWMD	
Rob Wellington	MRWMD Leg. Counsel	<i>Rob Wellington</i>