



# Memorandum

## MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

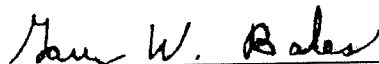
DATE: September 25, 2009  
 TO: MRWMD Board of Directors  
 FROM: Gary Bales, Director  
 SUBJECT: Wastecon 2009

I attended the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Wastecon in Long Beach on September 22-24, 2009. The conference was attended by over 1500 solid waste professionals from both the United States and other countries. In addition to the conference technical sessions, the conference included a trade show where the latest equipment and products were shown. Overall, it was a well-attended and produced conference, designed to share information on the latest solid waste and recycling issues.

Some of the impressions I gained from attending the technical sessions are as follows:

1. Due to the economy, solid waste facilities across the country are experiencing declines in waste processed. This has resulted in most facilities looking at revenue sources other than traditional tipping fees, and many major projects being put on hold.
2. There will continue to be a strong emphasis on the creation of more renewable resources for power. Many areas are looking at wind farms and solar fields on their property. Also, the methane gas to electricity will continue to be viewed as a valuable renewable resource. The general advice was that all facilities should be careful not to give away renewable resources that can generate additional revenue.
3. The keynote speaker was T. Boone Pickens who spoke on the need to use natural gas resources to replace imported oil. He indicated that proven reserves of natural gas are more than other countries' oil reserves. He believes the new energy bill will allow and require more use of natural gas.
4. I attended one session where the speaker was identifying the various parts of existing law pertaining to funding methane destruction. He brought up many of the points raised by District staff at the last Board meeting where we are going to submit an application for funds for the destruction of methane gas. This is a very complicated subject and my impression is that we may need some professional help along the way to ensure that the District receives the maximum allowable benefits.
5. One session I attended pertained to zero waste. Both San Jose and Los Angeles are extensively involved in developing programs to reach zero waste levels for their communities. They see this as an important need for their community and appear to be investing the necessary resources. One of the speakers discussed recovering specific waste products and then finding a need. For example, they have a program of recovering juice bags and making them into wind kites.

This is a very short summary of some of the sessions I attended. If I can answer any questions, please let me know.

  
 Gary W. Bales

## SWANA WASTECON CONFERENCE NOTES

Long Beach, CA  
September 22-24, 2009

Tim Flanagan

### SESSIONS

#### A. Use of Bio-Solids in Landfill

1. Several facilities use acceptance and disposal of bio-solids as a means of accelerating settlement at landfill as means to gain capacity
2. Pre-treatment of sewage prior to disposal is requirement
3. Dramatic increase to gas production is proven to be case
4. Landfilling techniques
  - a. thin layers
  - b. avoid large pockets in one area
  - c. receive early in day
  - d. clean, clean and clean equipment daily

#### B. Plenary Speaker – T. Boone Pickens

1. Get off oil from OPEC!!!
2. US has 2000 trillion cu feet of natural gas in shale formations
3. Push to mandate heavy trucks get off of diesel, remove 6.5 million trucks from road if we cut OPEC imports 50%
4. Natural Gas is “Cadillac of Hydro-carbons” ... cheaper, cleaner, abundant, and OURS!
5. Other energy sources (wind, solar, landfill gas) can provide significant energy sources in combination with each other, example wind corridor in Midwest and upper plains states
6. Need to improve “smarten” our electric grid efficiency

#### C. Applied Research Group – Recycling Division

1. Focus on organics management of waste stream
2. Collection efficiency vs. material contamination at MRF
3. Develop markets first or divert from landfill first?

#### D. Other Key Trends

1. How to fund programs in face of declining tonnage and increased mandates
2. How to credit recycling for GHC benefits as a way to incentivize and fund programs
3. How to predict market stability and availability for recyclables
4. Technology evaluation – what “black box” is the right and affordable “black box”
5. What is future of landfills? Are they the “bad guys”? Intermittent step to Zero Waste? Or necessary forever?