THE WASTE WATCHER

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Board seeks local government, industry participation on 21st century waste policy

With the year 2000 on the horizon and the deadline to cut California's trash in half fast approaching, the Waste Board is moving forward to develop a new solid waste management policy that will guide its efforts in the 21st Century.

At its May meeting, the Board launched the 21st Century Policy Project, an ambitious effort to identify current and emerging waste management issues and bring all interested parties together to develop proposed revisions to solid waste management policies for California.

A steering committee led by Board Members Steven R. Jones and Dan Eaton is working to assemble a wide variety of information about solid waste issues from sources throughout California, the nation, and abroad — information that will be made available through the Board's Web site. The Board will invite a wide range of stakeholders to participate an issues summit, tentatively scheduled for the fall in Southern California, to identify key policy questions.

Board Members will then analyze these issues by leading task forces of representative stakeholders leading to a major two-day Future Search Conference, tentatively slated for Sacramento, at which a larger number of stakeholders will be invited to help shape possible solutions and recommend actions. Policy recommendations will be brought to the full Board for action in early 1999. The final package of proposals will then be submitted to the new governor's administration.

Board Members Eaton and Jones emphasized that this ambitious effort is not just designed to "get input" from interested parties. Instead, the process is aimed at actively engaging local governments, the solid waste industry, businesses, environmental organizations, Waste Board staff, and other interested groups and individuals in raising and examining issues, ideas, and options.

The 21st Century Policy Project took shape as an outgrowth of Board concerns about waste management policy beyond the mandates established by AB 939 (1989) and SB 1066 (1997), calling for the state to keep 50 percent of its waste out of landfills between 2000 and 2006. Other than a requirement that local governments report annually on their disposal reduction, the law is generally silent on waste management policy and Board responsibilities beyond these time frames.

For more information on the 21st Century Policy Project, please contact Rubia Packard, Director of the Policy and Analysis Office, at (916) 255-2650, or e-mail her at rpackard@ciwmb.ca.gov.

100 million tons recycled

The following excerpt is from Waste Board Executive Director Ralph Chandler's report to the Board at its June 24 meeting in San Rafael.

"Today, the Board will consider another group of communities' biennial reviews to determine their waste diversion efforts and whether they met the 25 percent diversion rate specified in AB 939. Before you take up this item, I wanted to let you and the audience know just how successful the AB 939 requirements have been around California.

"According to staff's most recent estimates, since the Integrated Waste Management Board began operations in 1990 Californians have diverted 100 million tons of solid waste from landfills. During that time, the estimated statewide diversion rate has increased from 17 percent to 32 percent, the amount of materials diverted has doubled from 8.5 million tons a year to 17 million tons a year, and the amount of garbage sent to landfills has dropped from 42.4 million tons a year to 35.5 million tons a year.

"How much waste is 100 million tons? Staff came up with some interesting analogies.

Please See 100 Million Tons, Page 2

Big SLO tire pile cleaned a year ahead of schedule

After the removal of 1,017,000 waste tires, one of the state's largest illegal tire piles is now completely cleaned up and no longer threatening the environment or the public in San Luis Obispo County.

In late June, after just six months of work — and one year ahead of schedule — contractors working at the Loyd's Baling tire pile in southern San Luis Obispo County removed all the illegally stockpiled tires and sent them in shreds to the Chicago Grade Landfill in Atascadero. Once at the landfill, the shredded tires were used as daily landfill cover material.

The cost of the cleanup, which was on property owned by San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Ruth Brackett and her husband, was $450,000. Funding came from the State's Tire Recycling Management Fund, an account that is funded by the 25-cent-per-tire fee paid on each tire purchased in California. In addition, the Bracketts were required to turn the property over to the contractor — Chicago Grade Landfill — once the cleanup was complete.

Because of the Board's ability to work out a cleanup agreement with the local landfill, overall cleanup costs of 45 cents per tire were much lower than usual Board-funded tire site cleanups. The average cost of recent cleanups of other, smaller tire piles was approximately $1.30 per tire.

In September workers (left) clear a firebreak around the 1 million-plus tires stacked against trees and a broken fence line. By late June, the site (below) was bare and perimeter trees were free of the illegally stockpiled tires they once held in.

95 cities, counties met waste cutting mandate

Since May the Waste Board announced that 95 cities and counties have met or exceeded the State requirement to reduce the amount of garbage in landfills by 25 percent.

In May the Waste Board began formally determining the 1995 and 1996 diversion rates for cities and counties statewide. The entire process is expected to take the remainder of 1998 to complete.

The Board's findings show that all the city and the county diversion rates met or exceeded the statewide goal of 25 percent waste diversion for 1995. The Board also determined that the year 2000 goal of cutting trash in landfills by 50 percent has already been met or exceeded by 20 cities and counties. (See ☆ on list at right)

The 1995 and 2000 diversion requirements were established in 1989 with the passage of the Integrated Waste Management Act. Cities and counties are required to implement diversion programs to meet these requirements. Since the act was implemented in 1990, 100 million tons of waste has been diverted statewide — enough to build 84 pyramids the size of the Great Pyramid at Giza.

These diversion rate announcements came as part of a Board biennial review of jurisdictions' implementation of diversion programs and their solid waste diversion rates. The Waste Board is required to conduct its review every two years as an evaluation of a jurisdiction's progress in implementing programs it previously had outlined to the Board. Because the annual diversion figures do not have to be reported until August of the following year, the Board's staff was unable to begin examining the combined 1995 and 1996 data until last fall.

Once the biennial review is complete, the Board either finds the city or county in compliance or puts it on a compliance schedule to assist it in meeting the goal. Failure to meet the compliance schedule means the city or county could face fines of up to $10,000 per day. Many of the communities have found that a combination of waste prevention, recycling, and composting programs is the most effective means of reducing the amount of garbage going to landfills. Some of the diversion programs include purchasing recycled-content products; drop-off and buyback centers and curbside programs for recyclables; and regional composting programs.

In addition, many cities and counties have implemented waste reduction programs that educate residents about waste reduction techniques and the importance of conserving landfill space and natural resources.

100 Million Tons: One ton recycled every three seconds

Continued from Page 1

"For example, 100 million tons is the amount that Californians landfill in about three years. It's about one ton every three seconds since January 1990, enough to build 84 Great Pyramids.

"That's a lot of recycling, and it shows the commitment of hundreds of cities and counties to the spirit of AB 939. Jurisdictions statewide have built material recovery facilities, invested in curbside collection programs, and worked hard to educate the public about the value of recycling. The successes we've enjoyed are also the result of the commitment to recycling of millions of Californians, who separate their recyclables, tie up their newspapers, and increasingly are turning to grasscycling and composting.

"And needless to say, I'd like to think that a large part of the credit is due to the committed leadership role of the Board and the hard work of our staff in working with local governments and in helping foster markets for recyclable commodities.

"When AB 939 passed, many people didn't think the state would reach 25 percent, but we did it, and have now reached the point where about one-third of our trash is diverted. We all know that 50 percent diversion will require a lot more work on the part of the State, local governments, the waste industry, businesses, the environmental community, and average Californians. But there are already many jurisdictions in the 40 percent range and even quite a few that have already broken through the 50 percent barrier.

"And as the Board members know, staff is moving rapidly to implement the plans laid out in the strategic plan you approved to increase our assistance to local governments and to target the critical construction and demolition and organics waste streams. It isn't going to be easy, but I still think that 50 percent is achievable."

1995, 1996 waste diversion rates by county reported since May at Waste Board meetings

County	'95 Rate	'96 Rate
Alameda County		
☆Alameda County (Unin.)	56	51
☆Alameda	48	51
☆Albany	42	52
Berkeley	41	41
Dublin	26	35
☆Emeryville	51	61
☆Fremont	49	54
Hayward	41	39
Newark	27	34
Oakland	27	34
Piedmont	47	47
Pleasanton	28	35
San Leandro	34	37
Calaveras County		
Calaveras County (Unin.)	38	32
☆Angels Camp	54	56
Del Norte County		
☆Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority	64	55
Humboldt County		
☆Humboldt County (Unin.)	66	75
Arcata	42	47
Eureka	33	31
☆Ferndale	33	50
Fortuna	35	37
Rio Dell	37	30
☆Trinidad	62	53
Kern County		
Kern County (Unin.)	46	47
Bakersfield	34	38
☆California City	61	60
Delano	39	39
☆Ridgecrest	48	54
☆Taft	51	57
☆Tehachipi	67	77
☆Wasco	59	54
Marin County		
Marin County JPA (All county jurisdictions)	32	41
Mendocino County		
Mendocino County (Unin.)	29	31
Fort Bragg	43	44
Ukiah	26	25
Willits	29	26
Orange County		
Orange County (Unin.)	40	38
Anaheim	44	46
Brea	39	41
Buena Park	28	29
☆Fountain Valley	51	53
Fullerton	32	35
☆Garden Grove	46	52
☆La Palma	52	56
Laguna Hills	55	49
Laguna Niguel	40	41
Mission Viejo	38	46
Newport Beach	51	45
☆Placentia	36	53
Santa Ana	34	27
☆Seal Beach	63	65
Westminster	55	35
☆Yorba Linda	43	57
Plumas County		
Plumas County (Unin.)	37	29
Riverside County		
Banning	42	39
Calimesa	36	37
Canyon Lake	54	45
Corona	41	35
Indian Wells	44	45
Indio	44	45
☆Lake Elsinore	47	55
La Quinta	42	45
Moreno Valley	30	38
☆Norco	47	51
Palm Springs	40	47
☆Rancho Mirage	50	55
☆Riverside	53	55
☆Temecula	61	57
San Francisco County		
San Francisco	36	35
San Joaquin County		
Escalon	28	33
Lathrop	41	33
Lodi	43	44
San Mateo County		
San Mateo (Unin.)	30	34
Santa Clara County		
☆Santa Clara (Unin.)	43	53
Campbell	39	40
Cupertino	31	37
Los Altos Hills	47	48
Los Gatos	35	41
Milpitas	33	42
☆Monte Sereno	54	63
Mountain View	37	43
Palo Alto	39	49
San Jose	44	43
Santa Clara	45	43
☆Saratoga	48	51
☆Sunnyvale	46	51
Santa Cruz County		
Santa Cruz County (Unin.)	35	36
Shasta County		
☆Shasta County (Unin.)	60	69
Ventura County		
Moorpark	25	36
Oxnard	25	31
Port Hueneme	28	39
Simi Valley	44	49
☆Thousand Oaks	52	53
Yolo County		
Davis	48	45
Winters	50	30

☆Indicates city or county has met or exceeded 2000 goal of keeping 50 percent of trash out of landfills

$11.3 million in grants awarded to stop illegal dumping of used oil

In its continuing effort to stop the illegal dumping of California's most common hazardous waste, the Waste Board has awarded $11,355,796 in grants to support programs to collect and recycle the estimated 25 million gallons of used oil that is poured down storm drains or onto the ground, or dumped in landfills each year.

For the fifth year, the Waste Board awarded funds to cities, counties, and regional agencies to continue funding or establish new public or private collection centers and/or curbside programs for used motor oil, as well as public education programs about the hazards of illegally dumping used motor oil. In all, 264 jurisdictions or regional groups received funding in May.

Unique to this year's Waste Board block grant allocation was the addition of funds for local programs to collect and recycle used oil filters. A total of $702,355 will go to support efforts to collect and recycle oil filters, the majority of which historically have been thrown away.

Certified Used Oil Collection Centers accept used oil for free and offer 4 cents back per quart

The used oil block grants are awarded on a per capita basis to cities and counties. Cities are entitled to a minimum of $5,000 in funding and counties are entitled to $10,000. In addition, grants can be awarded for regional programs consisting of several cities and/or counties, or partnerships with private, nonprofit, or other governmental organizations. To find out the amount cities or counties received in your area you can go on line at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/gra/opa/press_re/1998/May/nr032.htm.

RMDZ loan origination fees cut

Companies in California can now borrow up to $1 million for recycling projects and pay a loan origination fee that has been cut in half by the Waste Board. In May, the Waste Board announced it would charge 1.5 percent loan origination fees on recycling loans of $1 million or less. On a $400,000 loan, the change could save borrowers $6,000.

The fee cut will financially help companies work in concert with communities and local government agencies to meet mandates requiring significantly elevated waste diversion levels in California within the next two years.

The Waste Board voted to lower its Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program loan origination fees from 3 percent to 1.5 percent immediately to entice more companies to use the program. The new borrowing rate will competitively position the Waste Board with other financial lenders and could convince more companies interested in recycling to apply for State financial assistance.

In addition, the Waste Board has switched its RMDZ loan application approval process from quarterly to monthly, reducing the time needed to approve a loan request. Moreover, the Board recently filled vacancies in its RMDZ loan program with seasoned commercial lenders to speed up processing applications, expanded eligibility criteria to include source reduction — not just waste recycling — projects, and contracted its loan servicing and closing activities out to allow Board staff more freedom to market the program and underwrite loans.

Since 1993, a total of $26.2 million in Waste Board recycling loans have helped businesses throughout the state reduce and recycle waste, diverting 1.6 million tons of garbage from landfills annually.

Waste Board RMDZ loans are funded from money the California Legislature set aside to help finance recycling and waste reduction operations within the geographic boundaries of 40 separate recycling zones around the state. They feature fixed low interest rates — currently, 5.7 percent — and repayment terms of up to 10 years. A loan can fund up to half of a project's entire cost, up to a maximum of $1 million. The money can be used to purchase machinery, equipment, or land, or can be used as working capital.

The Waste Board estimates waste reduction and recycling opportunities hold the potential to create up to 20,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector, another 25,000 jobs in sorting and processing operations, and tens of thousands more in ancillary jobs in California.

Board votes to suspend all committees

In an effort to increase efficiency, reduce the number of meetings that stakeholders must attend, and give Board Members more time to focus on emerging issues, the Integrated Waste Management Board has suspended all of its committees. Instead, the Board will hold two full meetings a month in August through November and one three-day meeting in December.

At its July meeting, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the committees, effective immediately. Members said the new system — similar to that used by city councils and boards of supervisors — will reduce the number of meetings that interested parties must attend, reduce the amount of staff time spent on agenda items and presentations, and allow the Board to be more responsive to time-sensitive issues such as permits. The new structure will also give all Members an opportunity to shape items and policies from the beginning of the process.

In addition, Board Members plan to focus more on major waste management policy issues and emerging issues and trends during the rest of the year, including the effort now under way to thoroughly review waste management policy for the 21st century.

In August, Board meetings have been set for Thursday the 13th and Friday the 14th, along with the previously scheduled meeting on Monday the 24th, Wednesday the 26th and Thursday the 27th. The meeting on the 13th will begin at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting on the 24th will start at 2 p.m. All other meetings will begin at the normal time of 9:30 a.m. As in the past, second-day meetings will be held only if the agenda can't be completed on the first day of deliberations.

The Board is expected to evaluate the new system in January and determine whether to make it permanent.

Amodio resigns

In mid June, John J. Amodio resigned his post as a member of the Waste Board.

He stated that recent family health problems — which had absorbed his time during his brief tenure — were a deciding factor in his resignation.

Amodio was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson in March to serve as the environmental community's representative to the Board. He filled the post vacated by Paul Relis in January.

Prior to coming to the Board, Amodio was the Assistant Secretary for Ecosystems Management at the State Resources Agency. Amodio's past experience also included service as executive director for several environmental organizations.

Chico company is Board's '97 CalMAX honoree

Executive Suite owner David West amidst recyclable circuit boards.

For getting reusable computers into classrooms and out of landfills, the Executive Suite of Chico was recognized in May as the state's top example of how one person's trash is another's treasure. The Waste Board presented the company and owner David K. West with a plaque for being California's "1997 Match of the Year" materials exchange winner. Executive Suite recovered more than 750 tons of computers and electronics last year, donating many computers to northern California schools.

The Match of the Year award is given to businesses in California that have accomplished outstanding materials exchange "matches," pairing up other companies' wastes and surplus equipment to meet the needs of others. This kind of recycling matchmaking has diverted hundreds of thousands of tons of materials from landfills for reuse by other businesses.

West's company uses the Board's CalMAX (California Materials Exchange) information directory — known as the "Waste-Not Want Ads" — to find and retrieve computers from State and federal agencies, universities, banks, insurance companies, manufacturing, and computer stores. By picking up the computers, Executive Suite saves businesses from paying transportation and disposal expenses. In return, it resells or recycles mainframe computers and recovers gold, silver, platinum, and other precious metals from the circuit boards. The metals are then sold to smelters.

Executive Suite gives many of the personal computers it recovers throughout the Sacramento Valley to schools, where they are tested, reformatted, and, ultimately, reused by students in Northern California.

Moreover, Executive Suite provides trainees, through a Sacramento-area nonprofit organization called Computerlink, with opportunities to learn marketable skills by refurbishing PCs that are donated to schools.

Although the company advertises in other publications, most of its business has come from CalMAX classifieds.

The Waste Board's CalMAX "Waste-Not Want Ads" are available as a free quarterly publication or electronically from the Board's Web site, listing hundreds of companies' wastes and surplus equipment, as well as hundreds of other companies' needs. In 1997, more than 2,800 successful exchanges, involving more than 149,000 tons of materials, were made through CalMAX. Waste Board staff fielded more than 3,500 phone calls and recorded more than 17,000 "searches" on the CalMAX Internet database last year.

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