



# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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## Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee Solid Waste Working Group

### MINUTES

Sam Pedroza, Chair

November 22, 2010

10:00 am

Monrovia Public Works Yard

600 S. Mountain Avenue.

Monrovia, CA

#### 1.0 Preliminary Business

##### 1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

##### 1.2 Self-Introductions

The following individuals were in attendance:

C. Kalscheuer	Azusa
S. Pedroza	Claremont
K. Herrera	Duarte
H. Maloney	Monrovia
M. Mohajer	LA County IWMTF
C. Skye	LACDPW
T. Mitchell	LACDPW
S. Chong	LACDPW
M. Gouveia	Office of Senator Liu
R. Charles	Office of Assemblymember Hernandez
G. Neely	Office of Senator Huff
J. Hines	Office of Assemblymember Portantino
J. Binder	Alternative Resources, Inc (via phone)
B. Cooke	SGVCOG

##### 1.3 Informational Items

###### i. September 29, 2010 Meeting Notes

There were no changes to the meeting notes.

#### 2.0 Discussion Items

##### 2.1 Solid Waste Policy Discussion with State Legislature Staff Representatives

Participants discussed the following topics:

- **Green waste used as alternative daily cover (ADC).** Participants were directed to the staff report included in the agenda packet. San Gabriel Valley cities are largely dependent on the diversion of green waste as ADC at the Puente Hills landfill. Proposed state legislation in recent years has attempted to disallow ADC for diversion credit. While San Gabriel Valley cities seek alternative uses for green waste with the coming closure of Puente Hills, this disallowance would create a major challenge in the near term for cities. A number of cities would fall below the 50% diversion rate if this policy were enacted.
- **Increased Diversion Rates.** Proposed state legislation in recent years has also attempted to increase the statewide diversion rate from 50% to 60 and 75%. While the working group is not opposed to increased diversion from

landfills in concept, these laws do not include the necessary tools to make compliance feasible.

- **Conversion Technologies.** The COG is in strong support of the County's efforts to introduce conversion technology options for solid waste management as alternatives to landfilling, recycling, and composting. However, efforts to expand conversion technology facilities in the region are hampered by an inaccurate definition of "gasification" which, in effect, equivocates CT with landfilling. AB 222 (Adams and Ma) would have corrected this definition, alleviated regulatory uncertainty, and created a level playing field for this environmentally-sound alternative.
- **Closure of Puente Hills Landfill.** Participants also discussed the looming closure of the landfill and plans for a waste-by-rail system. There was discussion regarding the price-competitiveness of the waste-by-rail system and current and anticipated daily tonnage rates. Participants discussed the price levelization plan being implemented by the County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts to help offset dramatic price increases once the waste-by-rail system is operational. It was agreed that a suite of solid waste management options will need to be available to manage future waste volumes.
- **Product Stewardship.** Staff provided a brief overview of product stewardship principles. This is another important alternative to reducing the waste stream, particularly related to household hazardous waste. Paint and carpet product stewardship bills were recently signed into law. The COG is working on a grant from CalRecycle related to product stewardship and has supported past product stewardship bills.

**2.2** San Gabriel Valley Conversion Technology Facility Feasibility Study – Concept Discussion

Staff from the County and Alternative Resources, Inc. gave an update on this item. Staff provided an overview of conversion technology, including the four (4) phases of the County's conversion technology demonstration project. The County has completed a preliminary siting assessment for potential suitable locations for future CT facilities. 16 sites have been identified, one of which is located in the San Gabriel Valley. The County and consultants will now work with interested local government and private industry stakeholders to complete further funding/financing and feasibility analyses for those sites.

There was discussion regarding the role of the COG in this effort. There was discussion regarding conducting a feasibility study in the San Gabriel Valley for a potential site(s). This item was continued to the next meeting.

**2.3** CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Grant Update

Staff reported that the next phase of the grant will focus on identifying thirty (30) businesses willing to serve as take-back locations for household batteries and CFL bulbs. It is anticipated that these take-back sites will be operational beginning in January 2011.

**3.0** Items for Future Meetings

- Conversion technology facility feasibility study
- Mandatory commercial recycling program
- County plastic bag ordinance

County staff announced that there will be a summit on the County's recently enacted plastic bag ban on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Information will be forwarded to committee members via email.

**4.0** Set next meeting date

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**5.0** Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 pm.