



## MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2007

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency met on August 15, 2007, at the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department's Subregional Water Reclamation System Laguna Plant, 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa, California.

### PRESENT:

City of Santa Rosa	Dell Tredinnick, Chair
City of Cotati	Marsha Sue Lustig
City of Cloverdale	Gus Wolter
City of Healdsburg	Mike Kirn
City of Petaluma	Kevin Hornick
City of Rohnert Park	Tim Smith
City of Sebastopol	Dave Brennan
City of Sonoma	Mike Fuson
County of Sonoma	Susan Klassen
Town of Windsor	Christa Johnson

### STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director	Ken Wells
Counsel	Janet Coleson
Staff	Charlotte Fisher
	Patrick Carter
	Lisa Steinman
Recorder	Elizabeth Koetke

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Dell Tredinnick, Chair.
- 2. ATTACHMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**  
Dell Tredinnick called attention to the Director's Agenda Notes and the Green Purchasing Report for FY 06-07.
- 3. ON FILE WITH CLERK**  
Dell Tredinnick noted the resolutions from the June meeting on file with the clerk.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
Charles Aver presented information about plasma arc gasification as an alternative to out hauling Sonoma County's trash to Colusa County. Product literature was given to Executive Director Ken Wells.

Ernie Carpenter, Global Materials, described what he called a creative monopoly existing in Sonoma County. One company contracts to collect the solid waste, run a transfer station, and haul from the transfer station to the Central disposal site. That same company has a contract to haul from Central to out of county, and soon they may hold the title to the landfill.

### CONSENT

- 5.1** Minutes of June 20, 2007
- 5.2** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report

- 5.3 CoIWMP Update
- 5.4 Thermometer Exchange Program

**Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Tim Smith, Rohnert Park. Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, seconded. Dell Tredinnick abstained.**

#### REGULAR CALENDAR

- 6.1 **CONVERSATION WITH CIWMB BOARD MEMBER WESLEY CHESBRO**  
CIWMB Board member Wesley Chesbro was unable to attend the meeting.

#### EDUCATION

##### 7.1 **SONOMAX WEB SITE PRESENTATION**

Dana Gadlin, Genacom, gave an overview of the Sonomax online materials exchange web site with a power point presentation.

Ken Wells added that a grant application for outreach support for Sonomax was submitted to the CIWMB and we've been selected for a \$17,000 grant, which will be used to advertise this service.

Christa Johnson, Windsor, asked for utility bill inserts to advertise Sonomax. Cloverdale is interested also.

##### 7.2 **SPANISH ECO-DESK PRESENTATION**

Connie Cloak, C<sup>2</sup> Alternative Services, described public education outreach regarding disposal of used oil and other topics provided by C<sup>2</sup> Alternative Services, including the Spanish language option for the Eco-desk.

Hugo Mata, C<sup>2</sup> Alternative Services, explained the importance of getting the word out to the public about the Spanish Eco-desk. Ads have been placed in local newspapers. Posters and pocket calendars were printed and distributed to Latino businesses in Sonoma County. C<sup>2</sup> Alternative Services has been active with monthly outreach to labor centers to speak with general laborers about proper disposal of used oil and recycling, and events such as the Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Santa Rosa and the Wednesday Night Farmers' Market.

##### 7.3 **SONOMA COUNTY FAIR "COMPOST YOUR VEGGIES"**

Ken Wells gave a report on the success of the "Compost Your Veggies" booth at the Sonoma County Fair. Plastic sink-side vegetable scrap pails were sold to the public for a nominal fee of \$2.00. 500 pails were sold and then another 500 were ordered. Buyers were asked to sign a "Composting Pledge" poster.

Sonoma Compost Company donated 2,000 small bags of compost that were given to the public at the event.

Ken Wells reported that bio-stack composters are being obtained for home composting. Staff is working with the Compost Club for assistance in distribution.

Pam Davis, Northbay Corporation, said they are selling the home compost bins at cost as well; the information for obtaining them is on their website [www.unicycler.com](http://www.unicycler.com).

#### COMPOSTING/WOOD WASTE

##### 8.1 **NEW COMPOST SITE SELECTION AGREEMENT**

Patrick Carter reported that proposals were received from three teams. After a thorough review and a meeting with Sonoma County's Permit Resource Management Department's Senior Environmental Specialist, staff determined that Environmental

Science Associates (ESA) presented the best proposal for the project. The proposed cost for this project, which is the lowest of the proposals received, amounts to \$520,926, of which \$25,000 is reserved as a contingency for unforeseen issues.

Paul Paddock, Sonoma Compost Company, addressed the Board saying public interest should be considered. The County put out an RFI asking parties about privatizing the landfill; four parties have indicated they are open to keeping the compost facility at the Central Disposal Site.

Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, said given the RFI has been made public, if there is a successful divestiture to a private landfill operator who wants to have a compost facility, then this project may not need to go forward. Included in the agreement is language that allows the Agency to suspend the project at any time.

The California Integrated Waste Board has denied the county's application for an extension of the closure requirements; the County is working with them about overturning that denial, but as of today the County is required to start closing the landfill. If the divestiture does not succeed with a party that wants to continue the compost site there, the County will be in violation and behind on the need to cap that site. If this project has not been proceeding simultaneously, the County could be required to force Sonoma Compost to vacate the site in order to cap the landfill. The Water Board's opinion is that to have an adequate cap on the landfill the compost site would have to be moved. Capping the site is a two-year construction project and the County doesn't want to lose the composting facility for two years. The County's position is the compost siting process should proceed simultaneously while looking at divestiture, and discussing extending the closure of the landfill.

Christa Johnson, Windsor, asked why the County had not tried to find a solution to present to the Water Board.

Ken Wells noted that the current site has always been considered a temporary location for the composting facility. The composting facility is in a location that could provide about two years of landfill capacity. The Water Board has been very clear that they want the composting facility moved.

Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, added that from the County's standpoint, when the landfill was actively operating they fully intended to use that space to bury garbage.

**Tim Smith, Rohnert Park, moved to approve the agreement for consulting services with Environmental Science Associates. Mike Fuson, Sonoma seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

*The board took a 5 minute break.*

*Gus Wolter left the meeting at 10:35 a.m. (e.k.)*

## **8.2 COMPOST PROGRAM UPDATE**

Alan Siegle, Sonoma Compost, said the volumes of material coming to the site this summer have been higher than normal and the program is going well.

Compost reports for April and May 2007 were included in the packet.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

### **9.1 RFP FOR E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS**

Lisa Steinman explained that currently the Agency has a contract with ECS Refining for

electronic waste management services for items dropped off at County disposal sites. There is a growing competition in Sonoma County for e-waste recycling since the passage of Senate Bills 20 and 50 which attaches a fee to purchases of computers and televisions and provides funds to approved recyclers, who then provide a portion of that money to official e-waste collectors. Earlier this year Universal Waste Management contacted some of the cities within the county to propose setting up e-waste collection events. At the June 20, 2007 Agency meeting the Board directed staff to help facilitate the collection events. The revenue that comes back to the Agency would help offset HHW program expenses. Direction was also given to Agency Counsel to come back with information on the legal authority of the Agency to control e-waste collectors and events. In response to this direction, staff is requesting approval from the Board to issue an RFP to establish a two-year agreement with an e-waste contractor to hold city-centered Electronics Collection Events.

Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, asked for clarification regarding the Agency's ability to control these events. Janet Coleson, Agency Counsel, explained that the Agency can issue an RFP, hire a contractor, provide them with advertising and coordinate these events, but the Agency cannot prohibit others from hosting events.

Dave Brennan, Sebastopol, asked if the Agency can refuse a private entity permission to hold one of these events. Janet Coleson said if it is a County sponsored event, on County property the Agency can refuse. If it's a private event held on private property, the Agency cannot refuse.

Marsha Sue Lustig, Cotati, expressed an interest in looking at a list of sites where the e-waste events would occur.

When asked how much these events would pay, Lisa Steinman answered saying that that is one of the questions in the RFP in Exhibit A.

Jan Rice, Universal Waste Management, said her company did an event in Sonoma where they collected about 25,000 pounds of e-waste.

Mark Ihde, Goodwill Industries, said thus far they have collected 600,000 pounds of electronic waste from Sonoma County residents. They have eleven collection sites that are open year-round; they have partnered with the City of Rohnert Park and the City of Santa Rosa to host collection events and are the exclusive e-waste recyclers for the County of Sonoma.

Heather Thordarson, ASL, thanked the Board for giving ASL the opportunity to respond to the RFP. Since the e-waste collection events began in 2005, ASL has given over \$200,000 to schools and non-profit organizations.

Ernie Carpenter, Industrial Carting, said they have a partnership with Electronic Recyclers in Fresno, who recycle 5 million pounds a month.

**Marsha Sue Lustig, Cotati, moved to direct staff to issue an RFP for E-Waste collection events. Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, seconded. Motion approved.**

## **9.2 CLEAN HARBORS CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Lisa Steinman updated Board members on the response from Clean Harbors regarding a second year extension to the contract for operation of the Household Hazardous Waste Program. Clean Harbors sent a letter, repeating their offer to

extend the Agreement for the second year on the condition that a 3% increase to all operational fees is included, with disposal fees kept the same.

If Clean Harbors' offer of a one-year contract extension with the 3% operational fee increase is accepted, staff will return with another amendment to the agreement.

Alternatively, if no action is taken, staff will develop an RFP for a contract to operate the Agency's HHW program so that a new agreement will be in place in January 2009.

Ken Wells said Central Contra Costa Sanitary District recently issued a request for proposals for HHW disposal services and they received five proposals. Staff would like to return next month with an evaluation of those costs.

**Dave Brennan, Sebastopol, made a motion to direct staff to return with a review and analysis of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District proposals for their HHW program. Marsha Sue Lustig, Cotati, seconded. Motion passed.**

*Dave Brennan left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. (e.k.)*

### **9.3 HHW PROGRAM STATUS REPORT**

Lisa Steinman gave an update on what is happening with the HHW Program.

Walmart held a fluorescent bulb take-back event on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

The Toxics Disposal brochure is now available in an English & Spanish version.

Clean Harbors has a new phone system for customers who call the Household Toxics Facility to make appointments for the Community Toxics Collections and the Toxics Rover which is much more efficient. The first report for the Extended Producer Responsibility Program will be presented at the September Agency meeting.

The VBN contract for the roof extension on the Household Toxics Facility is underway, the first site visit took place and the architect is reviewing building code requirements.

The RFP for the feasibility study for additional HHW facilities is due back at the end of September. The CIWMB will put the HD-16 grant on their next agenda and will post it next Friday. The annual North American Household Hazardous Materials Management Association Conference will take place in San Diego in October and Executive Director Ken Wells has been invited to give a presentation on the Agency's recent Household Waste Benchmarking and Evaluation Study.

## PLANNING

### **10.1 WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY**

Patrick Carter explained that the waste sorts were done in two seasons; the "Wet Season" took place in March 2007 at the Central Disposal Site, Healdsburg and Sonoma Transfer Stations, and Redwood Landfill. The "Dry Season" took place in July 2007 at the same locations. Final weighted results will be presented at a future Board meeting.

### **11. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS**

Tim Smith, Rohnert Park, thanked the public for coming and for providing information about arc plasma gasification.

Christa Johnson, Windsor, said she'd like to see the e-waste collection days line up with CTC collections.

Chair, Dell Tredinnick, said that at the next Wednesday Night Market, the City of Santa Rosa would partner with Northbay Corporation for better downtown recycling at downtown events.

Also, they will host a Compact Fluorescent Bulb giveaway in exchange for incandescent bulbs and 'An Inconvenient Truth' would be shown.

Also, here at the Laguna Treatment Plant there is an algae demonstration project taking place in two sets of three channels that are growing algae for nitrates and phosphate removal and ultimately biodiesel, it will be presented to the Board of Public Utilities tomorrow.

## **12. STAFF COMMENTS**

Ken Wells said next month the County of Sonoma's new travel policy will be discussed, and so will the Local Business Preference policy.

The Request for Information (RFI) on the potential divestiture of the Central Disposal Site is available on the County of Sonoma Department of Transportation and Public Works' website.

Board member Steve Holsinger has left the City of Cloverdale and is now the City Manager of Willows.

New member Mike Kirn, Public Works Director for the City of Healdsburg, will serve as the alternate for Healdsburg.

The DTSC has issued regulations that treated wood waste can only be accepted at permitted landfills, the closest permitted landfill that will accept it from the public is the Hay Road Landfill, near Vacaville. Staff is looking at how we can deal with this problem.

AB 939 Local Task Force Membership is down, new members are needed, if anyone knows anyone who would like to participate on the Local Task Force please let staff know.

Lastly, the Sundance Channel's "Big Ideas for a Small Planet" is doing a profile of the Central Disposal Site and the various programs operating there.

Patrick Carter congratulated Janet Coleson, Agency Counsel, on the birth of her triplets.

## **13. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Koetke

Distributed at meeting:

- Kitchen Compost Bins
- Toxics Disposal Brochure in English/Spanish
- Universal Waste Management's Informational Packet