January 29, 2013

To: SCWMA Board Members

From: Henry J. Mikus, SCWMA Executive Director

Executive Summary Report for the SCWMA Board Meeting of January 16, 2013

Per your recent request, this will be the first summary of our Board meeting to be done. Your comments for improvements for future installments would be appreciated.

The meeting began with a “Closed Session” for a conference with real property negotiators, specifically the site license for compost. Because they are the entity we are negotiating with, the County Board member did not attend the discussion. The Board provided direction for the negotiations moving forward.

The first Open Session item was election of officers. The City of Cotati was elected Chair, the City of Healdsburg was elected Vice-Chair, and the City of Petaluma was elected Chair Pro Tempore. This was in keeping with the decision of the Board at the January 2010 meeting to utilize an alphabetical rotation by member jurisdiction name for electing officers.

The Consent Agenda approval contained two items: the Minutes of the December 5, 2012 Board meeting, and the City/County Payment Program Authorization. This Payment Program Authorization is annually recurring for a grant effort dealing with beverage containers that the Agency manages regionally.

Staff gave a brief report on the status of the compost site license and the proposed new compost operating contract. The agency has been discussing a “site license” with the County for use of the property contained within the Central Disposal Site for the composting program. A new contract for compost operations, resulting from a competitive procurement process, has been held in abeyance while the site license terms are settled via two four-month extensions of the current compost contract. The latest extension has a cessation deadline for accepting materials of March 15. Thus the plan is to have both the site license and the new contract presented for Board approval at the February meeting. The County has indicated they are supportive of the new contract, which would extend through February of 2017.

Staff reported to the Board concerning the plans to conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) contract, as the current contract expires at the end of June 2013. A factor in this process is that the Agency and County have begun discussions to enter into a site license for the property at the Central Disposal Site in use for the HHW toxics facility. It is anticipated the license would follow the form agreed to for compost; the County has indicated there is adequate time to go through the approval process for the license.
to match the start date (July 2013) for the new HHW operating contract. The expected term for the new HHW contract would be through February 2017.

The discussion about the Carryout Bags Ordinance had been continued from the December 5, 2012 Board meeting. As a result of the visits to our member jurisdictions’ governing bodies throughout 2012 to present the initial draft of the proposed Carryout Bag Ordinance, numerous suggestions had been received. These had been discussed with the Board previously. These changes were incorporated into the draft ordinance and were presented for the formal record. The more noteworthy changes were to keep the paper bag fee at $.10, and to add a warning step to any enforcement proceeding. The changes were approved. The Carryout Bag Ban EIR is nearly done, and the public hearing on the Draft EIR is planned for the upcoming February Board meeting.

Staff has chosen “Reusable Bags” as the central theme for this year’s “Recycling Guide” with a bilingual slogan, “I’ve got a Bag Habit” in order to focus bilingual education efforts on encouraging the use of reusable bags. Also, one of the recurrent themes in our visits to our members discussing the Bag Ban had been concerns about providing such bags to those with a need. Particularly because the actual costs of our Bag Ban project have been considerably less than anticipated, staff suggested this money might be available to fund purchasing bags for appropriate distribution. The project was presented in two phases, the first for current needs in supporting the Agency’s outreach events, and a second phase to work concurrent with Bag Ban Ordinance outreach if the ordinance was adopted. Approval was only requested for Phase One, for a purchase of 8,000 bags at a cost of $12,340. The Board approved the request. However, the Board also asked that in developing Phase 2 staff utilize local or US made sources for the bags if at all practical and cost effective.

Board member Steve Barbose (City of Sonoma) gave a briefing on the latest SWAG meeting and the draft landfill Master Operations Agreement issued publically last December 6.

Under “Attachments & Correspondence” the Board received numerous reports, including the annual reports by staff concerning the past year’s education and outreach programs.