



Date: September 18, 2014
To: SCWMA Board Members
From: Henry J. Mikus, SCWMA Executive Director

Executive Summary Report for the SCWMA Board Meeting of September 17, 2014

Item 3: The Board met in Closed Session to discuss “Anticipated Litigation”, there was nothing to report at its conclusion.

Item 7: The Consent Agenda contained several items: the Minutes of the August 20, 2014 regular Board Meeting, Annual Budget Adjustments, a Consultant Contract for Construction Management Services for the Combined Ponds Project (Tetra Tech BAS), and the Agreement for Special Counsel Services. Item 7.4 the Special Counsel Agreement was pulled and placed on the Regular Calendar, and the other three items were approved.

Item 7.4: As was reported out of “Closed Session” in August, the Board wished to retain Mr. Gene Tanaka, of the law firm Best, Best, & Krieger, to act as Special Counsel to work with the Board, Agency Counsel, and Agency staff, and to monitor and advise, on issues related to the lawsuit “*Renewed Efforts of Neighbors Against Landfill Expansion vs. County of Sonoma, Sonoma Compost Company, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.*” The item was pulled from “Consent” to discuss setting an initial not-to-exceed cost limit in the agreement. This limit was set at \$45,000, and the Agreement was approved by unanimous vote.

Item 8: Compost Zero Discharge Plan Update: The initial progress report on Zero Discharge Plan progress was compiled and sent to the NCRWQCB Thursday September 11, 2014. The work on implementing the Zero Discharge Plan continues, with the recent month’s focus having been on accomplishing the interim measures that need to be in place for the upcoming winter rainy season. SCC has begun reconfiguring the compost site to achieve the 18% footprint reduction. Partial overhaul to other compost sites has begun, mainly to provide space for the reconfiguration to be done expeditiously. *The City of Sonoma and the City of Petaluma were specifically thanked for their efforts to divert green waste to provide assistance for the overhaul activities.* Also, the pond combination project began September 15, 2014 with a planned completion date of October 23, 2014. The written report contained a summary of expenses incurred thus far, and expenses allocated/approved per the Board’s request. There was no formal action required for this item.

Item 9: Waste Characterization Study: The Waste Characterization Study has been completed by SCS Engineers, who presented a report to the Board on the Study and its results. Waste samples from around the County solid waste system were taken and sorted, with the results tabulated and subject to statistical analysis. Results were also compared to the most recent similar study (from 2006/2007). In simple terms, waste generation is down compared to the past study, and although the percentage compositions of the different waste types have changed almost all categories show a decrease when measured by tons. The SCS report was accepted by the Board, and is available online at www.recyclenow.org for examination.

Item 10: Compost Overhaul Agreement: At the August meeting the Board approved an agreement in principal with the Ratto Group for overhaul of compost materials. However, despite the best intentions, the agreement could not be made final in the form that had been approved. In short, Ratto was not able to haul materials to sites other than Redwood Landfill and Jepson Prairie, which had significant financial consequences. The agreement with Ratto was presented again for approval to acknowledge the Ratto

limit on destination sites. Because the total outhaul possibility is an option in the Zero Discharge Plan that will only be used if all other Plan tracks cannot be made to work, the real immediate financial impact with the new version of the agreement is added annual costs of approximately \$50,000 for the partial outhaul related to site working footprint reduction. The Agreement was approved on a unanimous vote.

Item 11: Tip Fee Surcharge Discussion: The current tip fee surcharge, which funds our HHW, Education, and Planning/Reporting programs, has been at \$5.95/ton since July 2010 and is assessed on inbound trash only. The County-Republic landfill MOA (which is likely to be effective soon) has provision to assess the surcharge and other fees on all materials brought in to the solid waste system, not just trash. With a broader base of tons which would include compost raw materials, if the tip fee is left unchanged approximately \$500,000 in added revenue would accrue over the course of a year with potential increases to rate-payers. An alternative would be to reduce the surcharge to a level where annual income would remain at current amounts; this is calculated to be about \$4.85/ton and would not impact rate-payers. The Board directed staff to take the appropriate steps, including crafting a draft amendment to the agreement with the City of Petaluma for surcharge payment, to effect the change in surcharge to \$4,85 per ton on all inbound materials, for formal Board action.

Item 12: Sonoma Compost Amendment: This was continued to the October, 15, 2014 Board meeting.

Item 13: Attachments/Correspondence: The attachments were the September & October 2014 Outreach Calendar, a report on the Carryout Bags Ordinance Outreach efforts, and a flyer for the Safe Medicine Disposal Program Symposium on October 29, 2014..