

Monterey Regional Waste Management District

Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2017 (9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

Representatives from Carmel-by-the-Sea, Marina, Monterey, Pebble Beach, Sand City, Seaside, and Monterey County Environmental Health, attended along with representatives from the District, HF&H Consultants, and GreenWaste Recovery staff. Agencies not represented: Del Rey Oaks and Pacific Grove.

MEETING WITH THE MEMBER AGENCIES

1. **Reporting and Outreach Performance Issues.** Rob Hilton summarized the notice he transmitted to GreenWaste Recovery (GWR) on March 2, 2017, as a designee of the Agency Contract Managers, related to franchise agreement contract performance. Specifically, the letter referenced two areas of concern: timely submittal of reports, and public education and outreach staffing and performance. To underscore the importance of contract performance, Rob reported on plans announced March 21, at the monthly CalRecycle meeting, to refer more than forty jurisdictions state-wide for Compliance Investigation. While none of these jurisdictions are in Monterey County, the CalRecycle action underscores the importance of recycling program performance and education and outreach effectiveness at the local level.

The Committee then discussed the response letter from GWR received by Rob Hilton and the member agencies on March 21, 2017. This letter thanked the member agencies for the extension to March 12 to submit the Annual Reports, which were transmitted on March 11. The letter affirmed that going forward GWR was allocating additional hours from their Controller department to help ensure “late submittals will not happen again.” To address the concern that one GWR employee was filling both positions of Environmental Outreach Manager and Customer Service/Office Supervisor, GWR also stated that they will reallocating some staff hours and will be hiring another full-time-equivalent Outreach Coordinator position to adequate staffing “dedicated exclusively to serving the Franchising Agencies.”

2. **Annual Reports.** The Committee reviewed the 2016 summary report of contract performance prepared by Rob Hilton. This included a summary of Diversion Rates by Agency and Sector, Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling Participation, and Hauler-Collected Diversion Trends. The 65% diversion performance standard in the franchise agreements was discussed. At the end of 2016, diversion ranged from a high of 63% in Pebble Beach to 28% in Sand City. The TAC discussed a desire to identify unique recycling goals for each jurisdiction and current barriers and how to overcome them. There was consensus that the Executive Summary contained in the annual reports was a similar template used for all jurisdictions and the “challenges” identified and “proposed Strategies” by sector did not always reflect the unique characteristics in each jurisdiction. TAC members agreed that “unique strategies need to be identified by jurisdiction. In Marina and Seaside, there was a question about the reference to loss of all diversion for yard trimmings due to contaminated loads. The District implemented a cleaning policy and associated fee so contaminated loads could be cleaned without a loss of diversion. District staff reported that as the yard trimmings programs have now been online in these cities for more than a year, the loads have been arriving much cleaner than in the early months.

MEETING WITH GREENWASTE RECOVERY

Rob Hilton provided a quick recap of the meeting with member agencies including the recent CalRecycle move to commence enforcement for jurisdictions lagging in AB341 and AB1826 compliance. The new organics law SB1383 was discussed and the impact this will have on franchise collection as the State seeks a 75% reduction in disposal of organics in the future. Also discussed was the tip fee reform bill that would increase the per ton fee that landfills pay to CalRecycle based on tons disposed.

Rob commented that the agencies were “on board” with the GWR proposal to increase staffing to add capacity in report production and education and outreach. Emily Finn from GWR reminded the TAC that GWR “needs a partnership” with the agencies. For example, in Carmel, the code enforcement officer accompanied GWR outreach staff on their rounds to businesses that were not in compliance with the recycling program. That joint effort has been successful in overcoming the prior barriers to participation. Emily commented that GWR is working to modify their database to make it more efficient for staff to better track AB341 compliance.

New outreach strategies were discussed that could be used to engage and inform businesses. As an example, staff from Pebble Beach Community Services District described a fire preparedness survey they send to property owners that both informs and tracks compliance with brush clearing. The importance of the agencies producing correspondence to the business community on agency letterhead to raise awareness of CalRecycle mandates was discussed. District staff recently supported Pacific Grove staff in developing an AB1826 outreach letter to their restaurant businesses. A copy of this will be distributed to TAC members.

CalRecycle is currently soliciting feedback on their local compliance and outreach programs. The TAC discussed the idea of decreasing the frequency of local CalRecycle annual visits for those jurisdictions that are compliant with current laws and goals to free-up staff time for CalRecycle to focus on non-compliant jurisdictions.

Discussion of Annual Reports. The issue of contaminated yard trimmings loads and potential for loss of diversion was discussed. GWR invested considerable staff time in walking routes in problem areas, lifting cart lids and leaving behind warning tags. It was agreed that contaminated yard trimmings loads that required cleaning at the MRWMD have not had a significant impact on diversion.

To monitor compliance on AB 341/1826, the idea of encouraging large generators to self-report was discussed. For example, companies like Safeway backhaul their organics and cardboard to distribution centers where they are transferred to processors. MRWMD staff recently supported GWR staff in conducting an audit of the Safeway Del Rey Oaks compactor. The audit found that organics and cardboard were largely absent, however other recyclables such as empty plastic pill bottles from the pharmacy were plentiful. This indicated the company was successfully backhauling organics and cardboard but recycling of other materials was lacking. With this information GWR staff can contact the local manager and/or corporate office and encourage them to increase their service levels to do more recycling. MRWMD and GWR staff will continue to work cooperatively to perform audits such as these.

One barrier to businesses subscribing to organics collection service, identified by GWR staff, was the lack of a list of where to purchase compostable products locally, such as compostable can liners. MRWMD staff will provide a copy of a list developed years ago in conjunction with local polystyrene food packaging bans that the Compost Coalition or staff can use to update and make available to commercial customers.

Given the informative and wide range of data available in the Annual Reports, the idea of having the annual Public Education and Outreach plans follow or better synch with these was discussed so as to best identify community specific goals.

The meeting concluded with an update on MRWMD facility improvements. The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) sort line has now been completely disassembled and removed. Three bids were received for MRF site work to be completed before equipment installation begins and the low bid was more than \$1 million below the engineers estimate.

The next meetings of the TAC are scheduled for:

April 26 th	9 AM, TAC meeting to discuss MRWMD tipping fees and FY17/18 budget
May 17 th	9 AM, GWR Q1 report and review of rates