



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by: [Signature] Date: 9/15/17
General Manager

DATE: September 15, 2017
TO: General Manager
FROM: LCM/HHW Manager
SUBJECT: Review of District's Household Hazardous Waste Program Fiscal Year 2016/17

BACKGROUND

The District's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program began in 1987. It was one of the first permanent programs of its type in the US. District residents may turn in paint, used motor oil, household cleaners, pesticides, and various other household hazardous materials at no charge. A unique aspect of the program is the "drop and swap" component. Usable products are made available to the public for free at the Last Chance Mercantile (LCM). The HHW program has been able to consistently reuse 30% of all materials collected, which significantly reduces program costs.

DISCUSSION

Each year staff prepares a report (303a) that is sent to the Department of Toxic Substances Control in Sacramento, listing all materials collected at the District's HHW program. The report includes the amount of materials collected, the number of participants, and the number of pounds disposed, diverted, or recycled. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/17, the HHW program collected 604,741 lbs. of HHW from 11,300 resident and small business turn-ins. The number of HHW turn-ins increased by 112 (1%) from FY 2015/16. The total amount of waste material collected increased by 70,288 lbs. (13%).

The table below represents the number of turn-ins, the amount of materials collected, and the average amount of materials collected per turn-in visit, over a five-year period.

	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
Turn-Ins	7,797	7,199*	10,600**	11,188	11,300
Pounds of Materials Collected	517,164	478,954	507,287	534,453	604,741
Average Pounds per Visit	66.32	66.53	47.85	47.77	53.52
*Fiscal year 2013/14, program hours reduced from 53.5 per week to 28 per week (hours/staffing adjusted for early retirement incentive program).					
**Fiscal year 2014/15, program hours expanded to 35 hours per week (same hours as Last Chance Mercantile).					

Of the 604,741 lbs. of materials collected at the program, 389,707 lbs. (64%) were reused or recycled with approximately 179,413 lbs. (18,885 gallons) of latex paint and 61,585 lbs. (6,482 gallons) of used motor oil contributing to the high reuse and recycled number.

Turn-ins by City. The following shows the number of turn-ins from each member agency areas, out of District areas, CESQG's, and materials diverted from the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in FY 2016/17.

City	Turn-Ins
Monterey	2,292
Marina	2,132
Seaside	1,349
Pacific Grove	1,195
Carmel	925
LCM, MRF, Out-of- District, CESQG**	824
Carmel Valley	715
Castroville	688
Monterey Co. (In-District)	674
Pebble Beach	186
Big Sur	120
Del Rey Oaks	85
Moss Landing	83
Sand City	32
TOTAL	11,300
* Pebble Beach offers their residents a once a year free collection event. ** Includes Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (small businesses-CESQGS), Out of District turn-ins, HHW diverted at the MRF, and HHW items that are found in LCM donations. The District held its fourth annual off-site collection event in June of 2017 that had 580 participants.	

The last four fiscal years have produced a variety of dramatic changes within the HHW program. In fiscal year 2013/14 the Board of Directors approved the "Early Retirement Incentive Program", aimed at reducing District staffing levels, and hours of operation, that were needed to manage the declining in-District waste stream. That year the HHW program reduced its staffing from four full-time employees to three FTE's. The program also received its lowest volume of turn-ins (7,199), and lowest amount of materials received (478,954). Operating cost for the HHW program for FY 2013/14 was \$557,308, which included the one day off-site collection event (\$54,170).

In fiscal year 2014/15, staff increased the HHW operating hours by 8 hours per week to mirror the existing hours of the LCM because staff received several complaints from customers who were bringing reuse materials to the LCM and also had HHW related materials. The HHW program is now open Tuesday through Saturday. Also, during this fiscal year, the program saw a dramatic increase in the number of turn-ins, from 7,199 in fiscal year 2013/14 to 10,600 in 2014/15, an increase of 47%. The amount of hazardous waste collected also increased from 478,954 lbs. to 507,287 lbs., a 6% increase.

Operating cost for the HHW program in fiscal year 2014/15 was \$618,162. The increase was mainly due to the added expense for additional waste accepted, and wage and benefit increases. The total also includes the cost for the one day off-site collection event (\$39,700).

In fiscal year 2015/16, the program continued to see an increase in both residential turn-ins and hazardous waste collected. Turn-ins from District residents and small businesses increased to 11,188, an increase of 5.5% from fiscal year 2014/15. The amount of hazardous materials collected increased by 5.3%, to 534,453 lbs. Staffing remained the same that fiscal year with three full-time employees.

In fiscal year 2016/17, turn-ins increased by 1% to 11,300, an all-time high. The amount of waste collected increased by 13% to 604,741 lbs., also an all-time high. Staffing levels remained the same with three full-time employees. The program recently added a fourth full-time employee to assist with the increased amounts of turn-ins and materials collected.

The HHW program continues to see increases in the amount of State landfill banned items such as household batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs. Last fiscal year the HHW programs disposal cost for batteries and fluorescent bulbs were \$41,500. The District's HHW continued its contract with Paintcare, a State-wide producer responsibility program designed to eliminate the cost to accept, recycle, and reuse latex paint. Staff estimates that approximately \$30,000 was saved from disposal cost by partnering with the Paintcare program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The operating cost for the HHW program in fiscal year 2016/17 was \$652,000. This total includes the cost of the one day off-site collection event (\$37,000).

Options for the Future. Staff will continue to promote disposal options for materials such as latex paint and household batteries. Both waste streams can be conveniently disposed and recycled by local outside vendors.

CONCLUSION

The HHW program serves as an important component of the District's overall goal to divert hazardous materials from our landfill, storm drains, and sanitary sewers. It provides the District's residents and small businesses a cost-effective and safe hazardous waste drop-off and disposal service for the coastal area of Monterey County.



Glen Evett