

Monterey Regional Waste Management District

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes of August 30, 2017 Meeting (9 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)

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

Introductions

1. District GM Update

The Board approved the new FY budget in July, as well as goals and objectives. This year, the District will focus on strategic planning and long-term financial planning. In the next few years, we'll be tackling new parts of the waste stream. There will be an extended Board meeting in October to address this planning. Some things on the horizon that will need to be paid for are tuning up the landfill and organics for new storm water regulations, a new landfill module, and updating the landfill gas to energy facility. Cities, generators, and the County all have obligations and roles with the new regulations.

This year, the District is planning to rebrand its name to align with its mission.

Currently, CalRecycle is having SB1383 (short-lived climate pollutants: methane) workshops. Videos of them are all available online. Jurisdictions will be required to report on 24 new items. CalRecycle is currently looking at SB1383 enforcement, and agencies will have to enforce on generators.

2. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Improvement Project

The new MRF will add more materials streams for processing. In addition to Construction and Debris materials, the District will also process single-stream recycling and some municipal solid waste. Workers will manually pull out contaminants, then the equipment will mechanically sort materials, and more contaminants will be removed at the end of sorting. In addition to the equipment installation, there are also building improvements taking place. Starting in September, the District will pave the parking lot outside the MRF and expand the pond by the Landfill Gas to Energy facility. The MRF office will also be improved.

There were some questions about troubleshooting potential problems with the new MRF. When the MRF opens, if the compactor or equipment goes down, the District can load recyclables on trucks and send them to a third party. The District will be looking for a commodities broker in the coming months. PG&E is tripping our power off occasionally. The District's long-term plan is to island itself, so the District can continue to run and operate our processes. In the interim, the District will have a back-up generator to hook up to the MRF. The District will also be developing a fund for replacing infrastructure.

The grand open house for the MRF will most likely be in early November, followed by acceptance testing. The District will hire new sorters; it is in this year's budget.

3. Review of 2nd Quarter GreenWaste Recovery (GWR) Performance Metrics

GWR exceeded revenue targets for the rate year, although this varies by agency.

Call center performance: The abandoned and average answer time are both up. GWR is hiring more customer service representatives, which will bring them to a total of 10 representatives. However, the increase in calls is volume driven, and more calls were related to billing and move-ins/move-outs vs. service issues. Calls are now being categorized and they are available for the first time in this quarterly report.

Tonnage: The total tonnage is up about 10% for all agencies, which is a trend that is also being seen state-wide. The tonnage year-over-year has doubled for food waste, but this is with a low base of subscription. More customers need to subscribe for GWR to hit targets. The rainy season added to yard trimmings tonnage.

Diversion rate by sector: Roll-off diversion is down due to the MRF construction, which meant that diversion rates were relatively flat. Del Rey Oaks single-family diversion went down dramatically, and Marina's went up dramatically. One GWR truck route can service multiple agencies, and GWR uses a formula to allocate tonnages proportionally. In this case, GWR confirmed the changes in diversion rates were due to correcting cross-routing data.

Outreach notes: GWR staff reported outreach staff is allocating more time to responding to service issues, rather than trying to get people to sign up for food waste collection. There was only 1 new food waste account in Seaside and 1 in Marina this quarter.

General Discussion: GWR is working on a report that will show each customer's service level. It should be available in October.

GWR asked, can cities get grants? Some customers want to participate and don't have room for the proper container. They can only fit a cart rather than a 1 yard bin. Per Rob Hilton, grants are being offered to build larger scale infrastructure for facilities. Customers want internal containers, but they don't want to pay for them if GWR can't save significant money on their monthly bill. AB939 and franchise fees by agencies could be used for grants or for expanding enclosures due to storm water regulations.

Will the District be combining organics and food waste for residential collection in the near future? Each agency will have to source separate organics from solid waste. There are concerns from our composter about the market for the compost if food waste is added to yard trimmings. The challenge is row crop farmers locally need OMRI certified organic compost. They cannot get the certification for row crops with the introduction of food. This is different for vineyards. Organics from the mixed waste processing at the MRF will be used for energy and possibly a low-grade compost. Cities can spec new developments for all material streams to plan for future regulation. The state has a healthy soil initiatives to increase demand for compost products.

4. Cannabis Waste Disposal

The state will require cannabis waste to be rendered immutable and unrecognizable. We don't currently have a definition of what this will look like. We want to keep it as green waste diversion vs. garbage.

Will there be a franchise issue if the vendors haul it? No, it is considered incidental hauling. An ordinance amendment would be required for the hauler to have a franchise.

The new version of the state regulations is coming out in September. There may be a manifest system to track cannabis waste. Most greenhouses will be on the Salinas side, so the majority of waste in western Monterey County should be from dispensaries.

5. Other Items

Carmel Wastewater District (COD) is looking into a grind to energy product, that is a division of Emerson. The product grinds food waste and it's sent to a vessel inside the facility where it starts undergoing a biological process. It is evacuated by a tanker truck and taken to the wastewater facility to generate biogas and bio solids. They set a rate to process this material, and they will be meeting with the District. The product/service is only for larger institutions, and PBCSD is looking at it.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.