

**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT
LOCAL TASK FORCE**

August 26, 2008

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE held Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at the Merced County Association of Governments front conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Thomas Grave at 3:07 PM.

2. Roll Call

IWMLTF Members and others introduced themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Hester, Private Refuse Hauler, Allied Waste
Stan Murdock, Public Refuse Hauler, City of Merced
Tom Grave, Environmental Representative, Merced Alliance for Responsible Growth
Dennis Shuler, Private Refuse Hauler, Gilton
Joe Sousa, City Citizen-at-large, City of Los Banos

MEMBERS ABSENT

Manuel Cardenas, Private Refuse Hauler, Waste Management
Paul Fillebrown, Merced County Director of Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Johnston, Merced County Solid Waste Division
Mary Kay Cruz, Merced County Solid Waste Division
Jeff Palsgaard, Merced County Department of Environmental Health
Candice Steelman, Merced County Association of Governments
Jennifer Halpin, Merced County Association of Governments, IWMLTF Secretary

3. Oral Communications

Tom Graves asked that an item of discussion be placed at the end of the agenda on the purpose of the Local Task Force when the meetings should be held. Agreed by consensus.

4. Minutes of the April 25, 2006 LTF

Tom Grave requested that he be shown as present at the April 25, 2006 meeting and asked who else attended. Stan Murdock said he also attended. Tom asked why the attendance was not recorded and Mary Kay Cruz informed the members that formal minutes were lost from the previous IWMLTF secretary's records.

Stan Murdock moved to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2006 IWMLTF meeting. Seconded by Keith Hester.

5. 2006 Annual Report to the California Integrated Waste Management Board

Mary Kay Cruz announced that the California Integrated Waste Management Board moved the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority's (MCRWMA) base year from 1990 to 2004. Joe Sousa would like a copy of the diversion study. Figures for the 2007 diversion study will not be known until March 2009.

Currently, Merced County has a 71% diversion rate, of which 23% is from residential recycling and 77% from commercial waste diversion. Scott Johnston stated that legislation is being considered to push the diversion rate to 75% by 2020.

6. Bi-Annual Survey Results for 2007

Jennifer Halpin presented the results of the recycling survey conducted in November of 2007. Dennis Shuler suggested that a future question could be, "What are you willing to pay for recycling services?" like what the City of Modesto had in theirs a few years ago.

It was requested by those present that Keith Hester send out a copy of a recycling survey conducted by Fresno State students.

7. 2007-08 Annual Report to the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority Board

Scott Johnston presented the report, which included improvement projects for the Highway 59 and Billy Wright Landfills, the proposed solid waste facility fee increase, the City of Los Banos' new curbside recycling services and commercial diversion programs, the tire grant award, a chart of how much tire grant funds the jurisdictions spent in 2007 on tire amnesty, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's proposed Rule, which would cause MCRWMA to landfill green waste instead of having uncovered compost piles due to cost issues.

8. Announcement of a Grant Award for the Waste Tire Cleanup and Amnesty Event Program from the California Integrated Waste Management Board

Mary Kay Cruz presented the grant award for the waste tire cleanup and amnesty event program from the CIWMB. Each incorporated city is entitled to a limit of \$2000 and \$6500 for the County. Unused funds from any one jurisdiction may be applied to another jurisdiction that may exceed their allocated amount.

Each City and the County will be responsible for their own implementation of a tire amnesty program before seeking reimbursement.

9. Oral Presentation – Sharps Disposal

Jeff Palsgaard from County of Merced Department of Environmental Health announced that home-generated sharps will be banned from disposal, starting September 1, 2008. The press release, which will go out next week to the local newspapers and websites, was handed out along with Frequently Asked Questions and a flyer on Safe Disposal of Home-Generated Syringes and Sharps.

CA Pharmaceutical Drug Waste Disposal Guidelines were also handed out. Jeff pointed out that it is no longer recommended that medicine be flushed down the toilet because wastewater treatment plants cannot remove traces of medications. Now the recommendation is to keep the pharmaceuticals in the original containers, mix the pills with anything undesirable such as kitty litter or coffee grounds to deter anyone from wanting to use the medication, scratch out any personal information, tape the container shut, and throw it into the garbage.

Department of Environmental Health applied for a \$400,000 grant for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Sharps disposal. Sharps currently go to the Sanitec transfer facility in Atwater.

Sharps also include ones from farms, dairies and ranches. Jeff said that a medium-sized dairy could generate 10-25 buckets of sharps each year.

10. Outreach Events

Jennifer Halpin presented a table of community events at which MCAG has had a recycling information booth since September 2007 to present. Presentations to organizations such as Boy Scouts and school ASSETS programs were also included on the table.

Joe Sousa mentioned that the Salute to Seniors is coming up in September, along with Earth Day coordinated by Sandy Lemas in the spring, and two street fairs.

11. Recycling Media Available to the Public

Jennifer Halpin presented 3 forms of print media available to the public, as well as the www.mercedrecycles.com website, which was presented on screen to the IWMLTF.

12. Alternative Media – Recycling Show for Schools

Jennifer Halpin announced that Allied Waste funded a “Magic of Recycling” tour for the K-5 elementary schools of Los Banos Unified School District. The “Magic of Recycling” is an alternative media type that could be funded by the jurisdictions’ California Department of Conservation (DOC) funds.

13. Membership Status of the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force

Membership status was reviewed. The task force is soliciting recommendations to fill two county at-large and one city at-large positions.

14. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2008-2009

Vice Chairman Tom Grave was nominated as Chairman through a motion by Stan Murdock. Seconded by Joe Sousa.

Joe Sousa was motioned nominated as Vice Chairman by Tom Grave. Seconded by Keith Hester and Dennis Shuler.

15. Adjournment

For a schedule of meetings, Joe Sousa suggested twice a year while Tom Grave and Scott Johnston would like to see quarterly meetings. Stan Murdock moved to say that the meetings were held quarterly in the 1990’s and that they became repetitive.

For now, members recommended that meetings be held quarterly, with the option to move them to twice a year. Motioned by Joe Sousa and seconded by Stan Murdock.

Next meeting to be held on the first Tuesday of December (Dec. 2).

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:30 PM.