

INSIDE SOLID WASTE

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INSIDE SOLID WASTE IS PRODUCED QUARTERLY BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

AQMD Orders Additional Mitigation at Sunshine Canyon Landfill

On December 6, 2011 the Hearing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued a Third Amended Order for Abatement in an effort to further mitigate trash and landfill gas odors from Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The Amended Order imposed additional conditions beyond those included in the original Order for Abatement issued in April 2010, including:

- Expedited installation of additional wells and flares to enhance the collection and destruction efficiency of the existing gas collection system;
- Submittal and implementation of a Revised Odor Plan of Action and a Damage Prevention Work Plan;
- Hiring Corrective Action Managers to respond to and resolve public complaints 24 hours per day, 7 days a week; and
- Hiring an independent consulting firm to oversee the Corrective Action Managers and monitor the landfill's actions related to odor control.

The landfill, which is owned and operated by Republic Services, Inc. (Republic), is a large municipal solid waste landfill located about one mile north of the Granada Hills community.



Its boundary traverses the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. In early 2009, the AQMD began receiving significant increases in the number of odor complaints -- 310 complaints in 2009; over 600 in 2010; and more than 1,500 in 2011 -- from nearby residents and schools.

Under the leadership of the AQMD, regulatory agencies formed an Interagency Task Force (ITF) consisting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency, County of Los Angeles departments of Regional Planning and Public Works, and City of Los Angeles Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety. Over a series of meetings, the ITF identified aspects of the landfill's operations that could be potential odor contributors and developed a comprehensive set of mitigation measures, which were included in the Amended Order. The ITF will be

evaluating the effectiveness of the mitigation measures in the coming months.

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force has been closely monitoring the odor mitigation efforts by the regulatory agencies and Republic. In a letter dated November 22, 2011, to the Chairman of the AQMD Hearing Board, the Task Force expressed its support for the Amended Order.

For any questions regarding odor mitigations at the landfill, contact Ed Pupka of the AQMD at (909) 396-3332 or epupka@aqmd.gov, Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Emiko Thompson of County Public Works at (626) 458-3521 or ethomp@dpw.lacounty.gov, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMANENT COLLECTION CENTERS

City of Los Angeles Permanent Collection Centers are *open on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted.* For information, call **1 (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942)**. Services suspended during rainy weather.

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90021

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352

UCLA Location (*E-waste accepted on Saturdays only*)

550 Charles E. Young Drive
West Los Angeles, CA 90095

Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center

4600 Colorado Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center Antelope Valley Public Landfill

1200 West City Ranch Road
Palmdale, CA 93551

Note: Open 1st and 3rd Saturday each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., rain or shine.

Common items accepted include household cleaners, paint, unused medications, sharps waste, household batteries, TV's, computers, stereos, and printers

*For more information, call County Public Works at
1 (888) CLEAN-LA (253-2652)*

WEEKLY HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUPS ACCEPT MOST CONSUMER ELECTRONICS WITH A CIRCUIT BOARD

**Household Hazardous Waste/
Electronic Waste Roundups** are conducted on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, unless otherwise noted. For more information, call County Public Works at **1 (888) CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**, or visit www.CleanLa.com.



INSIDE SOLID WASTE NEWSLETTER

Task Force PE & I Subcommittee Chair - **Mike Mohajer** • Writer - **Suk Chong** •
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For information, call Tranette Sanders at 626-458-3562, M -Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

JOIN THE TEAM: If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste*, please contact **Natalie Jimenez** at 626-458-3530, (njimenez@dpw.lacounty.gov), or **Dena Venegas** at 626-458-4088, (dvenegas@dpw.lacounty.gov). Quarterly meetings are held at the County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or to contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

Calabasas 2011 Recycling Drawing Contest Winners Announced

The Calabasas Environmental Commissions 6th Annual Recycling Drawing Contest drew more than 157 submissions from grades K-8.

Winners were selected by the Commission based on the creativity of their illustrations, reflecting the 2011 theme “Benefits of Green Waste Recycling.” Each winner received a \$25 gift card and a framed copy of their art.

The Commission advocates sound environmental policy and action in the areas of air and water quality and waste management. The annual contest is part of the Commission’s effort to promote recycling.

Each of the 14 winners read a two-minute statement on the benefits of green waste recycling during a presentation at a commission meeting.

Sekander Ali, a 3rd grade student at Viewpoint School, spoke about the benefits of having a compost bin.

“I help my family take care of our compost bin. The plants really like the fertilizer (that) the compost bin makes and the vegetables we grow in our garden are delicious,” Sekander said.

The winning drawings are featured in the 2012 City of Calabasas Community Recycling Awareness Calendar. The speeches and drawings can be viewed at www.cityofcalabasas.com/drawingcontest.html.

For additional information, contact Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas Environmental Services Manager, at (818) 224-1680.



The calendar cover on the left was created by Khai Berry, a sixth-grader at A.E. Wright Middle School.

Calabasas grade-school students pose with their award winning drawings at the 2011 Recycling Drawing Contest award ceremony, held at City Hall.



USED OIL RECYCLING A HIT IN ROWLAND HEIGHTS

Rowland Heights residents recycled more than 200 gallons of used oil and 100 used oil filters at a recent collection event.

The event was sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in partnership with O'Reilly Auto Parts.

In exchange for recycling, residents received free containers for used motor oil and oil filters and tip sheets on used oil recycling.

This popular event attracts more than 100 residents each year. Over the last two years, residents recycled 240 used oil filters and 400 gallons of used motor oil.

County Public Works would like to thank the following community organizations and businesses for their support of the event: the libraries of Rowland Heights, Hacienda Heights, Walnut, Diamond Bar, and La Habra; Mobil and Chevron gas stations; Key-Met, and Replanet recycling centers; Rowland Heights Community Christian Church; and First Chinese Baptist Church for promoting this campaign.

For additional used oil and used oil filter recycling event information, call 1(888)CleanLA or visit www.CleanLA.com.



Shift in California Paint Management

This summer, paint manufacturers will begin to assume responsibility for the management of post-consumer paint (latex and oil paint) in California.

Unused/discarded paint accounts for the largest share of the household hazardous waste (HHW) collected in the State.

With the passage of Assembly Bill 1343 (Chapter 420 of 2010 Statutes), paint manufacturers or their designated stewardship organization are required to develop and implement a recovery program to reduce the generation of postconsumer paint, promote its reuse, and manage the end-of-life of postconsumer paint in an environmentally sound fashion, including collection, transportation, processing, and disposal.

PaintCare, the non-profit organization established by the American Coatings Association to develop and implement the paint recovery program in California, is developing a state-wide network of collection locations. Currently, local government HHW program operators, including Los Angeles County, are in negotiations with PaintCare to ensure an expedited and smooth transition of paint management responsibilities to PaintCare. For more information regarding PaintCare, contact Executive Director Marjaneh Zarrehparvar at mzarrehparvar@paint.org



Area resident picking up used oil tip sheets at used oil collection event.

Waste-by-Rail Closer to Ready and Waiting

The massive efforts of completing the Waste-by-Rail system are rapidly drawing to a close. The system has been under construction since 2006 and, when complete, will provide long-term disposal capacity for Los Angeles County by transporting containerized refuse from the County to remote landfills, using trains capable of carrying about 4,000 tons of refuse each.

In the foreseeable future, the destination of the Waste-by-Rail system will be the Mesquite Regional Landfill (MRL), which is located in a remote portion of Imperial County and is now capable of receiving refuse by rail or truck.

Development of the Waste-by-Rail system is the responsibility of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

In 2011 the focus of construction was on the rail infrastructure, specifically construction of the Puente Hills Intermodal Facility (PHIMF) and associated rail improvements in Los Angeles County and the completion of a one-mile-long rail yard at the MRL site and a five-mile spur connecting the landfill with the Union Pacific Railroad mainline near the Glamis community in Imperial County.

The PHIMF is located in the City of Industry close to the Puente Hills Material Recovery Facility (PHMRF) and will be the rail loading facility for Los Angeles County's refuse. Construction of the \$107 million PHIMF project is expected to be completed this year. It will include 3.5 miles of railroad track, retaining walls, and two railroad bridges within the Union Pacific right of way;

modifications to State Route 60 and Crossroads Parkway over passes; and railroad sidings for loading trains and administrative and maintenance buildings within the 17.2 acre site. When construction is complete, refuse will be delivered from the PHMRF via an access road that passes under Workman Mill Road and the Union Pacific mainline.

Upon completion of the two remaining contracts for the PHIMF and associated rail improvements, all the components of the Sanitation Districts' Waste-by-Rail system will be in place.

For additional information, contact Mark Revilla (562) 908-4288, extension 2448 or by email at mrevilla@lacs.org.



Santa Monica Shows Residents How to Be Green

The City of Santa Monica Resource Recovery and Recycling Division makes learning to recycle fun and engaging for its residents through a series of interactive workshops. The workshops, conducted monthly, are open to community members, businesses, and students of all ages. Each workshop is adjusted to fit the needs and age level of the participants. All workshops are free. For information, contact Kim Braun at (310) 458-2223. Here's a few of the City's most popular workshops:



“Squirmy-Wormy Vermicomposting”

This presentation explores the world of vermicomposting or worm composting. Participants learn how to start a worm composting bin.



“Choose to Reuse”

This presentation demonstrates the benefits of a waste-free lunch and challenges students to find alternatives to garbage including the creative use of ordinary objects.



Textile Recycling

Workshop participants learn how to deconstruct old clothing such as a t-shirt and turn them into scarves, bags and other items.

CARPET END-OF-LIFE CARE MOVES CLOSER TO IMPLEMENTATION

California is one-step closer to implementing the nation's first extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation for the management of post-consumer carpet.

On November 15, 2011, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) approved carpet stewardship regulations, pertaining to Assembly Bill 2398 (AB 2398, Perez 2010). The regulation which subsequently received its approval from The California Office of Administrative Law on January 26, 2012, establishes policy for CalRecycle to accept payment for its services related to oversight and enforcement, the establishment of penalty ranges that reflect a progressive enforcement approach and criteria for acceptance of annual reports.

Discarded carpet is one of the 10 most prevalent waste materials in California landfills, equaling an estimated 3.2 percent of waste by volume disposed in 2008. The EPR will provide convenient opportunities for the collection of carpet at their end-of-life for recycling into numerous products including carpet backing and backing components, carpet fiber, carpet underlayment, plastics and engineered materials, and erosion control products.

CalRecycle is also currently reviewing a stewardship plan submitted by Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), a non-profit industry organization identified in AB 2398 as its Carpet Stewardship Organization. The plan will be consistent with the State's hierarchy for waste management. CalRecycle must approve the plan by March 31, 2012 in order to be in

compliance. A civil penalty may be imposed by CalRecycle to any manufacturer or distributor for non-compliance to the law.

There is an initial 5-cent per square yard fee to cover the program's setup costs. The fee was enacted on July 1, 2011 and will continue until January 1, 2013. Subsequent to this period, manufacturers or their stewardship organization are required to assess an amount to their product, to be approved by CalRecycle that does not exceed the planned costs of implementing the program.

For additional information, contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com. For up to date information on the regulations and proposed plan, please visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov/epr/PolicyLaw/Carpet.htm.

STUDENTS REDUCE WASTE ON CAMPUS

Teachers and students from five local schools were recently recognized by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for their commitment to reducing waste and recycling.

The five schools diverted over 78,740 pounds of waste from their school campuses and landfills during the 2011 Battle of the Schools competition.

This year's recipients and their amounts of diverted waste were:

- ❑ **El Rancho High School**
11,576 lbs.
- ❑ **Markham Middle School**
14,639 lbs.
- ❑ **Palisades Charter High School**
16,600 lbs.
- ❑ **Hughes Middle School**
18,883 lbs.
- ❑ **San Gabriel Christian School**
16,771 lbs.

This was the second consecutive year that El Rancho High School and Hughes Middle School received the award.

The competition is conducted by Generation Earth, an environmental program managed by The Los Angeles County Public Works Department, and is open to all middle and high schools. Through the program, students are empowered to solve environmental problems and encouraged to be stewards of the environment. During the 2011 competition, 60 participating schools conducted a waste audit, analyzed the impact of pollution on their school campuses, and implemented source reduction techniques, such as recycling over a three-month period.

The 2012 Battle of the Schools competition began in January. To learn more about the program, visit www.generationearth.com



Representatives from each of the five schools were presented with scrolls at a recent LA County Board of Supervisors meeting for their efforts to divert paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, and plastic bottles from landfills.

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Future of Solid Waste Management Forum

Over 110 elected officials, waste haulers, and consultants gathered on January 23, 2012, to discuss solid waste issues impacting the San Gabriel Valley.

The forum, entitled “Future of Solid Waste Management,” was hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) at the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Headquarters in Whittier.

The forum was convened to discuss several pending solid waste issues including the closure of Puente Hills Landfill in 2013 and the effect it may have on disposal costs and green waste management.

The event also provided updates on future innovations in solid waste management, such as the County

Sanitation Districts’ Waste-by-Rail system, the County of Los Angeles’ conversion technologies efforts, and producer responsibility from the California Product Stewardship Council.

Sam Pedroza, Mayor of the City of Claremont and forum moderator, said the forum was a great success.

“The forum gave local government decision makers an opportunity to not only hear first-hand about solid waste challenges, but to network with people who could provide assistance to overcoming those challenges,” Mayor Pedroza said.

Howard Levenson, CalRecycle Deputy Director, gave presentations on the organics roadmap, mandatory commercial recycling, and Assembly

Bill 341 (AB 341), which requires businesses generating over four cubic yards of trash per week and multifamily housing with five or more units, to recycle beginning July 1, 2012.

Keynote speaker, and newly-appointed CalRecycle director, Caroll Mortensen, discussed CalRecycle’s priorities for the coming year, including implementing AB 341 and reforming the bottle bill. She also emphasized her desire to work with industry and local governments to achieve these objectives.

For additional information, contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or Mike.Mohajer@yahoo.com.

Rancho Palos Verdes's shredding event

RIP ROARING SUCCESS...More than 400 vehicles dropped off 862 tons of paper at the City of Rancho Palos Verdes’ first-ever paper shredding event. The free event, sponsored by Escondido Disposal, Inc. (EDCO), provided Rancho Palos Verdes’ residents with an opportunity to drop off personal documents, such as old tax returns, medical records and bank statements, for shredding at City Hall. Residents also dropped off about 1,500 lbs. of unwanted electronics for recycling. City staff handed out public outreach material, including stormwater pollution prevention, water conservation, and information on EDCO’s various free services.



SOLID WASTE LANDFILL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS ONCE AGAIN BEING CHALLENGED

Issuers of insurance policies for solid waste landfills are currently required to adhere to California Department of Insurance (CDI) licensing requirements. But the passage of Assembly Bill 480 could change all that.

Assembly Bill 480, introduced by Assembly Member Solorio in February 2011, resurrects the privately owned solid waste landfill owners/operators attempt to use captive insurance as a financial assurance mechanism for landfill closure, postclosure maintenance and correction action. Captive insurance, (policy holder owns the insurance company, i.e. self-insurance), operates under fewer restrictions compared to other types of insurance where the policy holder has no financial interest in the insurance company.

AB 480, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc., would loosen requirements on the current California Insurance Code Section 1760 related to self-insurance. The bill, as amended on June 23, 2011, would allow self-insurers to operate without being licensed by the CDI. AB 480 is now a two-year bill and may be taken up by the Senate for consideration any time during the 2012 legislative session.

The practice of self-insuring poses significant financial risks to the State

and especially local governments. In the event that either a privately owned landfill owner/operator or a captive insurance company files for bankruptcy or walks away from its fiduciary responsibility, cities and counties that use the landfill for solid waste disposal will be held liable for the cost of the landfill's closure, postclosure maintenance, corrective action, and related environmental impairments.



Waste Management, Inc. had unsuccessfully petitioned the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) in October 2010, to amend the California Code of Regulations, Title 27, Section 22248 (CalRecycle – Closure and/or Postclosure Maintenance and/or Reasonable Foreseeable Corrective Action Insurance).

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) conveyed its concerns regarding weakening existing requirements on captive insurance to CalRecycle in a letter, dated February 15, 2011, and its opposition to AB 480 to the Senate Insurance Committee on June 17, 2011, and the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on June 27, 2011. In a letter dated December 8, 2011, the Task Force urged the cities in Los Angeles County to join the Task Force in opposing AB 480. Follow below link for a copy of the letter: <http://ladpw.org/epd/tf/Attachments/Letters/AB%20480%20Cities.pdf>

For additional information, please contact Ms. Emiko Thompson at (626) 458-3521 or ethomp@dpw.lacounty.gov; or Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com.

Preliminary Draft Regulations for Composting Facilities and Operation

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) is in the process of developing concepts for a statewide order requiring Waste Discharge permitting standards for composting facilities operating in California.

The Water Board is currently conducting informal workshops to solicit public input and intends to release its draft proposal in Spring 2012.

The proposed regulations are designed to reduce or eliminate threats to the surface water and ground water associated with composting operations. If adopted, the proposed regulatory standards would apply to all composting facilities in the state.

The proposed permitting standards are being drafted consistent with State law (Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California Water Code

Division 7, section 13000 et. Seq.), which requires any discharger of waste that affect the waters of the state to file a Report of Waste Discharge. The proposal, once it is adopted, it will become part of Title 27, Chapter 3, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), under the purview of the Water Board.

CalRecycle is also conducting several stakeholders meetings regarding revisions to Title 14 and 27 of the CCR in order to streamline the regulations affecting composting facilities.

The Task Force generally supports the Water Board's proposed concepts. However, since composting operation also falls within the purview of CalRecycle, the California Department of Food & Agriculture, California Air resources Board and Regional APCD/AQMD, the Task Force would like to see coordinated efforts by these agencies in revising Titles 14 and 27 of the CCR. The revisions are expected to be completed within the next several months.

For more information, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147 or MikeMohajer@yahoo.com.

