



Meeting Date: May 9, 2002

Honorable Board of Directors  
Sacramento Regional County Solid Waste Authority  
Sacramento, California

**Board of Directors**

**Illa Collin**  
Chair

*(County of Sacramento)*

**Dave Jones**  
Vice-Chair

*(City of Sacramento)*

**Bret Daniels**

*(City of Citrus Heights)*

**Roger Dickinson**

*(County of Sacramento)*

**Lauren Hammond**

*(City of Sacramento)*

**Muriel Johnson**

*(County of Sacramento)*

**Roger Niello**

*(County of Sacramento)*

**Don Nottoli**

*(County of Sacramento)*

**Sandy Sheedy**

*(City of Sacramento)*

**Warren H. Harada**

Chief Administrative Officer

**David A. Pelser**

General Manager/Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Regional Green Waste Study

6

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) Receive the attached report titled "Regional Green Waste Study"; and
- 2) Direct staff to include funding in the SWA FY 02/03 budget for design and environmental review of a SWA-sponsored green waste processing facility.

**BACKGROUND**

SWA member agencies rely on private contractors for green materials processing. There have been a number of problems with contracted green material operations, including high cost, reliability and stability of service, facility nuisance impacts, contract and permit enforcement issues, and adherence to the waste management hierarchy established by California regulations.

Staff from the SWA member agencies recently formed a working group to examine the present state of green waste processing locally and to make recommendations. Today's report is a result of that effort.

**DISCUSSION**

In the attached Green Waste Study, a working group of staff from the Citrus Heights, the City of Sacramento and the County:

- Inventoried current green waste generation;
- Inventoried current green waste collection systems and self-haul recovery efforts;

9850 GOETHE ROAD SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-3561

Phone: (916) 875-6789 Fax: (916) 875-6767

C:\Documents and Settings\gossse\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\OLK29\GW Report.doc

Printed on recycled paper, naturally!

- Inventoried existing solid waste facilities;
- Noted opportunities for regional cooperation; and
- Noted opportunities for effective use of public sector and private sector capabilities.

There is no permitted composting facility operating within the county. More than 50% of the green material from the SWA member agencies is shipped out of county for processing and transported over 87 miles one-way to a compost facility in Vernalis.

With approximately 163,000 tons per year of green waste being collected from residents in the SWA region, a Regional Green Waste Facility located within Sacramento County may be less costly. A regional facility operated by the SWA may:

- Reduce total costs and stabilize service charges in the long term;
- Provide long-term stability and reliability of service;
- Improve environmental conditions by reducing the potential nuisance impacts from green material processing, and by reducing traffic and air quality impacts; and
- Assure that green materials are diverted from disposal in accordance with the requirements of State regulations and the County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP).

The working group of staff from the SWA member agencies makes the following recommendations for consideration by the Board:

1. The SWA develop a new, remotely located, in-county green material processing (composting) facility. The SWA FY 02/03 budget should include funding for preliminary design and environmental review by an outside consultant.
2. The SWA should hold the Solid Waste Facility Permit for the facility to assure permit compliance.
3. The SWA should control the facility scalehouse and the nature and quantity of materials received.
4. The SWA should operate the facility in partnership with the private sector through operations contracts.
5. The SWA member agencies should continue to use existing transfer facilities for primary processing of green material to retain and increase residential green waste collection program efficiencies and minimize the costs and transportation impacts of hauling green materials.

6. Consideration should be given to County ownership of the new facility's property with an underlying lease to the SWA for the following reasons:
- The facility is likely to be located in the unincorporated rural area of the county, so County land use control is desirable;
  - As the property owner, the County is exempt from a Conditional Use Permit and Building Permits (note, the same standards of development will be required, but the cost and procedures for approval will be less);
  - The SWA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) which can be dissolved by its member agencies. County ownership of the property will establish a clear and appropriate successor in interest for the facility in the event the SWA is dissolved.

To minimize the potential economic impact of the proposed SWA facility on privately-owned waste management facilities operating in the region, the SWA member agencies and the SWA should:

- Continue to use both public and private transfer stations and primary processing facilities;
- Not require private facilities or commercial waste haulers to use the proposed new SWA facility for commercial or self-haul green material they handle;
- Allow private facilities and commercial waste haulers to use the SWA facility as another option for their green material processing needs; and
- Use private contractors for some of the operations of the SWA facility, especially for composting, packaging for market, and sales.

## **INITIAL PROJECT FUNDING**

An initial project funding of \$200,000 is estimated to be sufficient for preliminary design and environmental review of the proposed project next fiscal year. Funding should be included in the FY 02/03 SWA Budget. As with many other SWA program efforts, staff recommends that franchise fees be used for half of the initial project funding. The remaining half of the initial funding should be contributed by the SWA member agencies. The contribution by each member agency could be based on each member agency's estimated green waste generation rate. The County would be responsible for initial land acquisition funding.

## **TAC/SWAC**

The TAC discussed the study during its development and supports the recommendations of the working group.

Staff briefed SWAC at its April 30, 2002 meeting on the proposed project and asked for support of the recommendations. SWAC adopted a motion in support of the recommendations in the Regional Green Waste Study.

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff believes that a SWA green waste facility would foster regional cooperation among the SWA member agencies, ensure the mitigation of nuisance impacts, reduce costs and air quality impacts, improve the ability to enforce contracts and maintain permit compliance, ensure long-term reliability and stability of service, maintain consistency with the State-established waste management hierarchy, and assure diversion credit for a major component of the waste stream.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren H. Harada  
Chief Administrative Officer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

David A. Pelsler, PE, DEE  
General Manager/Engineer

Attachment – Regional Green Waste Study

Contact for additional information:  
Pat Quinn, SWA staff, (916) 875-7087