

City of San Diego
Long-Term Resource Management Options – Strategic Plan
Resource Advisory Management Committee (RMAC)
Newsletter – January 2009

Since the last meeting of the RMAC in summer 2008, a number of developments have occurred that affect both the capacity and life of the Miramar Landfill. The result is that the landfill will reach capacity at a later date than what was discussed and assumed at the last RMAC meeting. Below is a brief summary of those developments and their impacts. A status on the Phase I Report is included in this newsletter.

West Miramar Height Increase – The City of San Diego received approval for an increase in the final height elevation at the West Miramar landfill. This will result in an additional 10 million cubic yards (mcy), or six million tons, of capacity. Depending on incoming tonnage, this additional capacity is expected to extend the life of the landfill.

Construction and Demolition Ordinance – This ordinance requires that the majority of construction, demolition, and remodeling projects requiring building or demolition/removal permits pay a refundable C&D Debris Recycling Deposit and divert at least 50 percent of their debris by recycling, reusing, or donating usable materials. The ordinance is designed to keep C&D materials out of local landfills and ensure they get recycled.

This ordinance, in concert with a C&D fee surcharge at Miramar Landfill, resulted in an almost 50-percent drop in C&D material being disposed in Miramar. The slow down in the economy at the end of last year resulted in a further drop in C&D coming into Miramar Landfill. The cumulative result is a 70-percent drop in C&D material. The first six months of the program have been very successful and outreach to contractors has been ongoing and effective.

Recycling Ordinance – This ordinance requires recycling of plastic and glass bottles and jars, paper, newspaper, metal containers and cardboard at private residences, commercial buildings, and at special events requiring a City permit. The City has been actively enforcing this ordinance and providing technical assistance and outreach to stakeholders.

Comparing each month in 2008 with the corresponding month in 2007, the amount of refuse coming into the Miramar Landfill has been declining since March 2008. The technical assistance provided by City staff has tripled and requests for curbside recycling blue bins have also been increasing.

West Miramar Landfill Final Module Under Construction – The final landfill area at the West Miramar landfill is currently under construction. This \$4 million project is nearing completion and will provide over 10 mcy of airspace or about four (4) years of environmentally sound disposal capacity.

Long-Term Resource Management Phase I Report – The Phase I Report has been completed and will soon be available to the RMAC and the public. It is anticipated that it will be presented to the Natural Resources & Culture Committee in February 2009.

The Report provides an overview of the solid waste system and provides a snapshot of the solid waste system capacity for the City of San Diego and the San Diego region, as of September 2008. This report culminates the Phase I work that the BAS Consultant Team, the City's Environmental Services Department, and the RMAC completed over the last 18 months. The report includes projected solid waste generation and the effect of that on our system demands, the health of ESD's operating funds, the regulatory and policy issues impacting solid waste planning, the process by which options were developed and screened, and the discussions and stakeholder process conducted with the RMAC.

The Phase I Report does not make recommendation(s) for what the City's solid waste strategic plan should be; that will happen during Phase II.

Stay Tuned!