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Recycling in Sonoma County

*The Challenge of Integrating High
Diversion Rates with the Three-Part Test
Requirements and a Temporary Permit*

Presented by Christine Sosko, Sonoma County LEA



Diversion and Market Control

- Currently Out-Haul all Waste to Neighboring County Landfills

- 2007 State Average Waste Rate was 5.8 Pounds Per Person
 - ◆ 2007 Sonoma County Average was 5.0 PPP
 - ◆ 2008 Sonoma County Average was 4.5 PPP
 - ◆ Food Waste Recycling Pilot Projects

- 2007 Acquisition of Competitor Enabled One Operator to Control Most of the County:
 - ◆ Solid Waste Hauling
 - ◆ Recycling Processing
 - ◆ Single-Stream Curbside Recycling



The Three-Part Test

- CCR, Title 14, Section 17402.5 Requires:
 - ◆ Source Separated Materials
 - ◆ Less than 10% Residual
 - ◆ Less than 1% Putrescible

- LEA Letters Requesting Residual Percentage Reports From all Recycling Facilities to Ensure Compliance



Source Separated Materials





Residual Amounts





1% Putrescible





Permitted Recycling Facilities

- 2004 – 543.5 TPD (C&D, Recyclables, Green)
- 2006 – 175 TPD (C&D, Recyclables, Inert)
- 2008 – 600 TPD Temporary Permit (Recyclables)
- 2009 – Application for 370 TPD (C&D, Inert, Recyclables)



Temporary Permit

- CCR Title 14, Article 3.1.1, Authorizes the Continued Operation of Facilities for a Limited Period of Time
 - ◆ Permanent Facility Permit Required Before June 30, 2010 or Cease & Desist Order
 - ◆ Capacity was based on 2008 Tonnages due to a Recent Acquisition
 - ◆ Over 20% Residual
 - ◆ Compliance Issues



Capacity





Compliance Issues





Temporary Permit Difficulties

- Temporary Permit Allows for Existing Tonnages and Operations
- Regulation Compliance Required
- Inadequate Building Design
 - ◆ Designed as Lumber Mill
 - ◆ Process 600 TPD
 - ◆ 24/7 Operation
- Expansion into an Un-Permitted Facility
 - ◆ Cease and Desist



Un-Permitted Facility





Compliance Plan

- Permit 3 New Recycling Facilities
 - ◆ C&D Facility – 370 TPD
 - ◆ Commercial & Residential MRF- 900 TPD
 - ◆ Center For The Environment – 1400 TPD
 - ◆ Dirty MRF
 - ◆ Proposed 90% Diversion Rate
 - ◆ Gas Collection/Energy Reuse
 - ◆ In-Vessel Composting



Permit Issues

- June 30, 2010 Expiration Date
 - ◆ CEQA Review and Permitting Timelines
 - ◆ Cease & Desist Order
 - ◆ Potential Closure of Major Recycler

- Potential Divestiture of Sonoma County Landfill
 - ◆ Change of Ownership
 - ◆ MRF On-Site
 - ◆ Potential Re-Opening of Landfill



LEA Concerns

- Difficulty in Regulatory Oversight of the 3-Part Test
- Lack of Regulatory Tier between the Scope of a MRF and a Transfer/Processing Facility
- Uncertainty Relating to the Expiration of the Temporary Permit
- Future of County-Owned Landfill (Divestiture)



Contact Information

Sonoma County Local Enforcement Agency
475 Aviation Blvd., Suite 220
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-6565

Christine Sosko, Program Manager, (707) 565-6521
csosko@sonoma-county.org

John Anderson, REHS III, (707) 565-6534
janderso@sonoma-county.org

Marty Isom, REHS III, (707) 565-6568
misom@sonoma-county.org

Leslye Choate, REHS II, (707) 565-6564
lchoate@sonoma-county.org