

Agenda Date: January 19, 2006
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Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Peter Cante, Manager – Engineering & Compliance Division

SUBJECT: Delegation of Signature Authority for California Integrated Waste Management Board Grant Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

Delegate to the Control Officer the authority to execute a \$400,000 grant agreement (draft agreement attached) with the California Integrated Waste Management Board to test air pollution emissions from three solid waste conversion technology facilities.

DISCUSSION:

With growing population and generally widespread opposition to creating new landfills, the continued volume reduction and safe, cost-effective disposal of municipal solid waste is an important issue not only within California, but at the national and international levels as well. Recent and emerging technology advancements (collectively called *waste conversion technologies*, which process solid waste into useful energy, fuels, compost, and inert materials), show promise in addressing this issue. Three such conversion technologies identified through the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group (of which the APCD, the county and the county's incorporated cities are members), have the potential to dramatically reduce the amount of waste sent to the county-operated Tajiguas Landfill. However, the air toxic pollution potential of these technologies is not well known, and warrants rigorous analysis before any additional planning effort is expended.

To this end, in November 2005, the California Integrated Waste Management Board approved a \$400,000 grant for the APCD to evaluate the air toxic and criteria pollutant emissions associated with the selected waste conversion technologies. The facilities to be tested are located in Ohio, Arkansas, and Idaho, and the grant funding will cover APCD's staffing and contractor labor costs, as well as travel costs, over the approximate two-year period that the emissions testing program will require. The facility operators will pay other costs associated with emissions testing of their processes.

Because these systems have the potential to emit toxic air pollutants, some stakeholders believe they may present a significant risk to public health. Other stakeholders point out that the emissions can be controlled with proper technology, and that the systems' promise in reducing the amount of landfilled waste warrants consideration. Because of these disparate views, this emissions testing program will have considerable importance and will be watched with interest by a broad array of stakeholders and interest groups. The APCD's intent is to oversee a rigorous, unbiased and scientifically sound program that quantifies the toxic and criteria pollutant emissions likely to result from properly sized and operated facilities handling Tajiguas waste, and to address the fundamental question of whether such systems are safe from a public health perspective.

The draft grant agreement with the Integrated Waste Management Board was received January 5, 2006, and is attached. The terms of the agreement have not been finalized but we do not anticipate any major issues requiring substantive negotiation or modification. The draft agreement is also under review with County Counsel, the Auditor and Risk Management. Because the next Board meeting is in March, 2006, awaiting the next meeting to acquire the Chair's signature would delay the emissions testing program by more than two months. Thus, we request that the Board delegate signature authority to the Control Officer to execute this grant agreement when it is in a form agreeable to all parties. His authority to sign the contract would be limited to the essential terms and conditions set forth in the draft grant agreement that is attached. Assuming there are no significant changes, the Control Officer will execute the contract when it is finalized. If there are significant changes in the terms of the agreement, then the matter will be deferred until the Board's March meeting for further consideration.

ATTACHMENT

Draft Grant Agreement Between
California Integrated Waste Management Board
and
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District