



Margo Reid Brown
Chair

Sheila Kuehl
Member

John Laird
Member

Carole Migden
Member

Rosalie Mulé
Member

Gary Petersen
Member

Mark Leary
Executive Director

www.ciwmb.ca.gov

2 0 0 8

Accomplishments

A YEAR OF PROGRESS



Successes

STATE CELEBRATES 58 PERCENT WASTE DIVERSION

Despite growth in population, employment, and taxable sales, California sent less of its solid waste into landfills during 2007 than it did during the prior year.

The statewide solid waste diversion rate for 2007, which was calculated and announced as 2008 was drawing to a close, rose from 54 percent in 2006 to 58 percent in 2007. Once again, California can lay claim to being the nation's leader in managing its solid waste.

Overall, during 2007 Californians were able to divert about 53.5 million tons of solid waste away from landfills and into higher and better uses. The amount diverted away from landfills during 2007 is the equivalent of filling more than 100 football fields to a height equal to the Empire State Building.

Yet even with more people living and working in California, less solid waste was being discarded into the waste stream during 2007.

Continued progress in waste diversion is one of the highlights for the California Integrated Waste Management Board during 2008.

A NEW WAY TO MEASURE WASTE

The 2007 waste diversion rate marks a transition in the way local jurisdictions will measure their compliance with the statewide legislative mandate to reduce the flow of solid waste into California landfills.

During 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law a Waste Board-sponsored bill, SB 1016 (Wiggins, Chapter 343, Statutes of 2008), which changes the calculation/reporting method from one of waste diversion to one of waste disposal.

"The Solid Waste Cleanup Program is a responsible and accountable use of resources to protect Californians and their environment"

Margo Reid Brown, Chair



The new formula provides a faster, more timely, and more accurate measurement of whether a jurisdiction is meeting, or exceeding, its own customized waste disposal rate.

The per capita disposal rate will be just one indicator in evaluating local jurisdiction performance and waste-reduction program implementation.

This streamlined calculation formula is more cost-efficient, allows the Waste Board to free up staff to increase field presence, and reduces the frequency of Waste Board review for jurisdictions found to be in compliance.

15 YEARS AND STILL CLEANING

The Waste Board continued during 2008 its cleanup grant program to target sites where waste accumulations were determined to pose a risk to public health and safety and a significant environmental hazard.

As 2008 drew to a close, the Solid Waste Disposal and Codisposal Cleanup Program authorized in AB 2136 (Eastin, Chapter 655, Statutes of 2003) was wrapping up its 15th year of service to California.

To date, the Waste Board has approved \$85.3 million in cleanup grants through the program, and has leveraged an additional \$48.5 million in funds from project partners. The Waste Board has successfully recovered \$14.2 million in cleanup costs.

Approximately 800 sites statewide have been successfully cleaned up as a result of the program, while cleanup efforts are under way on an additional 185 projects.

The Waste Board approved \$6 million in 2008 to help clean up an additional 12 sites across the state. The Waste Board's Farm and Ranch Cleanup grants awarded nearly \$900,000 in 2008 and helped clear 65 illegal disposal sites on rural farm and ranch property.

MORE TIRES DIVERTED

The Waste Board continues its aggressive efforts to divert waste tires into value-added products instead of ending up in landfills. For 2006, using the latest data available, California diverted an estimated 74 percent of the 43 million waste tires that are generated annually in the state.

The 74 percent diversion rate represents a huge increase from years past (California diverted about one-third of its waste tires back in 1990) and has been achieved through a program of technical assistance, training, guidance, and targeted grants.

Additional progress will be required to meet the Board's Strategic Directive of achieving a 90 percent diversion rate by 2015.

The Tire Cleanup and Amnesty grants awarded \$1.99 million during 2008 to cities, counties, special districts and Indian tribes for waste tire cleanups and waste tire amnesty events. The 44 grants awarded resulted in the proper disposal of 650,000 waste tires, a significant increase from prior years' efforts.

GRANTS AWARDED

The Waste Board awarded more than \$41 million in grants in 2008 to approximately 600 governmental, educational and private entities statewide.

- Markets-related grants – 170 awards for almost \$18 million.
- Enforcement/Compliance Program grants – 107 awards for more than \$11.7 million.
- Entitlement grants to local jurisdictions – 285 awards for more than \$11.4 million.

Staff streamlined the application process for the Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) grant programs by consolidating the previously stand-alone applications into one joint application. And in August, the Board embarked on the Used Oil Program Evaluation Project where a survey was sent to all Used Oil Block Grant recipients to kick off this effort. The goal was to identify program areas that could be more efficient and maximize services to local government partners.

A Grants Work Group was formed to review all Waste Board grant programs, processes, procedures, and policies for the purpose of increasing consistency, streamlining procedures, and more effectively meeting the needs of our stakeholders. Some recommendations can be handled administratively, some will require Waste Board action to revise policy, and some may require legislative or regulatory changes.



RMDZ LOANS

One of the Waste Board's most successful programs, the Recycled Market Development Zone, achieved a milestone during 2008 when it passed the \$100 million mark in cumulative business loans awarded since the RMDZ began in the early 1990s.

Businesses that have been aided with loans and/or technical assistance from RMDZ zone administrators divert about 7 million tons of solid waste annually from California landfills, and have created an estimated 8,800 new jobs to help bolster the California economy.

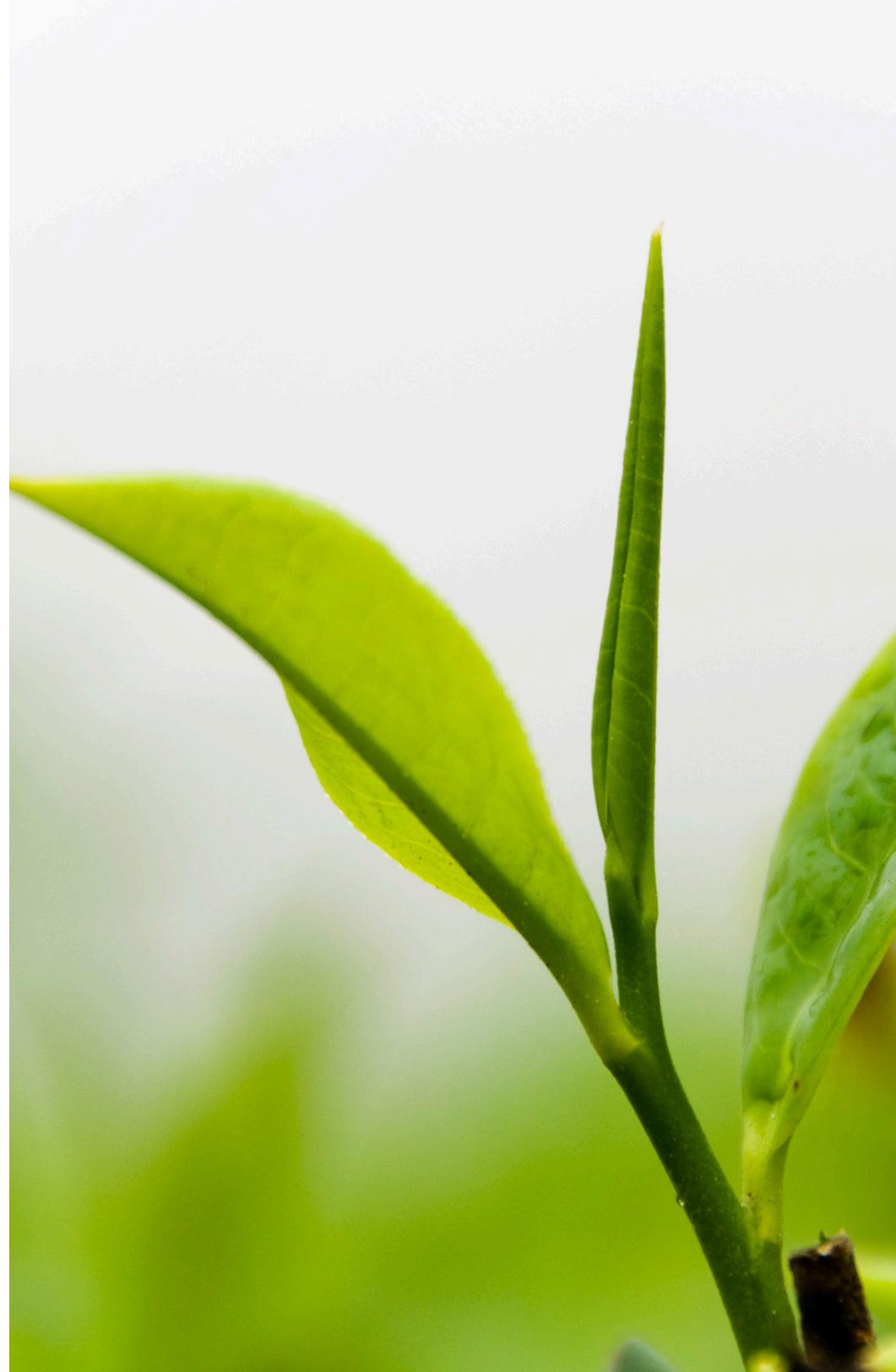
Four loans valued at more than \$5.7 million were approved during 2008. To date, the RMDZ program has issued 153 loans to 120 businesses located within RMDZ zones, which cover about one-half of California.



ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING

The e-waste program achieved a major milestone during 2008 by exceeding 500 million pounds of obsolete television sets and computer monitors that have been collected and processed for recycling since the covered electronics collection program began in 2003.

Nearly \$240 million has been paid out to an expanding network of approved e-waste collectors and recyclers. During 2008, the Waste Board approved a new fee schedule on the purchase of covered electronic products, effective January 1, 2009, to ensure an adequate flow of funds to pay for this rapidly growing recycling program.



LOCAL JURISDICTION PERFORMANCE

Every two years the Waste Board formally evaluates the progress of each jurisdiction in California toward meeting the legislative mandate of 50 percent waste diversion, and whether the jurisdiction is adequately implementing the programs it chose and planned.

During 2008, a total of 340 jurisdictions were deemed to have met these goals.

There were 61 other jurisdictions that were below the 50 percent waste-diversion goal. These jurisdictions went through a more rigorous process to determine if they were making a good-faith effort to implement their programs. The evaluations involved months of analysis, site visits, and extensive management review.

Ultimately, 55 of those 61 jurisdictions were recommended for a good-faith effort finding, which the Waste Board approved in December 2008.

MAINTAINING STRONG ENFORCEMENT

The Waste Board traditionally has followed a carrot-and-stick approach to enforcing waste-disposal and recycling regulations, placing an emphasis on the “carrot” by working closely with local partners to help them achieve their solid waste reduction goals, and relying on enforcement penalties only when needed.

Among the significant enforcement actions during 2008 were:

- Golden By-Products, a major waste tire facility, paid \$50,000 in penalties and entered into a stipulated agreement that required additional fire protection to meet State standards. A fire in late 2008 was quickly brought under control thanks to the Waste Board-required tire fire protection.
- Tri-C, a tire hauler, was found to be operating four illegal waste tire sites. The company did not comply with the cleanup and abatement orders, and was assessed \$120,000 in penalties. Those penalties have not been paid, and staff is initiating actions to revoke the firm’s tire hauler registration.
- Between October 2007 and October 2008, staff issued 19 Notices of Intent to list non-complying solid waste facilities on the Waste Board’s Inventory of Facilities Violating State Minimum Standards. Nine of the facilities came into compliance.
- The Waste Board collected \$225,045 in penalties from three companies for failure to comply during the 2005 certification cycle with the Rigid Plastic Packaging Container minimum recycled-content requirements.



EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

Major progress was reported during 2008 by the staff working on the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) curriculum project.

All 85 curriculum units are now in some stage of the development process. Experts from across the nation are providing feedback on the proposed curriculum and are assuring accuracy of its content. Completed curriculum units are now being field-tested and pilot-tested in school districts across California, and teachers using the new curriculum units have been providing invaluable feedback.

Additional financial support for the project was provided during 2008 from Cal/EPA and Resources Agency boards, departments, and offices, thus ensuring adequate funding to complete the new curriculum.

Once the EEI curriculum is completed, it will be made available, without cost, to more than 1,000 California school districts, reaching more than 10 million students in grades K-12.

TRAINING

The Waste Board maintained its commitment during 2008 to provide ongoing training to its stakeholders and its internal staff.

Training was provided throughout the year to Local Enforcement Agency, Enforcement Agency, and facility staff on a host of topics, including CEQA and solid waste permitting; landfill gas; conflict management; dead animal disposal; U-waste, e-waste, and radioactive waste; tire facilities and manifesting; and a wide range of health and safety courses. The 11th annual LEA Conference included landfill operators, who attended for the second year, as well as LEAs, Waste Board staff, and tire enforcement grantees.

The Waste Board's health and safety training programs reached in excess of 1,100 participants, 33 percent more than a year earlier. The LEA Conference attracted 350 attendees, which represents an increase of nearly 30 percent from the previous year.

Internal staff training topics included administrative and technical writing; public presentations; interviewing techniques; Leadership series; contracts management; analytical work; and accounting and auditing.

From the inception of the Staff Training Program, more than 90 classes have been conducted with a total enrollment of nearly 900 staff. More than 350 staff have attended at least one training session. A series of training classes are planned for 2009 on the Principles of Integrated Waste Management.





Program Improvements and Ongoing Work

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM AUDITING

The Waste Board began implementing a new audit program to enhance the fiscal integrity of internal processes relative to grants, loans, and contracts. The Audits and Evaluations Unit has established ambitious new goals approved by the Waste Board in June 2008.

"The ideals and hard

work of our LEAs are

central to the California

success story..."

Margo Reid Brown, Chair

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

The Waste Board's staff began conducting program evaluations to identify improvements in the Waste Tire Enforcement Program, the Used Oil Recycling Program, the Recycled Market Development Zone Program, the Waste Reduction Awards Program, and the E-waste Program.

EXPANDING LEA AUTHORITY

There has been ongoing work with the Legislature on statutory changes to expand and enhance the authority of the Waste Board and Local Enforcement Agencies regarding solid waste facilities. Proposed changes would streamline the process for assessing administrative civil penalties; allow for direct Waste Board enforcement with approval of the LEA; repeal the automatic stay of an enforcement action when a hearing is requested; and establish criminal penalties.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Waste Board continued to play a key role in California's climate change initiatives by chairing the recycling and waste management subgroup of the Climate Action Team, which is comprised of State Agency Secretaries, Board and Commission Chairs, and other key representatives of State agencies. The Climate Action Team is charged with implementing global warming emission reduction programs and reporting on the progress made toward meeting the statewide greenhouse gas targets established by Executive Order S-03-05. The subgroup chaired by the Waste Board already has developed seven measures designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Ongoing efforts continued during 2008 to obtain legislative authority to implement the Extended Producer Responsibility Framework and other activities relating to voluntary product producer responsibility.

ORGANICS

Progress continued on the Organics Roadmap, focusing on new or expanded facilities that produce compost, mulch, biofuels, and bioenergy. The Waste Board was presented with the Organics Roadmap II in December, which includes a schedule of actions that could be taken to increase siting and capacity.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Board members finalized the contract award for the long-awaited Infrastructure Project, a comprehensive inventory of California's solid waste, diversion, and market infrastructure and material flows.

WASTE COMPLIANCE AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

TEMPORARY PERMITS

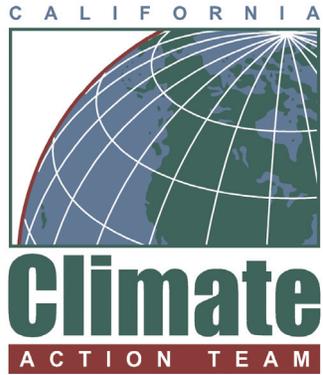
Waste Board staff worked diligently to develop emergency regulations required by AB 1473 (Feuer, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2007) to authorize enforcement agencies to issue a temporary solid waste facilities permit, and concurred on 15 temporary permits.

ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PERMITTING

The Waste Board served as the Enforcement Agency for the Sunshine Canyon landfill permit, which brought together two separately permitted facilities into one permit, and conditionally approved a new Local Enforcement Agency for the consolidated facility.

PERMITS APPROVED

The Waste Board approved controversial, complex permits for Redwood Landfill, Cold Creek Compost Facility, Norcal Waste Systems Hay Road Landfill, and Florin Perkins Public Disposal site materials recovery facility and large volume transfer station.



INSPECTIONS

Waste Board staff conducted nearly 700 facility inspections between October 2007 and October 2008 in accordance with the Waste Board's Strategic Directives and to meet statutory requirements.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Waste Board staff continued developing regulations for Financial Assurances for Post-Closure Maintenance of solid waste landfills. The Phase I regulations dealing primarily with closure cost estimating were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and are currently in effect.

The Phase II regulations addressing long-term postclosure maintenance and non-water corrective actions have been drafted and the formal rulemaking process will start shortly.

LANDFILL GAS MONITORING

Staff reviewed landfill gas monitoring and control plans, which are required from operators of active California landfills, by the LEA with Board concurrence to ensure effective landfill gas monitoring and control. Extensive guidance was developed for use in the preparation, review, and implementation of the plans. A series of training classes on the guidance was held around the state. Of the 146 plans due, a total of 129 plans have been received by the LEAs, and of those 51 have been approved. Of the 103 plans received by the Board, 21 have received staff concurrence, 8 have been deemed acceptable, and 41 have required additional information.

DISASTER DEBRIS

The Waste Board continued to play a role in disaster debris management during 2008, most recently after the devastating Southern California wildfires in November 2008. The Waste Board joined other State agencies in participating in the Golden Guardian emergency preparedness project, which is developing debris response procedures in planning for a major California earthquake.

RECYCLING PLASTIC BAGS

With the passage of AB 2449 (Levine, Chapter 845, Statutes of 2006), the Waste Board began to address issues related to the low recycling rate for single-use disposable plastic bags, which are contributing to litter problems on land and in our oceans and waterways. Waste Board staff collaborated with the Ocean Protection Council and other agencies in 2008 on strategies to reduce marine pollution, and assisted local governments in launching plastic bag recycling campaigns.

