

# *South Central LEA*

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## *Roundtable*

**Representing Inyo, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings,  
Merced, Kern, San Benito, & Tuolumne Local Enforcement  
Agencies**

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September 22, 2006

Ms. Margo Reid-Brown, Chair  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
P.O. Box 4025  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Dear Madam Chair:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Permit Implementation Regulations. The purpose of this letter is to discuss several provisions of the proposed regulations that are of great concern to the Southcentral Local Enforcement Agency ("LEA") Roundtable, a collection of ten LEAs located in the rural Central Valley of California.

Our greatest concern pertains to the additional public posting and hearing requirements proposed in the regulations. While we fully support staff's recommendation to remove the informational meeting requirement for registration and standardized permits, the Southcentral LEA Roundtable believes that the extensive public notification and informational meeting requirements proposed in the regulations are too stringent.

For rural LEAs that often consist of a skeleton staff, public notification represents a tremendous amount of time to compose and translate notices, secure purchase orders, and place them in local newspapers. We fear that the proposed noticing and hearing requirements will divert limited resources from the critical task of protecting public health and the environment through inspections and enforcement actions.

Regarding informational meetings, Board staff asserts that public meetings are not held consistently, are too broad to address issues specific to solid waste, or may be too old to be useful. The Southcentral LEA Roundtable disagrees. In our experience, public hearings are most likely to be held at the local level for new projects and permits.

Most projects require some type of discretionary action such as grading or use permits, or zone change decision. Moreover, rural areas often feature natural buffer zones to sensitive receptors of up to one mile or even farther. In urban areas, where residents are often located nearby project sites, additional notifications and meetings would be warranted.

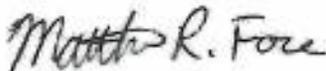
For these reasons, we propose that additional public noticing and public hearings be held on a case-by-case basis under any of the following conditions:

- When the most recent CEQA hearing is more than one year old;
- Where public interest in the project warrants additional public meetings (e.g. when the Planning Commission decision is appealed to the Board of Supervisors);
- Where the proximity or density of sensitive receptors warrants additional notification. For example, where habitable structures are located less than sensitive receptors are less than 2,500 feet from the facility boundary; or,
- When the LEA has received requests from the public for information about the project.

In sum, while additional public notification may be desirable in many circumstances, the Southcentral LEA Roundtable believes that this blanket requirement on rural areas will divert resources from more critical health and safety goals in exchange for minimal gains.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Matthew R. Fore, REHS, MPA  
Chair, Southcentral LEA Roundtable

cc: Board Member Danzinger  
Board Member Mulé  
Board Member Peace  
Board Member Petersen  
Board Member Wiggins  
Howard Levenson, CIWMB  
Mark DeBie, CIWMB