

**MOJAVE DESERT AND MOUNTAIN INTEGRATED WASTE
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

AGENDA MATTER

Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority's History

SUMMARY STATEMENT

High Desert communities began working together on solid waste issues in 1988, carrying out a regional landfill study and then continuing to prepare the Desert and Mountain Regional Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE). The SRRE was a requirement of AB 939, California's Integrated Waste Management Act. The High Desert opted to prepare a regional SRRE, identifying programs needed to meet California's requirements that 25% of local solid waste be diverted from landfills by 1995 and 50% by 2000.

The SRRE identified a joint powers authority as the agency to coordinate members' source reduction, recycling, composting, and public education efforts by implementing and funding regionally integrated programs. The Mojave Desert and Mountain Integrated Waste Management Authority was formed in 1991 as the regional forum for local elected officials and staff to meet, discuss and carry out needed programs and services. The Board later determined to use the more descriptive name Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority, which was adopted in the Second Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement in 2005.

The Authority includes nine members, jointly sharing their authority to plan and implement solid waste diversion and recycling programs. Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Needles, San Bernardino County, Twentynine Palms, Victorville and Yucca Valley comprise the JPA.

An elected Councilmember or Supervisor represents each member on the Board of Directors, and may be represented by an alternate. Regular Board meetings are held quarterly, on the second Thursday in February, May, August and November. Board meetings begin at 10 a.m. Prior to May 2020 Board meetings were held at the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility in Victorville. Board members are paid \$75 for each meeting they attend, and are reimbursed for mileage.

Member agencies staff meet regularly with the Authority Administrator and contractors for the two months between Board meetings, also on the second Thursday. These meetings focus on emerging issues, new developments, regional concerns, and updates intended to guide local programs and improve regional coordination.

The Authority's is performed by independent contractors. There are no Authority employees. By using contractors instead of staff, the Authority is able to anticipate and respond to changing dynamics and circumstances, shifting budget resources rather than increasing expenditures. Annual expenses are held to 3% increases by Board policy. The Authority maintains a 20% operating fund reserve with annual excess allocated to offset revenues.

Program costs are shared 1/3 equally among the members, reflecting each jurisdiction's responsibility to carry out diversion activities; and 2/3 based on population, with military facilities excluded since members have no control or responsibility for their performance. The Agreement provides for Project Committees focused on a particular project or issue. Project Committee expenditures are shared only by Committee members.

The Victorville Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was financed by Authority bonds in 1995, using a Project Committee of Apple Valley and Victorville. They were responsible for bond payments, and for operating expenses. The Authority manages Burrtec's operations agreement. The MRF now processes and markets recycling from eight member agencies.

With the Board's leadership and direction, the JPA and agency recycling coordinators:

- Beginning in 2017, tracked and commented on CalRecycle's SB 1383 regulations, including concepts and multiple drafts over 3 years
- Focus on edible food recovery, working with the High Desert Second Chance and the High Desert Food Collaborative to expand and support food recovery organizations' capacity to accept business donations
- Helped secure donation of a 1200 square foot refrigeration unit to expand food storage
- Negotiated a lease agreement, revised MRF operating agreement, and processing agreement resulting in a new composting facility with capacity for JPA members
- Secured land use approval for future construction and demolition materials recycling, mixed waste processing, engineered fuel, and transfer capability
- Assisted with efforts to secure statewide funding for compost facilities, including a \$2.5 million grant to the new compost facility
- Initiated a comprehensive social media strategy with 26 Facebook pages administered by the JPA and local coordinators
- Focus social media on original and local content, boosting posts around events to reach community members
- Negotiated a curbside contamination reduction project including a public survey, online course, door-to-door outreach and contamination audit
- Received a CalRecycle grant to promote refillable one gallon propane canisters, working with the California Product Stewardship Council
- Worked with a professional videographer to produce a local recycling video showing acceptable materials and in-home and curbside behavior
- Boost the video on social media, including posts around specific materials and behavior
- Coordinated and supported a new community college recycling module to be offered online as part of sustainability curriculum
- Visited 249 businesses generating organic materials to assess their generation, verify their management practices, and initiate adoption of new practices to comply with state requirements (AB 1826)
- Visited nearly 1,500 High Desert businesses to verify their participation in California's mandatory commercial recycling program (AB 341)
- Awarded 14 Special Recognition awards to High Desert businesses for their unique and voluntary recycling efforts

- Helped its member agencies achieve greater than 50% diversion before California changed to a per-capita disposal calculation in 2008 (SB 1016)
- Negotiated long-term landfill use agreements, stabilizing pricing and facilitating recycling
- In 1992, the JPA negotiated a countywide landfill rate, reducing Desert and Mountain rates by over \$30 per ton
- The JPA was the lead negotiator for 18 cities, resulting in a 1997 Waste Disposal Agreements that stabilized landfill rates and reduced the rate by \$4.50 per ton
- The JPA initiated and lead the 2002 Waste Disposal Agreement amendment returning additional money to participating cities. First year's payments to JPA communities totaled \$314,530
- Prepared the Resource and Materials Strategy to expand recycling and composting at the MRF in anticipation of California's 75% statewide recycling goal
- Administers the High Desert Recycling Market Development Zone, working to find uses for recycled materials and providing financial incentives to recycling businesses
- Helped bring a fully-permitted and operating compost facility to the High Desert, including RMDZ funding
- Advised CalRecycle on funding expanding composting at another High Desert facility
- Prepared a program to keep JPA agencies in compliance with the State's mandatory commercial organics program, including an approved alternative generator method
- Organized and presented a regional organics collection, processing and market development workshop
- Sponsored Curiosity Quest Goes Green's Telly Award winning Kids Recycling program on the PBS network, coordinating filming at the Victor Valley MRF
- Produced a Victor Valley MRF tour video and accompanying booklet graphically showing 34 steps needed to process recycled materials
- Organized annual regional events to focus on recycling and composting opportunities
- Maintains the website www.urecycle.org
- Sponsored the Mojave Desert and Mountain Master Composters, with over 2000 trained home composters working in five regional groups
- Developed a Master Composter certification program, recognizing their volunteer efforts and providing opportunities to explain and promote home composting and recycling
- Offered resident training on recycling, including "Green Team" volunteer opportunities to increase recycling volume and quality
- Worked with Victor Valley College and Victorville Federal Corrections to adopt the Master Composter certification to inmate training
- Initiated effort to develop and introduce recycling and materials management curriculum to local community colleges
- Analyzed landfill financial impacts resulting from anticipated increased recycling
- Carried out community based social marketing outreach to area businesses and multi-family residences, explaining new mandatory commercial recycling requirements

- Sponsored High Desert Opportunity to inform businesses about mandatory commercial recycling and market development
- Organized and presented regional forums on construction materials recycling, market development, and diversion
- Led and shared regional research on waste tire, mattress and carpet recycling
- Participate in WeTip program to pursue illegal dumping enforcement
- Arranged outreach through local cable, newspaper and radio to promote events and provide recycling information
- Prepared table top displays, handout materials and publications
- Support local collection programs, including residential and commercial recycling, commercial organics, construction material recycling, and self-haul recycling
- Assists and provide data for communities' annual reports to CalRecycle
- Represents the region's concerns on national, regional, statewide and local organizations including:
 - The Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling
 - Chair, Commission's Market Development Committee
 - California Council on Carpet Recycling and CalRecycle's Carpet Stewardship Advisory Committee
 - Build Infrastructure Now Coalition leadership (increasing California resources and outlets for recycled material)
 - Sustainable Cities USA (chairing the solid waste committee)
 - West Coast Forum on Climate and Materials Management (co-chairing the materials management committee)
 - California Resource Recovery Association (professional certification instructor, policy committee and technical council chair, advisor to the Board and former president of the statewide non-profit recycling organization)
 - California Association of Recycling Market Development Zones (advisor and former president)
 - Institute of Local Government (advisor and contributor to League of Cities and Association of Counties project to enhance California recycling infrastructure)
 - Californians Against Waste (board member for this Sacramento based recycling advocacy group)
 - The Reuse Institute (advisory board member for a national organization focused on product reuse)
 - San Bernardino County Solid Waste Task Force (chair of technical committee)
 - The Countywide Partnership Strategy, the Railcycle negotiating team, San Bernardino County Zero Waste Communities
 - CalRecycle working groups and policy initiatives (including recycling market development, facilities permitting and financing, CEQA, beverage containers, conversion technologies, diversion calculation, alternative daily cover, compost quality, program alternatives, greenhouse gas, and sustainability)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

JPA background and history for information and discussion

PRESENTED BY	FISCAL IMPACT:	MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
John Davis	None	February 11, 2021	