

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Follow up to 1996-97 Grand Jury Final Report

Discussion

The 1996-97 Grand Jury did an investigation of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). It was noted at that time that service contracts had become an issue because of their length, and the possibility they would be extended instead of put out for bid. The 2000-2001 Grand Jury suggested to the 2001-2002 Grand Jury that this be investigated.

Testimony from two Placer County Supervisors; Director, Facilities Services; Deputy Director, Facilities Services; and the Solid Waste Program Manager revealed that the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill contract has been re-bid with savings to the County. The Materials Recovery Facility Contract has been extended to July 2005, and should be re-bid. Care should be taken to allow enough time for this process. Other contracts that will need attention soon are:

SERVICE	CONTRACTOR	EXPIRATION DATE
Garbage Collection in SW Placer County	Auburn Placer Disposal Service	July 2004
Garbage Collection in NE Placer County	Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal	July 2004
Tahoe MRF Operation	Eastern Regional Landfill, Inc.	Year-to-Year
Western Placer Waste Management Authority MRF Operations	NORTEC Waste LLC	July 2005

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury observed the MRF in operation. It is an efficient two-shift operation. The goals of the MRF are to achieve a recyclable material recovery rate of 16% this year, 18% beginning July 1, 2002, and 20% beginning July 2003.

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury also inquired into the potential conflict of interest arising from the same individual serving both on the staff of the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and as a county employee in Facilities Services. Based on testimony from the above individuals the Grand Jury believes this situation has not caused any conflict of interest to date. However, continued monitoring of this situation should be maintained by future Grand Juries.

Finding 1

Many of the solid waste management contracts will be coming up for renewal in the near future. Decisions will need to be made as to whether a contract should be extended, renegotiated, or put out for bid.

Recommendation 1

The Grand Jury believes that whenever possible, contracts should be put out for bid to ensure the County is getting the best possible price and service.

Finding 2

The County is doing a good job with its solid waste management efforts and is commended by this Grand Jury.

Recommendation 2

Future Placer County Grand Juries should monitor solid waste management contracts as their expiration dates approach.

Finding 3

To date, a conflict of interest has not arisen from the same individual serving on both the staff of the JPA and as a county employee.

Recommendation 3

This situation should continue to be monitored by future Grand Juries.

Respondents

Director, Facilities Services
Board of Supervisors
County Executive Officer

RESPONSES REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

The Honorable Judge James D. Garbolino
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Placer
Historic Court House
101 Maple Street
Auburn, California 95603