



# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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TO: Governing Board Delegates and Alternates

FROM: Mary Ann Lutz, Chair of Energy, Environment & Natural Resources (EENR) Committee

RE: EENR Committee Report

Major work activities and accomplishments achieved during the last month include but are not limited to:

### ***Green Waste Policy Paper***

For many years, San Gabriel Valley cities have participated in green waste recovery as part of their municipal solid waste operations. A key contributor to the implementation of these programs is AB 939, landmark legislation passed in 1989 that mandated local jurisdictions to meet diversion goals of 25% by 1995 and 50% by 2000. In order to comply with these regulations, many cities began curbside green waste collection programs that required residents to collect and dispose of yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves, and tree trimmings, separately from their general waste stream. The segregated green waste is now taken to Puente Hills landfill where the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) has implemented the first green waste as alternative daily cover (ADC) Program approved in the State of California. Currently, this allows cities to recycle uncontaminated green waste and count the recovered material towards their diversion goal. With the closure of the Puente Hills in 2013, LACSD has indicated that its waste-by-rail program, which will be hauling the solid waste previously sent to this landfill, will not accept green waste as ADC.

In order to address the green waste issue, the COG's Solid Waste Working Group has undertaken an examination of green waste management issues in response to the looming closure of Puente Hills landfill in 2013. The Working Group met with solid waste consultants, haulers, the regional air quality regulatory agency, and representatives from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to gather information and formulate policy recommendations for the COG's member agencies. The Working Group has developed a Green Waste Policy Paper which outlines the challenges and issues associated with managing the green waste stream as well as recommends policy positions for ensuring the long-term reliability of green waste management and diversion credits.

### ***SB 918 (Pavley): Uniform Statewide Water Recycling Criteria***

Every year, California discharges nearly 4 million acre feet of used water into the ocean. Much of that water could be recycled, but because uniform safety standards have not been adopted, the permitting and design processes for creating recycling facilities are unpredictable, discouraging local communities from tapping into this major water source. SB 918 would require the

Department of Public Health to develop and adopt uniform water recycling criteria for indirect potable water reuse, and investigate the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse, consistent with a specified timeline. By adopting uniform health criteria for using recycled water to augment local drinking water supplies, the Department of Public Health can provide project designers with the guidance they need to cost-effectively create new water recycling facilities that are fully protective of public health. The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District has requested the COG support this legislation. The EENR Committee reviewed this legislation at its February meeting and recommends a position of “support” to the Governing Board.

### ***Water Bond Education Forum***

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District is sponsoring a water bond education forum in cooperation with AQUA, Latino Water Coalition, and the COG. This public forum will present nonpartisan information on the water bond scheduled for the November 2010 ballot. The COG will assist with advertisement and planning of the event. It is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard Marriott in Baldwin Park. More details will follow.

### ***AB 811 (Solar and Energy-Efficiency Financing)***

AB 811 (Levine), which was signed into law in 2008, authorizes all cities and counties in California to designate areas within which willing property owners could enter into contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed renewable generation, as well as energy efficiency improvements, that are permanently fixed to the property owner's residential, commercial, industrial, or other real property. These financing arrangements would allow property owners to finance renewable generation (including solar) and energy efficiency improvements through low-interest loans that would be repaid as an item on the property owner's property tax bill.

The County of Los Angeles is developing an AB 811 program, of which cities can participate without any cost. The COG Energy Working Group has been meeting to provide input to the County on various aspects of the program and to identify opportunities for collaboration as a subregion. The County was notified in February that it was not awarded grant funding from the State Energy Program to support elements of their AB 811 program including financing, marketing, education, and outreach. It is anticipated that the County will adopt its AB 811 ordinance by April 2010, and cities will be able to adopt ordinances to participate in the program shortly thereafter. The County aims to begin offering loans in July 2010.

### ***San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership***

The San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership (SGVEWP) is a partnership between the COG and Southern California Edison (SCE) that provides funding for cities' direct energy savings through the installation of energy efficiency measures as well as education and outreach efforts for energy efficiency and conservation strategies. This program is funded by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Local Government Partnerships Program.

SCE, the COG, and its third-party implementer, Intergy Corp, continue to work with cities to identify and install energy efficiency projects eligible for enhanced rebates through SGVEWP. Staff is planning a home energy performance educational workshop series targeted at residents to

coincide with the roll out of the County's AB 811 program and the SCE whole-house retrofit program that will provide additional rebates to homeowners. In addition, the COG will respond to SCE's Request for Proposals to fund local government activities that support the CPUC's California's Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan. If funded, this work plan would allow participating San Gabriel Valley cities to develop energy efficiency climate action plans, offer additional home energy performance workshops to residents, and participate in the County's energy management software system to monitor city facility energy usage.

#### ***CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Grant***

The COG continues to implement its household hazardous waste grant awarded by the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle). The program is intended to build knowledge and capacity among San Gabriel Valley local governments, retailers, producers, and other stakeholders to begin the transition from government-managed and financed product end-of-life (EOL) systems to producer-managed and financed EOL systems for products banned from trash under the universal waste disposal ban. The COG is working closely with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) to implement this grant over the next two and a half years. Over the coming months, CPSC will give presentations to local governments and business communities to introduce product stewardship and the grant's pilot take back programs.

This month the EENR committee approved a product stewardship, or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), resolution to go before the Governing Board in April when CPSC gives a presentation on the topic. The COG is also conducting a consumer survey focusing on the financial and publicity benefits provided to retailers for offering a battery and/or Compact Florescent Light Bulb take-back program in the San Gabriel Valley. It is anticipated that results from this survey effort will be available in May.

#### ***Watershed Coordinator Grant***

The COG continues to implement its Watershed Coordinator grant awarded by the Department of Conservation in May 2008. This grant is undertaken in partnership with the RMC, Watershed Conservation Authority, and the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Rivers Watershed Council. The purpose of this grant is to implement watershed goals established in the comprehensive Rio Hondo Watershed and Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plans.

The Watershed Coordinator continues to develop GIS mapping tools that will: (1) help coordinate watershed improvement efforts between potential project proponents and funding sources; and (2) identify and promote projects that meet multiple project objectives, and identify where policy and land use alteration will be beneficial. In addition, planning has started for the outreach components of the program. The specific tasks include: (1) educating private landowners about the benefit of native planting and about living on the urban edge and (2) providing for programming along the Rio Hondo corridor which includes river beatification, education about the rich historic legacy along the Rio Hondo, and the coordination of a diverse range of recreational opportunities that engage individuals, interest groups, school groups and families.