

CHAPTER TWO  
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

## CHAPTER 2

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Direction for the county's solid waste management system is provided by AB 939 and subsequent legislation, the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), and implementation regulations adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and is described in this chapter of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP). This direction is provided by a Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives, and Policies. A listing of the goals, objectives, and policies is provided for summary purposes and to emphasize their relationship to both the short- (2003-2008) and medium-term (2009-2018) planning periods and for a 50-year disposal horizon (long-term).

#### 2.1 MISSION STATEMENT

This mission statement is implicit in, and applies to, all goals, objectives, and policies that form the basis of the CoIWMP.

The County of Sonoma will plan and implement programs to satisfy the county's solid waste management needs for the next fifty years in a manner that is cost-effective and is operated to follow the State of California's solid waste management hierarchy. The hierarchy consists of waste prevention (source reduction), reuse, recycling, composting, and disposal. In addition, the solid waste management system for the county shall protect public health, safety, and well being; preserve the environment; and provide for the maximum feasible conservation of natural resources and energy production.

#### 2.2 GOALS

Goals are general statements of the desires of the community used in planning and implementing solid waste programs. The goals of this CoIWMP are applicable through the short- and medium-term planning periods and the general direction of Sonoma County thereafter (long-term).

- GOAL A:** In order to help ensure the sustainability of our communities and to conserve natural resources and landfill capacity, the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), County and the Cities will continue to improve their municipal solid waste management system through emphasis on the solid waste management hierarchy of waste prevention (source reduction), reuse, recycling, composting and disposal.
- GOAL B:** The County and the Cities will exercise regional cooperation in the achievement of solid waste planning objectives through the SCWMA.
- GOAL C:** The solid waste management system in Sonoma County will be planned and operated in a manner to protect public health, safety and the environment.
- GOAL D:** The County, the Cities and/or the SCWMA will provide public information and education programs, economic incentives, encourage voluntary participation in waste prevention (source reduction) programs and strive to strengthen markets for recycled and composted materials to achieve solid waste planning objectives.
- GOAL E:** The County and the Cities and/or the SCWMA will provide cost-effective and environmentally sound waste management services, including special waste and household hazardous waste handling and disposal, over the long term to all community residents and promote access to the services.

**GOAL F: The County's solid waste disposal facilities will be sited and operated in a manner to minimize energy use, conserve natural and financial resources, and protect prime agricultural lands and other environmentally sensitive or culturally sensitive areas.**

### 2.3 OBJECTIVES

Objectives are measurable achievements, the attainment of which provides documentation of the success of the County, Cities and the SCWMA in meeting solid waste goals.

- The County and the Cities will achieve a 50 percent diversion (see Figure 1-1) of wastes being disposed of in County landfills by the year 2003 and a 70 percent diversion rate (see Figure 1-2) by 2015 based on 1990 rates.
- The SCWMA will distribute solid waste educational material to all county households and businesses at least annually.
- The SCWMA will monitor and evaluate, at the end of the short and medium terms, educational programs outlined in the SRRE and the HHWE to improve their effectiveness.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will achieve participation in the County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program of 3 percent annually of the county's households.
- The SCWMA will achieve measurable reduction of landfill disposal of prohibited wastes documented by waste characterization studies at the end of the short term and medium term planning periods.
- The County will develop disposal capacity for solid waste not handled by other elements of the management hierarchy for a 50-year horizon. Disposal capacity is addressed in the Siting Element of the CoIWMP.

#### 2.3.1 Siting Element Objectives

The following objectives are specific to the Siting Element and the siting of new solid waste facilities.

##### Short-Term Planning Period (2003 to 2008) Objectives:

- The County will use objective and consistent siting criteria and policies for the siting of solid waste disposal facilities.
- The County will document the siting process and provide the public with information on a regular basis to ensure that the public and decision-makers are fully informed. Procedures for making siting decisions will be described in addition to the reasons for selection or elimination of potential sites.
- The County will estimate the need for countywide disposal capacity for the municipal solid waste stream after all feasible diversion programs are implemented and initiate efforts to establish sufficient landfill capacity to allow for achievement of the County's policy to provide approximately 50 years of disposal capacity.

Medium-Term Planning Period (2009 to 2018) Objectives:

- The County will implement the siting process and provide public information to ensure that the public and decision-makers are fully informed. Procedures for making siting decisions will be described in addition to the reasons for selection or elimination of potential sites.

**2.4 IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES**

Implementation policies are actions taken by the SCWMA, County and City governments, and other agencies that result in specific behavior that will lead to the meeting of these goals and objectives. These policies facilitate the implementation of programs identified in the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) and Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE).

**2.4.1 Source Reduction Implementation Policies**

- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will encourage innovative and creative methods and consider funding for waste prevention (source reduction), recycling, and education that will benefit the community and the environment.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will encourage and support the use of waste minimization practices for business, government agencies, and the public by distributing information on the availability of waste minimization options.
- The SCWMA, the County, and the Cities will continue to encourage and support backyard composting for businesses, residences, and government agencies by providing information and technical assistance.
- The SCWMA will support state and local waste exchange programs by making information available on a countywide basis. Waste exchange programs arrange contact between people who have reusable waste and those who have a use for the waste.
- The SCWMA will encourage and support the recovery, repair, and resale of discarded items by distributing information on these waste management options.

**2.4.2 Recycling Implementation Policies**

- The County and the Cities will provide access to residential recycling programs for all households, including single-family, multi-family, and mobile homes, that subscribe to garbage services by the end of the short-term planning period.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will provide convenient drop-off opportunities for recyclables.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will support and encourage office, commercial, industrial, and institutional recycling by providing information and technical assistance.
- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will support and encourage school recycling by providing technical assistance, performing waste audits to determine the recyclable materials, and providing information on developing in-school recycling programs.
- The County and the Cities will adopt purchasing policies for buying recycled materials to

support markets for recycled materials.

- The County will encourage the separation of materials for use in appropriate composting or reuse programs by setting differential disposal fees.

#### **2.4.3 Composting Implementation Policies**

- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will provide access to composting opportunities through implementation of composting facilities and programs which may be regional or local, public or private.
- The SCWMA will provide and administer a regional composting facility.

#### **2.4.4 Special Waste Implementation Policies**

- The SCWMA, County and the Cities will promote recycling of construction and demolition debris through education, regulation and economic incentives.
- The County will provide alternative disposal options for recyclable items or materials such as, but not limited to, yard debris, recyclable wood waste, whole tires, and appliances and ban the landfill disposal of these items.
- The SCWMA will provide the public access to information on recycling and reuse options for white goods (i.e., appliances), brown goods (i.e., furniture), e-waste (i.e., electronics) and other usable items that are disposed in debris boxes.

#### **2.4.5 Education and Public Information Implementation Policies**

- The SCWMA will provide the public access to information regarding solid and household hazardous waste issues and programs through the Eco-Desk hotline.
- The SCWMA will promote awareness of waste disposal and diversion options in the business community through advisory committees and other outreach efforts.
- The SCWMA will prepare an annual monitoring and evaluation report that documents each jurisdictions' progress in meeting integrated waste program objectives.
- The SCWMA will conduct evaluations to measure the effectiveness of education efforts at the end of the short- and medium-term planning periods and more often if appropriate for specific projects.

#### **2.4.6 Solid Waste Management Implementation Policies**

- The County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Integrated Waste Division, and the Local Enforcement Agency (County Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Division) will continue to supervise and monitor, respectively, the solid waste collection and disposal practices in the county to ensure the health and safety of the public and protection of the environment.
- The operators of solid waste facilities will document and report all prohibited wastes that are discovered as a result of load checking activities to the Local Enforcement Agency.
- The County may purchase properties adjoining the solid waste disposal operations to

provide physical and visual buffer zones for surrounding residents and land uses. The purchase(s) may be made as funds and properties are available.

- The County and/or the Cities will formalize the long standing practice in the County of permitting only public ownership of solid waste management facilities located in the county which accept any segment of the municipal waste stream.
- Direct the flow of all refuse produced in Sonoma County to integrated waste management facilities publicly owned and located within Sonoma County or its incorporated cities in order to provide cost effective waste disposal services to all community residents.
- Maintain local control over costs and environmental impacts of disposal by siting facilities within Sonoma County.
- Use the existing landfill parcel to maximize its useful life and maximize the return on the public infrastructure improvements so far as it is consistent with protection of the environment.
- Create and maintain employment opportunities for Sonoma County residents and growth opportunities for Sonoma County businesses, industries and entrepreneurs who make productive use of otherwise wasted materials.
- Complement existing and planned private sector operations for collection/processing of both refuse and recyclables.
- Provide landfill capacity at least through the year 2017 as required by state law by expanding the Central Landfill.
- Make productive use of waste that is not reused or recycled through energy production.
- The SCWMA will work to create and promote policies whereby producers are responsible for the cost and/or disposition of their products at the end of their usable life (i.e., Extended Producers Responsibility, Advanced Recycling Fees, Advanced Disposal Fees, etc.).
- Satisfy the AB 939 solid waste planning and diversion mandates in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the community, as reflected by the deliberations and documents of the AB 939 Local Task Force and Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.

#### **2.4.7 Implementation Policies to Facilitate Siting of Solid Waste Facilities**

The following policy statements illustrate the intent and/or actions to be taken by the County and/or the Cities to achieve the goals and objectives of the Siting Element.

- The County and/or the Cities will provide solid waste disposal facilities or transfer facilities within reasonable distances of the county's population centers. This policy will provide a means for achieving the goal of conservation of natural resources and energy and minimizing the cost of disposal.
- The County and/or the Cities will formalize the long standing practice in the County of permitting only public ownership of solid waste disposal facilities located in the county

which accept any segment of the municipal waste stream.

- The County will maintain at least one of its landfills as a public access, multi-use facility providing solid waste disposal and other waste management activities.
- The County will cooperate with adjacent counties, considering their solid waste management planning and waste disposal needs. This includes possible export/import, as approved by the Board of Supervisors, of solid waste and encourages joint resolution of emergency problems.