

Green Coalition
For Responsible Waste / Resource Management

July 23, 2007

Ms. Debra Stutsman, Chair
Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority
c/o Town of San Anselmo
525 San Anselmo Ave.
San Anselmo, CA 94960

RE: Request for meeting to discuss the Five Year Region-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

Dear Ms Stutsman,

We are writing to request that the Local Task Force (LTF) of Marin County's Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) adopt an open and complete process to review and revise the State-mandated Five-Year Region-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan (RIWMP) for Marin County. We would like to partner with you in that effort.

We attended LTF's meeting July 20, 2007 to understand better the plan for revising the five-year plan. Following that meeting, we would recommend that the following items be considered:

- The process heard outlined at the LTF meeting appears inadequate to redraft and update the RIWMP.
- Explore hiring a professional group or respected independent outside expert to oversee the redrafting. Given new zero waste policies adopted by the county and other members of the JPA, a total re-write seems necessary, rather than minor edits and marginal additions and corrections. A new plan representing broad community and environmental input would benefit Marin as we seek to move toward zero Waste and address the environmental issues of this era of climate change.
- Create an open process leading to a new RIWMP by soliciting community input now - before the plan is submitted to the JPA in November. Wider and more transparent input now will help obtain better results later.
- Involve us, and other interested members of the public involved, now to assist LTF in redrafting, in workshops, and wider consultation. Our view is that it would be productive to schedule LTF meetings more frequently, at least once a month, and for longer duration to discuss the important issues at stake.

- We recommend that meetings be widely and publicly announced so that the public may be fully aware, attend and participate. To reflect the JPA's intended openness, comprehensive minutes of each meeting should be promptly posted on the JPA website.
- Climate protection considerations, carbon reduction measures, and zero waste initiatives should be top-priority elements in any amended or updated plan. Marin County has adopted strong climate protection policies and carbon reduction goals. These should be translated into objectives for any county waste plan and JPA operational targets and metrics. Again, we would like to help you in that effort.
- Take advantage of this opportunity to consider the elements of a plan to phase out methane generating organics going to landfills and a countywide composting strategy.
- Consider authorization of a feasibility study of Resource Recovery Park modalities, similar to the one the Green Coalition proposed in January 2007 in our letter to Marin Supervisor Charles McGlashan.
- Examine strategies and plans adopted by other municipalities and jurisdictions. Much valuable experience has been accumulating outside Marin. Frankly, Marin appears to be behind other Bay Area counties when it comes to developing and implementing alternatives to basic recycling and dependency on landfills. We need to take full advantage of others' research, operating experience and practical knowledge. This would require a more systematic, directed effort to capture this data and apply it in Marin's plan.
- Analyze rate payer incentives for reduction of garbage and how they might be built into franchise agreements.

While Marin focuses on diversion percentages, our landfilling tonnage is increasing, and our recycling rates have flat lined. We recommend that Marin focus on reducing our tonnage that is landfilled, and separating green waste from the diversion numbers if the green waste ends up at the landfill. Those are truer measurements of how well Marin County is doing. For example:

Part of Seattle's zero waste strategy will require residents to recycle food scraps in 2009 and will cap the amount of waste the city can send to the landfill. It calls for capping the amount of waste Seattle will send to landfills at 440,000 tons per year, the amount the city disposed of in 2006.

Page 3
Ms. Debra Stutsman
July 23, 2007

As a first step, we offer to meet with you, and members of the JPA Executive Committee, as soon as possible to share ideas about scoping the redraft of the RIWMP. We would like to constructively join forces with you to develop a robust, community-wide strategy to get Marin moving as effectively and rapidly as possible toward Zero Waste which the JPA and Marin County's recent Zero Waste resolutions require.

Thank you for your prompt attention to further the working dialog on this matter.

Respectfully,

Members of the Green Coalition for Responsible Waste / Resource Management:

s/ Ed Mainland, Strategy Chair, Marin Citizen's Committee for Zero Waste (CCZW)
David Haskell, Member Strategy Group, Marin CCZW
Bruce Baum, Member Strategy Group, Marin CCZW
Kiki La Porta, President, Sustainable Marin; Member, Marin CCZW
Christopher Gilkerson, Chair, No Wetlands Landfill Expansion; Chair, Green Coalition for Responsible Waste/Resource Management
Gordon Bennett, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club, Marin Group

CC: Board Members Marin County Solid and Hazardous Waste JPA
Jeff Rawles, Director, Marin County Solid and Hazardous Waste JPA
Michael Frost, Waste Management Specialist, County of Marin
Members, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Members, JPA Local Task Force
Peter Seidman, Pacific Sun
Robert Sterling, City Editor Marin Independent Journal
Patricia Goodin, News Editor, The Novato Advance