

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

CC 8
06/10/08
MVB

Date: June 10, 2008

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: James R. Williams, Director of Public Works

Subject: **Approve an Amendment to the Construction and Operating Agreement for the Continued Operation of the Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility**

Recommendation:

Approve an amendment to the construction and operating agreement with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW), City of Palmdale, and Waste Management of the Antelope Valley (WM) and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents for the continued operation of the permanent household hazardous waste collection facility, known as the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC).

Fiscal Impact:

Approving this amendment will not have a fiscal impact to the City. The County and Waste Management have agreed to each fund an annual contribution ranging from \$180,000 to \$210,000 toward the operation and maintenance of the facility until August 31, 2009 or the effective date of the revised conditional use permit issued by the County governing the operations of the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center.

Background:

In 2002, the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster were successful in obtaining a \$698,667 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to establish a permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) center in the Antelope Valley. The purpose of the AVECC, is to enhance the level of service to Antelope Valley residents by providing a convenient drop-off location for HHW and electronic waste (E-Waste). The grant funded the engineering, design, and construction costs of the AVECC.

The AVECC began operation in August 2005 and is open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month between 9 am and 3 pm. As part of a cooperative agreement, WM and LACDPW agreed to fund the facility during the first 3-years of its operation and suspend the mobile RoundUp collection events. After the 3-year period, all parties would reconvene to evaluate the success of the facility based upon pre-established criteria to ensure outreach and service to area residents were equitable to the mobile RoundUp collection events. LACDPW has completed its 3-year pilot period feasibility study and determined that the success of the AVECC has:

- Reduced the cost of disposing HHW and E-Waste by 54%
- Increased the tonnage of HHW and E-waste collected by 236%
- Increased participation levels by 121%

The Study also recommends adding the following proposed enhancements to the AVECC:

A Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program to serve the small businesses located in the Antelope Valley. This type of program allows businesses that generate small amounts of hazardous waste to safely dispose/recycle them without paying exorbitant rates (i.e. a business that generates ten gallons of oil in a year having to pay for recycling an entire 55-gallon drum).

A Materials Exchange Program to make useable products, such as paints, household cleaners, lawn and garden care products, and motor oil, collected at the AVECC available for reuse to interested residents. This program would encourage reusing and reducing materials and would help decrease accumulating waste. Non-profit organizations, residents, and neighborhood cleanup groups will be eligible to participate in this program and use these materials.

The AVECC has proven to be very successful in effectively and conveniently serving the Antelope Valley residents for the proper disposal of HHW and E-Waste. This facility reduces the safety risks involved with residents storing HHW in their homes for a long period of time, the chances of disposing of the waste illegally and improperly, and eventually avoiding harm to the environment. It would be to everyone's benefit to continue the operations of the AVECC by making the center a permanent operation.