

ATTACHMENT

Report on Efforts to Establish a Santa Barbara County Green Business Program

This report provides an update on the County's efforts to establish a Countywide, multi-jurisdictional Santa Barbara County Green Business Program (SBCGBP). Through a newly formed Steering Committee, staff members from the Public Works Department (Water Agency and Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division) have been working with staff from the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Traffic Solutions, and the Community Environmental Council to transition from the Green Awards Program to a SBCGBP. In February 2008, Public Works staff met with John Baker, Director of the Planning and Development Department, to discuss this transition and to obtain his agreement with their approach. In May 2008, Scott McGolpin updated Mr. Baker on the progress of this effort.

On May 14, 2008, the Steering Committee held its first meeting of partners and potential partners to review:

- The program's structure, which includes a Program Coordinator and Advisory Partners, in addition to the Steering Committee;
- The program's administration and budget; a staff person in the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division will administer the budget and the contract with a consultant who will assume a lead role in implementing the program;
- The benefits of becoming a partner;
- The certification process for a business;
- The benefits of becoming a "green" business;
- The progress to date; and
- Next steps

The Steering Committee also received numerous comments and suggestions for refining and improving the SBCGBP. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees were asked to:

- Provide comments on the draft General Office/Retail checklist;
- Provide information on their awards programs;
- Describe any incentives that they offer to businesses for becoming environmentally sustainable;
- State the general criteria that they use in determining the need for a site visit (regulatory agencies); and

- Confirm their level of participation as a Steering Committee member or as an Advisory Partner.

In addition to drafting the General Office/Retail checklist, the Steering Committee has established a website, www.GreenBizSBC.org, and developed a logo. Over the next several months, the Steering Committee will:

- Finalize this checklist;
- Plan and organize the 1st annual SBCGBP Luncheon to be held in September 2008 to formally launch the SBCGBP; we anticipate being able to honor the first one or two certified “green” businesses in Santa Barbara County;
- Draft and finalize the checklists for the other three targeted sectors: restaurants, lodging establishments, and automotive shops.
- Continue to meet with various agencies (e.g. County departments, municipalities, special districts, chambers of commerce, and utility companies) to solicit their participation as partners. Several of these agencies have expressed support for the SBCGBP, and we fully anticipate their future participation; and
- Continue to hold monthly meetings for partners and potential partners to solicit and incorporate their feedback concerning the development of the SBCGBP.

Besides the five founding agencies, the following partners have committed to participating in the program:

- City of Buellton
- City of Carpinteria
- Carpinteria Sanitary District
- Carpinteria Valley Water District
- The Gas Company
- Goleta Water District
- Goleta Sanitary District
- City of Solvang
- Solvang Chamber of Commerce
- Montecito Sanitary District
- Summerland Sanitary District

cc: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director
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