

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 06/10/05
Department Name: General Services
Department No.: 063
Agenda Date: 06/28/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tom Alvarez, Director General Services
Phillip Demery, Public Works Director
Rick Wheeler, Parks Director
William Gillette, Agricultural Commissioner

STAFF CONTACT: Robert Almy, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542

SUBJECT: **Green Team Annual Update**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive and accept the Green Team's April 2004 - April 2005 Annual Update.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On April 20, 1999 your Board accepted the project charter of the newly formed Green Team in honor of Earth Week. Since that time, the Green Team has implemented a number of programs, which promote environmental stewardship in County operations. Annually, the Green Team compiles information and provides your Board with an updated report.

Consistent with these programs and at the direction of your Board, staff has prepared the Green Team 2004 – 2005 Annual Update (Attachment A).

Mandates and Service Levels:

Approval of Recommendation A will not change programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Implementing Green Team programs does not have fiscal or facilities impacts.

Attachment A

On April 20, 1999 your Board accepted the project charter of the newly formed Green Team in honor of Earth Week. In the past six years, the Green Team has made great strides in implementing a number of on-going programs, which promote environmental stewardship in County operations. The Green Team has compiled the following annual update for your review.

Commingled Recycling Programs

In 1999, the County Green Team began expanding the County's recycling program to include commingled recycling in facilities where commingled service was available.

During 2004/2005, three different County facilities were added to the County's commingled recycling program. The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division worked with each separate facility to set up commingled recycling service with appropriate waste haulers. The Division purchased and supplied each facility with commingled recycling carts and boxes, and then provided instruction to employees on how to participate in the program. The three County facilities that were added to the commingled recycling program are:

District Attorney's Office
1112 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara

Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division
130 East Victoria Street, First Floor, Santa Barbara

Elections Office
130 East Victoria Street, Second Floor, Santa Barbara

In addition, the Green Team is continuing its analysis of the trash and recycling service levels at many County facilities, in order to make sure that the service levels are both adequate and cost effective.

At this time, most County facilities have commingled recycling services – over 150 buildings have the service. Limited access and leasing situations make it difficult to implement commingled recycling in the remaining buildings; however, the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division will continue to coordinate the effort to implement this recycling at the remaining facilities.

Next year, the Green Team and the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division will continue to update recycling programs at County facilities in order to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill each year and to increase the overall waste diversion rate for the County of Santa Barbara.

Hazardous Waste Recycling

County employees utilize hundreds of batteries each year for pagers, cameras, calculators, palm pilots, and other electronic equipment. These batteries are hazardous waste and need to be disposed of properly. Therefore the County Green Team initiated the County Battery Recycling Program on April 1, 2001. The Battery Recycling Program focuses on diverting dry cell batteries (12 volt, 6 volt, and "D" sized batteries and smaller) including alkaline, nickel-cadmium, and lithium batteries from our landfills.

County staff is encouraged to make use of the centralized collection of used batteries to facilitate proper disposal. Any County employee can send the old batteries through the internal brown mail where the mailroom sorts them and places them in specific categories. These then are taken to the CEC or Safety Clean on a regular basis. During 2004/2005 a total of 1,136 lbs of batteries were collected and diverted from our landfills in this manner.

Energy Efficiency at the County

In July 2001, the Board of Supervisors directed the General Services Department to take steps to reduce energy consumption in County facilities. The County spends over \$2.5 million a year for energy at all County facilities and each year, energy costs increase. The Green Team and General Services have been working throughout the County to reduce energy use to the most efficient possible level without affecting the ability of employees to work productively.

Facility Retrofits:

In 2004, two air conditioners were replaced at the County jail at a cost of \$305,000 was completed in 2004. In the summer of 2005, the HVAC in the Santa Barbara County Administration Building will be replaced. This will replace the 45 year units that provide HVAC to the fourth and third floors. The cost of this project is \$700,000.

Satellite Controlled Sprinkler:

General Service in conjunction with the Parks Department performed a one year independent field test on a satellite controlled sprinkler system at the Falcon Open Space in the Vandenberg Village. The system is made by WeatherTRAK's technology to significantly save water, eliminate harmful runoff, protect water quality, improve plant health, and save money. Once installed, the Weather TRAK automatically calculated a scientifically-based irrigation schedule using landscape-specific parameters, then adjusted the irrigation schedule for each of the watering zones as the local weather changed at the park. The amount of water that was saved over the last year was 22%.

New Sensor Controlled Light Switches:

General Service in conjunction with the Sheriff Department and Social Services have recently undertaken a project to test and evaluate new sensor controlled light switches. The light switches have a wide variety of motion sensors that use passive infrared, ultrasonic or a combined multi-sensing technology. The light switches provide automatic ON/OFF switching of lighting loads for enhance convenience, security and long-term energy savings. The switches turn the lights ON when employees enter their office, and OFF when the office is unoccupied. The departments will utilize the sensors in their offices and together we will reevaluate at a later date to see how the employees respond to the sensors

Integrated Pest Management

The IPM Strategy, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in April 2000, is currently being implemented through a series of pilot projects and the activities of the Grounds Management Committee. The Grounds Management Committee continues to meet quarterly to discuss pilot projects, training workshops and classes, opportunities for joint purchases of equipment for IPM practices and IPM strategy implementation. This information was brought to the Board on June 21, 2005.

Hybrid Vehicles

The County's Motor Pool fleet has three Toyota Prius hybrid cars and 10 Honda Civic hybrids; including four in the motor pools at the downtown Santa Barbara Administration Building and the Calle Real Center in Goleta, plus three at the Betteravia Government Center in Santa Maria and two owned by Public Works Santa Barbara office. The ten Honda Civic hybrids were purchased with grant funds through the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.

The downtown Santa Barbara Administration Building motor pool also has a Ford Think electric vehicle available for use by all employees and twelve additional electric vehicles through the GM Electric Vehicle Program that are used by General Services, Public Works, the Sheriff's Department and the Parks Department. The electric vehicles are great for short downtown commutes and are approved to operate on public roadways where the speed limit is less than 35 MPH. With twenty-six Saturn compacts, ten Honda Civic hybrids, three Toyota Prius hybrids and thirteen electric vehicles, the Santa Barbara County Vehicle Operations is becoming cleaner and more fuel-efficient.

Water Efficiency

In February 2003, the Green Team began planning efforts to purchase and install waterless urinals in County facilities as a water efficiency pilot project that would save water in County facilities and serve as a demonstration project for developers who are planning to build commercial facilities within the county. At that time, the Green Team submitted a grant proposal to the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to provide funding for this project. In July 2003, the Green Team was notified that the USBR did fund the proposal. The Green Team then began plans for the project, including determining which facilities would receive the waterless urinals, installing a meter on the urinals on the first floor of the Administration Building to determine water usage prior to installation of the waterless urinals, and holding a demonstration of the maintenance of the urinals with Facilities and Parks Maintenance staff in September of 2003. The water meter data indicates that the tested urinals use approximately 238 gallons per month apiece.

The Green Team also worked with the Planning and Development Department's Building and Safety Division to establish a protocol for the use of waterless urinals within the county. In April 2004, the Water Agency and the Building and Safety Division finalized the protocol for installations of these fixtures. The Green Team is now determining the best brand of waterless urinal to purchase and install. Installations should be complete in Summer 2005 with the Parks Department receiving half of the purchased urinals and the Facilities Division receiving the other half.