

KEEPING our Communities clean



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2007

DID YOU KNOW

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- *The Simi Landfill and Recycling Center alone powers the equivalent of 2,500 homes each day with two landfill gas-to-energy generators using methane gas.*
- *WM's North American operations recycled enough paper in one year to save 41 million trees.*
- *In California, we operate the largest fleet of clean natural gas collection vehicles and have reduced air emissions by 247 tons.*



Dear Friends,

As a reader of this newsletter, you know of our commitment to keep you informed of all our activities, events and plans. And, as you have probably heard, in April, we submitted a request to modify our Conditional Use Permit. Our proposed plans include expanding the landfill and making a number of improvements in order to meet the

County's disposal and recycling needs well into the future. We encourage you to read more about our proposal and to contact us if you have any questions.

Helping our neighbors to protect Simi Valley's environmental health is an ongoing priority for us. We have always supported the annual Arroyo clean-up and this year we stepped up our efforts by awarding the City of Simi Valley a \$5000 grant in partnership with Keeping America Beautiful to assist with the clean-up. Our local environmental efforts reflect our state and company-wide priorities. On a state level, Waste Management has taken a leadership role regarding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and was an early supporter of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, which was signed into law last fall. For more information on our efforts nationwide, please read our Corporate Social Responsibility Report.

We're always happy to have visitors to the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, but can you imagine almost 1700 people setting up camp at the area surrounding the landfill? That's what happened at the annual Ventura County Council Boy Scout Camporee, which we've hosted for several years now.

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The landfill was also the site of another popular event that always draws crowds – free disposal days. We just wrapped up the spring events in Moorpark, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. This year residents cleaned out their closets and garages and dropped off a staggering amount--more than 1880 tons--of trash and bulky items.

But you don't need to be participating in a free dump day to pay us a visit. If you would like firsthand information about our operations or our plans for the future, we would be happy to arrange a landfill tour.

Michael E. Smith
Market Area Manager

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Update on Future Plans

As Ventura County has developed, so has the need for local landfill space. On April 11, Waste Management submitted a request to modify our Conditional Use Permit for the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center to provide a long-term solution for Ventura County.

In addition to expanding the landfill, our plans include expanding the current green energy programs and recycling programs. GI Rubbish will also relocate to the landfill site.

We value our relationship with the local community, and, since we purchased the property surrounding the landfill from Unocal in 2004, have demonstrated our commitment to being open about our plans.

Along with the benefits of our proposed plans, we understand there may be potential concerns. Therefore, we have created a section on our website where you can find more information about the project, as well as download a copy of the actual application we filed. We are following the permit guidelines outlined by Ventura County and the California Environmental Quality Act. Once our application has been deemed complete, the County will inform us of the appropriate environmental documentation required for the project. We anticipate that the county will begin an extensive environmental impact report process regarding the expansion sometime later this year. To help you follow the process, we are also posting status updates here so make sure you check back for the latest news.

In addition, over the next six months, we will be giving informational presentations to a variety of community groups, including the Simi Valley Neighborhood Councils. We encourage you to talk to us about your thoughts and concerns regarding our plans.

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On the Environmental Cutting Edge

It's no secret that California is usually on the cutting-edge of environmental initiatives. And at Waste Management, we're especially proud of our environmental stewardship in the state. Our efforts extend internally with our membership

in the California Climate Action Registry, a nonprofit organization set up to help organizations conducting business in the state to voluntarily register their greenhouse gas emissions. And externally, with our early support of California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) which calls for a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020.

WM is already well on our way to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We currently operate the largest fleet of natural-gas garbage and recycling trucks in the nation. Through an innovative emissions trading project with PG&E, we replaced 120 diesel garbage trucks with new natural-gas vehicles. This move eliminated 2.7 tons per year of particulate emissions, and more than 1,200 tons of greenhouse gases. We are also proud that WM is California's largest recycler of solid waste, and we are one of North America's largest producers of renewable energy generated from waste.

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Arroyo Clean-up Benefits from WM Grant

Waste Management recently presented a check to the City of Simi Valley for \$5,000 as part of our national 2007 Keep America Beautiful Network grants. WM is a nationwide sponsor of Keep America Beautiful

(KAB) and is working to provide these grants through KAB to help tackle key community improvement issues across America. The Simi Valley grant money will be used for community beautification efforts throughout the City. One of the recent beneficiaries of the money was the Neighborhood Council's fifth annual clean up of the Arroyo on April 28 at the Arroyo on Madera Road, south of Easy Street.

This event is an annual one for the employees of the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. We've been involved with the clean-up since it began in 2002 and have provided free collection and disposal services each year. This year, we again donated food for lunch and helped to cook and serve it to all volunteers.

We collected 3.02 tons of trash, 500 pounds of metal, four TVs and 12 tires at this year's clean-up. Some of the unusual items collected over the years have included a hospital bed, motorcycle and shopping carts. Two hundred and fifty-six volunteers came out to help with the clean-up.

Many people don't realize that when they dump trash onto the street, it often drains down to the Arroyo and then eventually to the ocean. Our monetary contribution and volunteer efforts are meant to prevent that from happening.

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Boy Scouts Set Up Camp on WM Property

Despite rain on the opening day, more than 1400 Boy Scouts and 300 parents and volunteers camped out at the property surrounding Waste Management's Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center for three days

near the end of April.

Their efforts were for the 2007 Annual Ventura County Council Boy Scout Camporee, a local version of the national Jamboree which occurs every four years. At the Camporee, Boy Scout troops compete in various categories including fire building and knot-tying over the course of the weekend. And of course, rain or shine, they do this while camping out. WM got involved in the event after we purchased the land where the event takes place from Unocal in 2004.

County Supervisor Peter Foy helped kick off the festivities for the three-day event and Simi Valley Councilmember Michelle Foster read a proclamation from the city regarding the event.

According to Ron Burns, the co-chair of the 2007 Camporee and Scoutmaster of the Simi Valley Boy Scouts Troop #649, this was the most successful Camporee to date! Knowing the hard work and logistics that go into making the event possible, we're happy to do our part to help out. It's especially gratifying to see the looks of anticipation when the Scouts arrive and to see them leaving, tired, dirty but nonetheless happy and proud of themselves for their accomplishments. We only hope that next year brings a drier campsite!

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Free Dump Days Yield More than 1880 Tons of Trash

Our free residential dump days are an annual ritual for many local residents. And judging from the results of the three recent events held in Moorpark, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks in April and May,

the dump days are also a popular incentive to jumpstart spring cleaning.

The three dump days yielded 1880 tons of refuse. This includes regular trash, green waste, dirt and concrete. In addition, 80 appliances and 202 tires were dropped off. More information about the next set of free residential disposal days in the fall is available on our website.