



Perspectives

W M P U B L I C S E C T O R S E R V I C E S



Welcome to PERSPECTIVES, an email-newsletter designed to give you a window into what is going on here at El Sobrante Landfill. Topics include waste management issues, community involvement, and environmental protection and legislation. We hope you enjoy it.

EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL

El Sobrante Landfill is a Class 3 regional disposal facility permitted to accept up to 10,000 tons per day, seven days per week. It employs approximately 40 full-time employees. Landfill operations are overseen by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health.

Welcome Letter from Damon De Frates

Dear Friends:

The holiday season is always our busiest at El Sobrante, as it is at landfills around the country. Americans throw away 25 percent more trash between Thanksgiving and the New Year than during the rest of the year.

Last Friday, the *LA Times* reported again on growth here in Riverside County; in 2005 alone, the county population grew by 3.4 percent. Fortunately, job growth, at 4.8 percent more than kept pace. More residents, and more workers, too – this is yet another reminder of why it is so important that we reduce, reuse, and recycle in order to keep Riverside County clean and spacious.

As always, we urge you to toss responsibly: Recycle as much as possible and think about using as many reusable goods as you can. Check out our article this month about how to celebrate the holidays environmentally!

All of us here at El Sobrante Landfill wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy holiday season, and a wonderful 2007.

Best wishes,

Damon De Frates

Senior District Manager
El Sobrante Landfill

El Sobrante and the Three R's: High School Comes to the Landfill



Recently the *Riverside Press Enterprise* happened to catch us leading a field trip of 31 Corona High School students visiting El Sobrante for their physics and advanced placement environmental science classes. The teens,

along with their teachers, were visiting to learn how the landfill captures methane gas to generate electricity; to tour our Wildlife Habitat Preserve with a biologist; and to see the disposal site where trucks compact garbage. As an extra bonus, they got a demonstration from the landfill's resident falconer, who trains birds to shoo away pesky seagulls that circle the trash heaps. *Press Enterprise* reporter Mary Bender tells the story:

"As the school bus rumbled down the rutted dirt road, De Frates told the visitors the landfill doesn't smell bad. 'We smell pretty,' he said.

"Students as young as third-graders come to El Sobrante for field trips, and De Frates tailors his message accordingly. 'If you don't do a good job of recycling, you'll just fill up the landfill that much faster,' he tells them.

"On a plateau, the Corona High students gathered around one of the landfill's methane gas collection wells. 'As waste decomposes, it generates methane,' De Frates explained. There are 162 methane wells at El Sobrante now; when it is complete, the landfill will have more than 300, said Nicholas Godfrey, an environmental protection supervisor for Waste Management. The methane gas is used in El Sobrante's power plant to generate electricity. 'We power about 6,000 homes,' Godfrey told the high school students.

"We'll continue extracting (methane) gas at this site for 100 years,' De Frates added.

It's this sort of modern technology that drew De Frates to landfill work. Gone are the days when trash was dumped without concern for environmental contamination of groundwater, or its effect on native plant and animal habitats – much less taking discards and producing a vital energy source.

Following the tour, the students were grateful for Damon's insight – and at least a little bit smarter about environmental and landfill issues. Said senior Alexis Hradisky: "I felt better knowing that we did have a preserve there to protect the endangered species and the waterways."

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Corona Leadership Learns Landfill Issues



Corona area leaders recently got an up-close and personal lesson in waste issues as they toured El Sobrante, and discussed recycling and sustainable living with WM compliance manager Cynthia Vant Hul. The visit was part

of Leadership Corona, a program sponsored by the Corona Chamber of Commerce that provides an overview of local government, health issues, technology, educational needs and functions. The program also educates community members on how the City operates and how citizens can be more involved.

Carolyn Anderson, a Corona Chamber board member and a Waste Management employee, was instrumental in planning the program in which participants were exposed to several different environmental issues – water, air quality, landfill and

recycling. “The goal for me was to highlight what we’re doing right in the community’s backyards and how we’re working together to improve their quality of life,” Anderson said.

For example, Anderson explained, most people are probably unaware that Corona has its own water treatment facility and its own de-salter plant. Jonathan Daly, General Manager of the Corona Department of Water & Power, led a tour of these two facilities to provide class participants with a first-hand look. At El Sobrante, participants learned the difference between an old-fashioned dump and a modern environmentally sound landfill operation, as they inspected the range of on-site safeguards that protect the environment.

The environmental issues class was the last of the 2006 Leadership Corona series. Participants who completed this year’s program graduated at a quarterly luncheon on December 5th.

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Clean Up from the Holidays Safely – Both for the Environment and Your Security



As the holidays approach, Waste Management advises customers to be proactive about recycling holiday shopping catalogs and taking care when recycling items that contain personal information.

Most junk mail, including solicitations and catalogues, can be recycled in residents' recycling bins. But remember to be careful when recycling sensitive information. Be sure to tear receipts, billing

statements or credit card offers before placing them in your recycling bin, and put any loose shredded paper in a paper bag.

Any items that contain account numbers or Social Security numbers should be destroyed before disposal. In order to reduce your risk for identity theft – and also cut down on unwanted mail or solicitations – you can also opt out of receiving credit offers. Contact the three major credit bureaus at 1-888-5-OPTOUT (567-8688) for more information.