



Hazardous Waste & Materials

Technically, the term "hazardous materials" would include the entire spectrum of such substances from pre-product materials to waste. For the following discussion, it is necessary to make a distinction between those materials that are used or created in the manufacturing process and the waste generated by that process. Pre-product materials are considered to have value and are used in, or are the purpose of the manufacturing process, and are referred to as "hazardous materials". Because they have value, hazardous materials are subject to proper management procedures. Waste, however, is just that - the valueless byproduct of the manufacturing process that must be disposed of - and is referred to as "hazardous waste". Hazardous materials which have been spilled, dumped or are otherwise released into the environment immediately become hazardous waste. In the past, hazardous waste, because it is considered worthless by its "owners", has been managed with an out-of-sight, out-of-mind philosophy.

The reason for this distinction is based in the laws and regulations which govern how these two categories are stored, transported, and handled and in existing public perceptions. Although the term hazardous waste is much more widely known, and the effects of its poor management are very evident, hazardous materials are actually more commonly in close proximity to the general public. Hazardous materials are more frequently transported on freeways and public roads and are more frequently stored in close proximity to residential areas. An excellent example is the local service station which stores thousands of gallons of highly volatile, flammable and carcinogenic material, gasoline, adjacent to or near residential development with virtually no concern on the part of the public. Hazardous waste, on the other hand, is in the spotlight of public concern. The Love Canal, Stringfellow Acid Pits, Times Beach, and other incidents have dramatically publicized the result of mismanaging hazardous waste and have left the public with a not altogether undeserved distrust of industry and government policies on hazardous waste.

The ban on the disposal of liquid and untreated waste has created a need for a new generation of facilities capable of treating hazardous waste to levels allowed for disposal and for disposal facilities that meet today's standards. After waste minimization, these facilities are the key to the new management philosophy, and without them, waste management would remain in the dark ages. Unfortunately, public distrust has resulted in the "Not-In-My-Back-Yard" (NIMBY) syndrome, making it more difficult to site the facilities necessary to implement these procedures.

Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority

Through its membership in the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority (SCHWMA), the County of Riverside has agreed to work on a regional level to solve problems involving hazardous waste. SCHWMA was formed through a joint powers agreement between Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside Counties and the Cities of Los Angeles and San Diego. Working within the concept of "fair share", each SCHWMA county has agreed to take responsibility for the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in an amount that is at least equal to the amount generated within that county. This responsibility can be met by siting hazardous waste management facilities (transfer, treatment and/or repository) capable of processing an amount of waste equal to or larger than the



amount generated within the county, or by creating intergovernmental agreements between counties to provide compensation to a county for taking another county's waste, or through a combination of both facility siting and intergovernmental agreements. When and where a facility is to be sited is primarily a function of the private market. However, once an application to site a facility has been received, the County will review the requested facility and its location against a set of established siting criteria to ensure that the location is appropriate, and may deny the application based on the findings of this review. The County of Riverside does not presently have any of these facilities within its jurisdiction and therefore must rely on intergovernmental agreements to fulfill its fair share responsibility to SCHWMA.

Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan (CHWMP) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on September 12, 1989. Using a framework of 24 existing and recommended programs, the CHWMP serves as the County's primary planning document for the management of hazardous substances. Although the title refers only to hazardous waste, the CHWMP is a comprehensive document containing all of the County programs for managing both hazardous materials and waste.

Policies:



- S 6.1 Enforce the policies and siting criteria and implement the programs identified in the County of Riverside Hazardous Waste Management plan, which includes the following: (AI 98)
 - a. Comply with federal and state laws pertaining to the management of hazardous wastes and materials.
 - b. Ensure active public participation in hazardous waste and hazardous materials management decisions in Riverside County.
 - c. Coordinate hazardous waste facility responsibilities on a regional basis through the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority (SCHWMA).
 - d. Encourage and promote the programs, practices, and recommendations contained in the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, giving the highest waste management priority to the reduction of hazardous waste at its source.