

Changes Coming to Household Hazardous Waste Events

The space needs of the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) project will require changes to the location of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events provided to the City by the Countywide HHW Collection Program.

HHW drop-off events have been held on a portion of the closed Sunnyvale Landfill at 164 Carl Road, across the street from the WPCP, for more than 20 years. Since 1992 the City has participated in the countywide program, which serves 15 jurisdictions, and in 1999 the City began leasing the 164 Carl Road site to the county for use as a permanent HHW facility.

The countywide program provides residential HHW events at regular intervals at permanent locations that include 164 Carl Road, 13055 Murphy Ave. in San Martin and the new facility in the San Jose Environmental Innovation Center at 1608 Las Plumas Ave. Businesses with small amounts of hazardous waste can make advance arrangements and pay the county to accept this material at business-only events at these three locations.

Residential HHW events are also held less frequently at a variety of temporary locations in other jurisdictions throughout the county. The schedule of HHW events can be viewed on the county's website at:

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/iwm/hhw/Documents/Operating%20Schedule.pdf>

This schedule shows 22 events from June through October 2014, of which five were at 164 Carl Road. Just as the Sunnyvale site accepts HHW from residents of any of the 15 participating jurisdictions, Sunnyvale residents may drop off HHW materials at any of the six locations shown on the schedule.

Now, the designers of the new WPCP have determined that the design requires expanding the footprint of the WPCP to include the 164 Carl Road Household Hazardous Waste Event Site on the closed landfill and it is not feasible to incorporate the HHW event function into the design of the new WPCP. Landfill maintenance activities currently managed from this location and a 40-foot storage container used by the Recycling Program will also be displaced. Staff anticipates notifying the county that its site lease for 164 Carl Road will be allowed to expire on June 30, 2015.

Upon learning of the new use of the site, Solid Waste Division staff began working with Countywide HHW Program staff to explore alternative locations that could host Sunnyvale-based events. After research and discussion, the employee parking lot at the Corporation Yard at 221 Commercial Street emerged as the most practical location at which to hold future events. These would be "temporary" events exempt from state permitting requirements because no waste would be left on the site after the end of the event day. County staff proposes that HHW events be provided quarterly. Reasons for this recommendation include:

- Program surveys show that an increasing proportion of individual participants are coming to all or most of the Sunnyvale events while bringing decreasing amounts of HHW per visit. This reduces the cost-effectiveness of the events.
- Greater public awareness of HHW source reduction messages ("don't buy as much, use up what you have") appears to have reduced the amount of HHW generated and disposed.
- In recent years, changes to state laws and regulations have created more convenient and less costly drop off locations for materials such as household batteries, paint, fluorescent lamps, and electronic waste. For example, the nearby SMaRT Station®, open seven days

per week, takes many materials (e.g. batteries, e-waste, fluorescent lamps) that were formerly required to go to HHW events. The new SMaRT Station operations contract obligates Bay Counties Waste Services to add paint drop-off as part of the statewide PaintCare Program.

- The new HHW site at the Environmental Innovations Center at 1608 Las Plumas Avenue in San Jose provides HHW drop-off every Friday and Saturday, excluding holidays. As measured from City Hall, the Las Plumas site is (one-way) a 20-minute drive (13 miles) via Highway 101 at non-commute hours. The Carl Road site is 10 minutes (four miles). So in exchange for a significantly increased event frequency, the additional travel is 10 minutes longer and nine miles farther.

Staff is preparing outreach to the public about the changes to the HHW events, which include:

- Sunnyvale-based events move from Carl Road to the Corporation Yard, intersection of Commercial Street and E. California Avenue.
- Sunnyvale-based event frequency changes from 11 times per year to four times per year.
- More than 80 drop-offs per year at 1608 Las Plumas Ave., San Jose.
- Sunnyvale residents make appointments online at www.hhw.org or by calling 408-299-7300.
- HHW reuse service moves to 1608 Las Plumas Ave., San Jose.
- As of 2015, a new paint drop off option at SMaRT Station® 362 days per year, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. SMaRT also takes:
 - fluorescent bulbs and tubes
 - E-waste
 - household batteries
 - used motor oil and oil filters
 - cooking oil
 - sharps

This information will be provided through all of the Solid Waste Program's many information channels, including printed media, social media and individual outreach to those using the remaining Carl Road events.

Staff will work with the county on closeout of the lease and details of the county's move out of the 164 Carl Road site, including provisions for signing and (if needed) staffing that location on future event days to redirect participants to the Corporation Yard.

Staff will also communicate the changes to adjacent cities whose residents typically use the Carl Road site. Outreach to City staff based at the Corporation Yard will also be needed because the county's "move in" and "move out" days will affect where employees are allowed to park on those Fridays and Mondays.