

Observations on How the Current Economic Downturn Has Impacted Waste Disposal

Los Angeles County
Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force
March 19, 2009

Role of Public Works

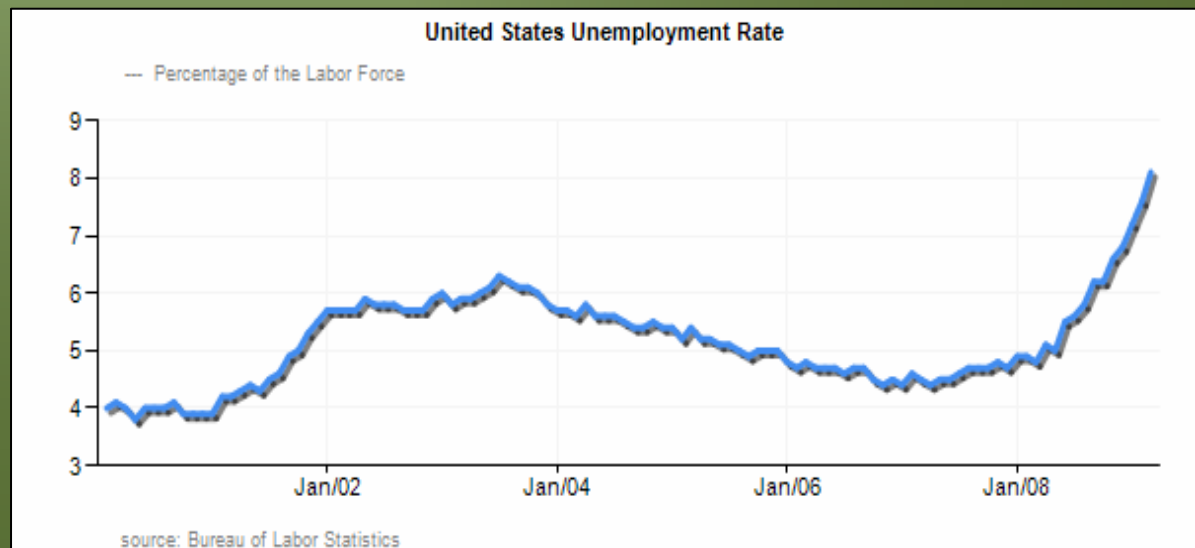
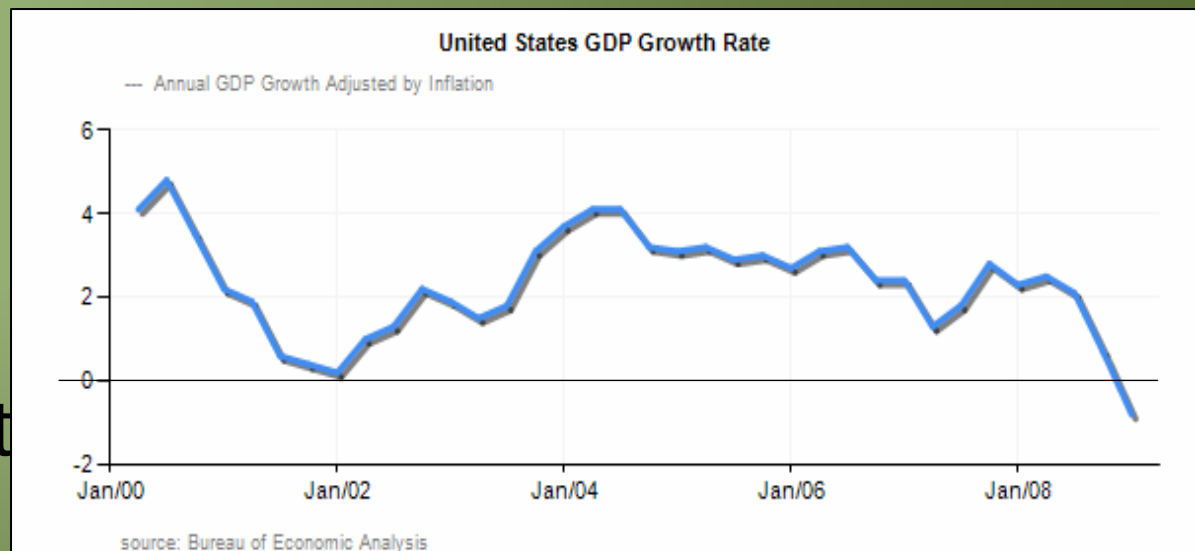
- ◇ Implement countywide solid waste programs
- ◇ Administer countywide solid waste planning
 - ◆ Countywide Siting Element
 - A plan to ensure that adequate disposal capacity is available for a 15-year planning period

Overview

- ◇ Provide a brief summary of our observations on how the current economic downturn has impacted countywide disposal activities
- ◇ Updates on other solid waste issues will be forthcoming

Economic Downturn

- ◇ Since Jan. 08
 - ◆ GDP growth rate is down
 - ◆ Unemployment rate is up



Economic Downturn Impact

◇ Reduced Consumption

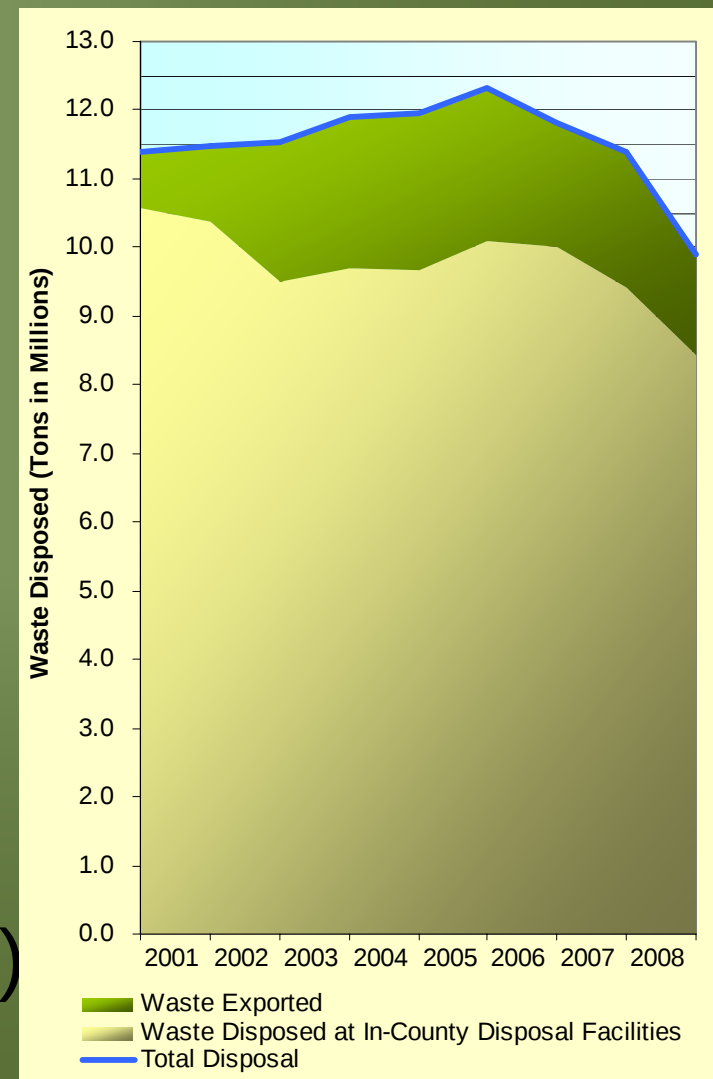
- ◆ Consumerism
- ◆ Waste in supplies
- ◆ Purchasing of non-essentials

◇ Reduced Production

- ◆ Manufacturing of goods
- ◆ Performance of services

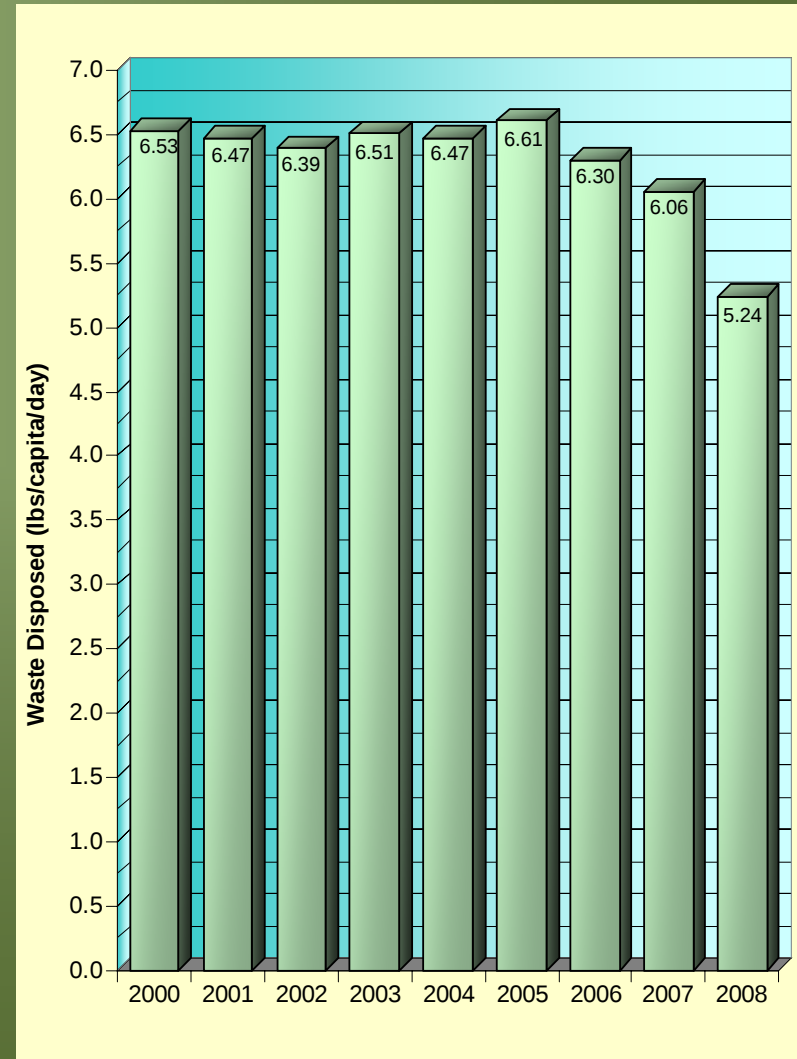
LA County Disposal

- ◇ Increase: 2000-2005
 - ◆ Spurred by growth in population, economy, and building industry
- ◇ Decline: 2006-present
 - ◆ 2006: 4.1%
 - ◆ 2007: 3.4%
 - ◆ 2008: 13.1%
 - ◆ **Total: 19.6%**
(from 33,731 to 27,130 tpd)



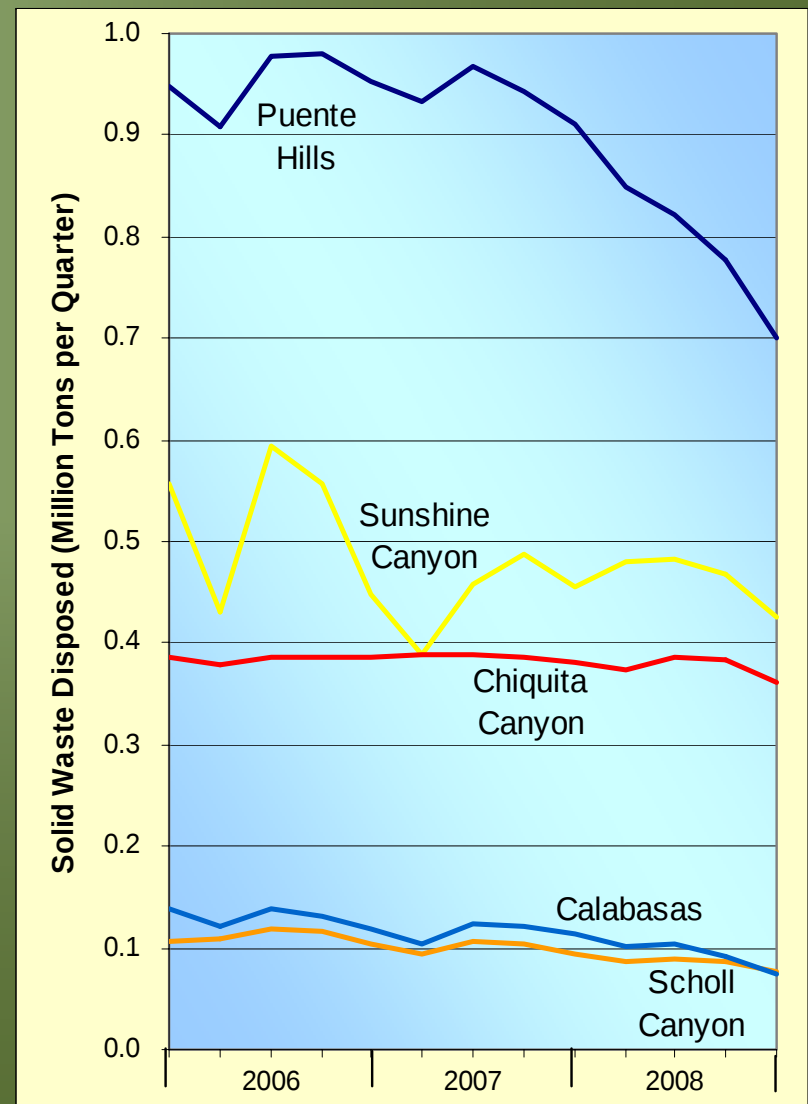
LA County Per Capita Disposal

- ◇ 2000-2005 Avg:
6.5 lb/cap/day
- ◇ Peak in 2005:
6.6 lb/cap/day
- ◇ Decline: 2006-present
 - ◆ 2006: 4.6%
 - ◆ 2007: 3.9%
 - ◆ 2008: 13.5%
 - ◆ **Total: 20.7%**



Major Disposal Facilities

- ◇ Decreased annual disposal 2006-2008
 - ◆ Calabasas: 47%
 - ◆ Lancaster: 35%
 - ◆ Scholl Canyon: 27%
 - ◆ Puente Hills: 26%
 - ◆ Antelope Valley: 24%
 - ◆ Sunshine Canyon: 23%
 - ◆ Chiquita Canyon: 7%
 - ◆ SRRF: Negligible
 - ◆ Commerce: Negligible



Positive Impacts

- ◇ Conservation of raw resources
- ◇ Extended landfill life, for example:
 - ◆ Calabasas: 3.5 years
 - ◆ Antelope Valley: 2.9 years
 - ◆ Scholl Canyon: 1.8 years
- ◇ Possible increase in diversion rate according to Waste Board's adjustment method

Negative Impacts

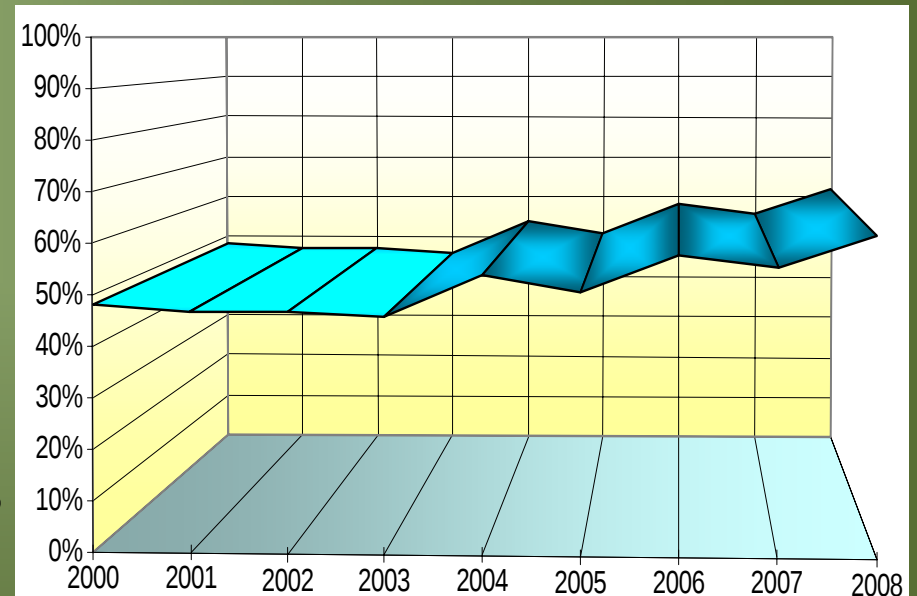
- ◇ Reduced market for recyclable materials
- ◇ Job loss in solid waste industry
- ◇ A “squeeze” on profits
- ◇ Significant impact on Public landfills due to absence of favorable rate agreements

Negative Impacts (cont.)

- ◇ Financial impact on host jurisdictions
 - ◆ General fund
 - ◆ Various recycling program funding
 - ◆ Countywide Solid Waste Management Fee
- ◇ Less revenue for the State
 - ◆ Less program grants for local jurisdictions

Diversion Rate

- ◇ Increased diversion rate
 - ◆ 2000-2006 based on information from Waste Board
 - ◆ 2007-2008 based on SB 1016 methodology
 - 2003-2006 base years
 - 56% diversion in 2007
 - 62% diversion in 2008



Summary

- ◇ Solid waste disposal is not recession proof
- ◇ 20% Total decline in disposal for the last 3 years
- ◇ Disposal decline highlights the upside of landfills that are often overlooked

