

Green Waste Management in the San Gabriel Valley

A Summary of Green Waste Policy Paper by the
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

L.A. County Integrated
Waste Management Task Force

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November 19, 2009

Background

- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) consists of 27 member jurisdictions.
- 12% of the municipal waste stream is made up of green waste.
- SGV jurisdictions divert 200,000 tons of green material per year that is reused as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC).
- On average, 5% of their diversion requirement comes from ADC.
- 72% of green waste collected is reused at Puente Hills landfill.

Current State of Affairs (cont.)

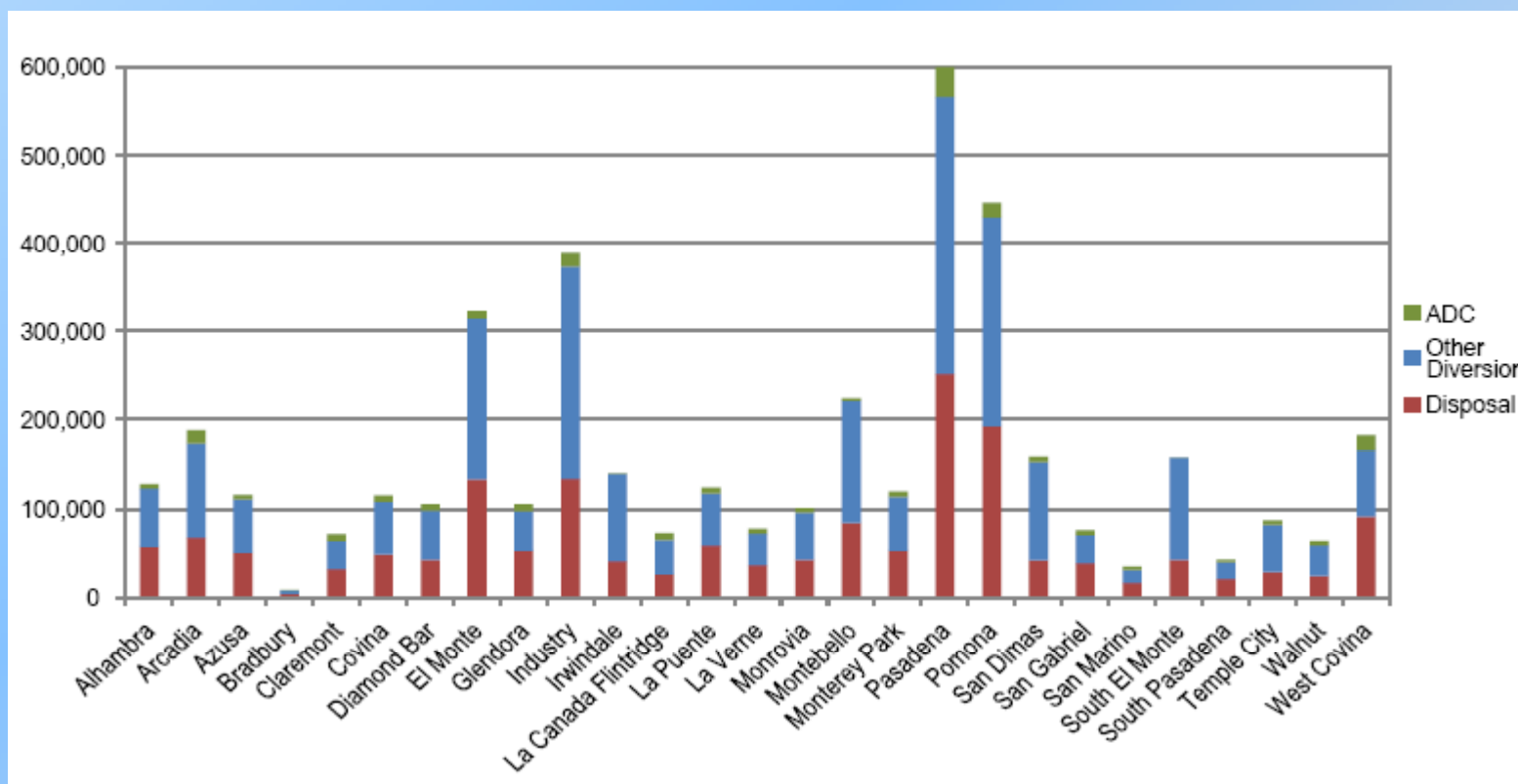


Figure 1 – Destination for Solid Waste Materials for 27 SGV Cities.

Current State of Affairs (cont.)

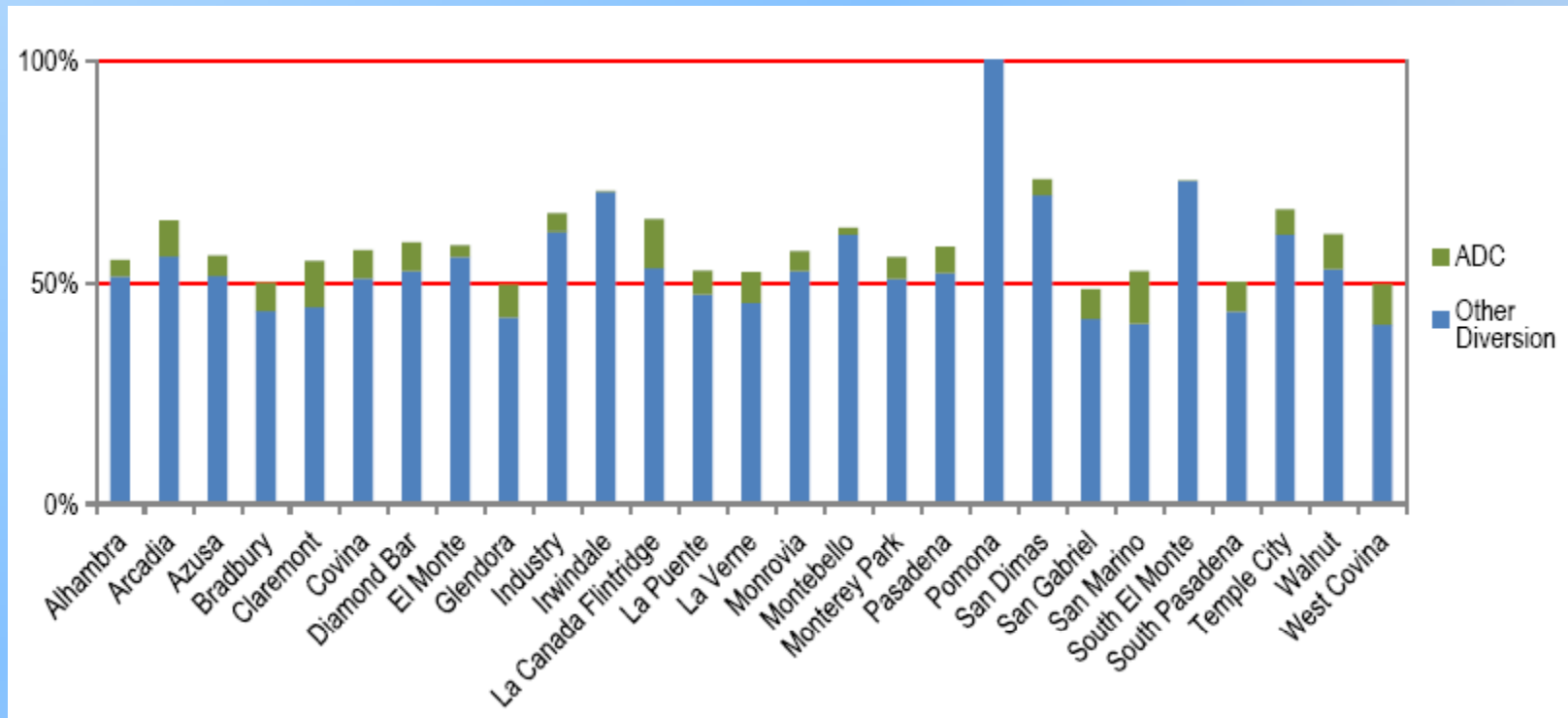


Figure 2 – Green Waste (ADC) Contribution to Diversion Credit for SGV Cities.

Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

ADC is the use of processed green waste to cover the active face of the landfill.

Supporters:

- Compliance with current regulatory requirements.
- Recycling of material that would otherwise be disposed.
- Preserve landfill capacity.
- Prevent import of clean soil and related issues (transportation fuel use, street/highway degradation, etc).

Opponents:

- Counted as diversion, no incentive to keep green waste out of landfills.
- Environmentally unfriendly.
- Competes for green feedstock with compost facilities.

2013 Puente Hills Landfill Closure and its Effect on the San Gabriel Valley Cities

- Jurisdictions will likely lose ADC diversion credits.
- Jurisdictions will have to rely on other landfills which are obligated to accept (green) waste from contracted cities.
- Jurisdictions must employ new strategies which are likely to take years to implement.



Alternative Green Waste Management Strategies

Company	Technology	Facility Location(s)	Potential Capacity	% of Green Waste Tons Collected in 27 SGV Cities
Allied Waste	ADC at Scholl Canyon Landfill or Sunshine Canyon Landfill; possibly composting if cost effective			7%
Athens Services	Composting	Industry – MRF Irwindale – Planned MRF Victorville – Composting	5000 TPD 6000 TPD 700 TPD	39%
Bluefire Ethanol	Acid Hydrolysis	Lancaster – Planned Mecca – Planned	170 TPD 700 TPD	NA
Burrtec	Composting; fan draws air through the compost to speed process	Fontana	1000 TPD	1%
Valley Vista	Anaerobic Digestion	City of Industry	250 – 500 TPD	7%
Waste Management	Considering various options			23%

Figure 3 – Solid Waste Management Firms Green Waste Management Strategies.

Council of Governments Working Group's Key Policy Recommendations

- Have the CIWMB clarify the definition of green/organic material:
 - Depending on definition, organics may account for 30-70% of waste stream (CIWMB defines 'organics' as 'all carbon-based material') .
 - Uniform and accepted definition must be recognized by all entities.
- Support ADC as diversion credit.
- Support expanding markets for composted materials:
 - Currently the primary uses for compost materials are: mulch and landscaping, crop fertilization and erosion control.
 - Promote the growth of existing markets and identify additional markets to ensure continuity of this solid waste management strategy.

Local and Municipal Challenges

- Southern California infrastructure:
 - Highly urbanized, built-up environment; potential new compost facilities are likely to be remotely located.
 - Limited number of existing compost facilities; material recovery facilities (MRF) may not have sufficient capacity for refuse and green waste.
- Alternatives to green waste usage as Alternative Daily Cover:
 - Small-scale composting appears more viable than large plants (City of Los Angeles and Monrovia provide residents with composting workshops).
 - Emerging 'conversion technologies' will play an increasing role in green waste management strategies.
- Long-term outlook and green waste strategies:
 - Municipalities and private firms will have to/already are investing in solid waste infrastructure (conversion technologies).
 - Long-term city and private firms contract will become more common.

Other Issues to Consider

Notable regulations that will impact managerial practices:

- Southern California Air Quality Management District Rule 1133 – emissions-based database for composting and related operations will regulate volatile organic compounds and ammonia emissions. Rule 1133.3 when implemented in 2010, will regulate green waste composting making it more difficult for site composting facilities.
- Assembly Bill 32 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Strategies – California Air Resource Board (CARB) is becoming more involved in solid waste issues including organics management.



Waste Management Paradigm

Evolving waste management strategies aim at increasing diversion and reducing cost. The closure of Puente Hills landfill will trigger reorganization of green waste management strategies.

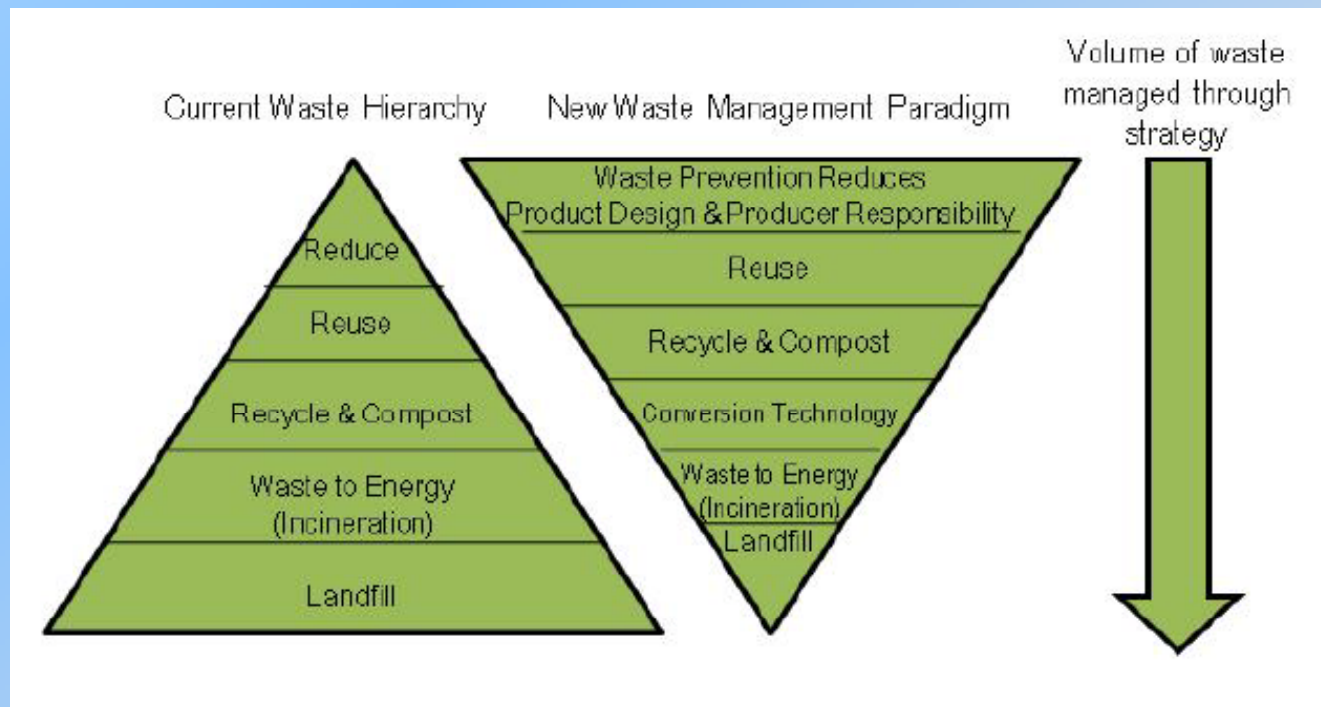
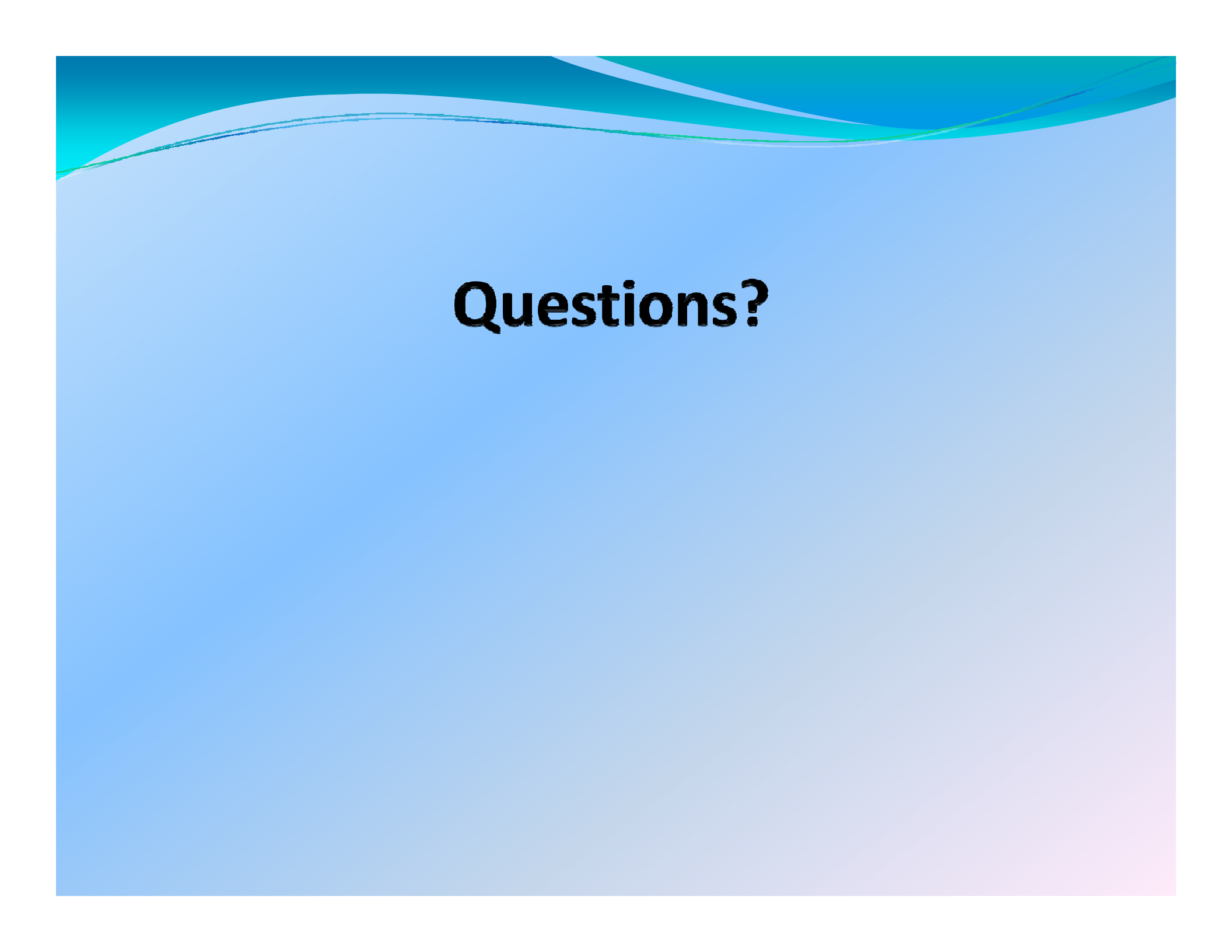


Figure 4 – Evolving Waste Management Paradigm and Strategies.

Staff Recommendations

- Have the Task Force send a letter to SGVCOG to include data from the County Unincorporated areas since they are a large generator of green waste in the San Gabriel Valley.
- Reaffirm and further emphasize the need to protect ADC diversion credit and expand the ADC infrastructure in Southern California.
- Reaffirm and further emphasize the need for conversion technologies to manage green waste.

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Questions?