

Simi Valley Landfill Expansion Task Force

1685 SIMI TOWN CENTER WAY SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065 (805) 231-2497 FAX 426-0801
EMAIL IRISHART@SBCGLOBAL.NET

17 September 2007

Mayor Paul Miller
City of Simi Valley
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063

RE: Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance for Simi Valley

Dear Honorable Mayor Miller:

The Simi Valley Landfill Expansion Task Force respectfully request the City Council consider for discussion the creation of a Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Ordinance for Simi Valley. Currently, only three cities in Ventura County have C&D Ordinances – 1) Camarillo, 2) Port Hueneme, and 3) San Buenaventura. Simi Valley can join progressive cities throughout the state by proactively adopting and implementing a C&D ordinance.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) reports that construction and demolition (C&D) materials account for almost 22 percent of the waste stream in the state. Many of these materials, if properly diverted, can be reused or recycled, thus prolonging our supply of natural resources and limiting our need to expand local landfills. To simplify matters, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) provides a model ordinance for local jurisdictions to follow. Moreover, the CIWMB lists construction and demolition waste diversion practices as supporting environmentally sustainable or “green” building construction.

Common C&D materials include lumber, drywall, metals, and masonry (brick, concrete, etc.). Of these, metals are the most commonly recycled material while lumber makes up the majority of debris that ends up in a landfill. There are facilities both within the City and in nearby surrounding areas that can effectively reuse, recycle or otherwise recover the materials generated by construction and demolition activity.

The State of California, through its California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, Assembly Bill 939, requires that each local jurisdiction in the state divert 50% of discarded materials (base year 1990) from landfill. Every city and county in California, including Simi Valley, could face fines up to \$10,000 a day for not meeting the above mandated goal. Since 2000, reports show Simi Valley hovering

at or below the 50% diversion rate, although the 2004 figures indicate an improvement with Simi Valley reporting 55%. For jurisdictions with similar populations, Simi Valley is among the highest for per capita residential disposal. A successfully implemented and administered C&D ordinance can help protect Simi Valley from the risk of fines being imposed in the future for failure to meet the state goals. It will also help position the City should the state raise the diversion rate requirement.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Sterling
Technical Committee

436 Sunbonnet Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065