Cahuilla Solid Waste and Recycling Program

- Funding
- Siting a location
- Design & Construction
- Operation/Economics
- Curbside service & Recycling
- Waste Reduction & Handling
Funded under GAP

- 4 Year “Pilot” program
- $20,000 approved for construction
- Waste management position and bins funded for 4 years
Cahuilla Reservation
Approximately 20,000 Acres, 70 Homes
Limited funding under GAP ($20K)

- 80’x80’ (6,400 sq. ft.)
- 40’x40’ concrete pad.
- 10’x10’ storage building.
- 10’ high chain link fence, 2 slide gates
- Five, 4 yard bins (20 cu. Yds. Cap.)
Operation / Economics

- Open 3 day a week
- Part time Waste tech
- Started with 5 bins
- $300 per bin for a total of $1,500 per month
- Bins emptied once weekly/ 4 times monthly
- Bulk bin twice yearly ($740 each)
The Case of the Disappearing Dumpsters !!
Dumpster Optimization

- After 2 months, trash inflow decreases to just under 4 dumpsters per week ($1,200/Mo.)
- Diversion of recyclables and green wastes gets it down to 3 ($900/Mo.)
- Initiation of curbside pickup with limited capacity trash bins with additional recycle bins gets it down to 2 ($600/Mo.)
Penalized by Waste Management

$100 per dumpster added to our monthly Bill
The Big Kahuna!

10 to 1 compaction on household refuse
What does that mean??

1 = ~10 = ~100
That’s 400 cu. Yards of waste!!

- Do the math: At an average of 10 cu. Yds. Per week = 40 cu. Yds. Per month = 10 months

- Cost to empty = $400 hauling + $300 tipping.

- Total trash charges = $1k vs. $18k at start!!
Next steps for Cahuilla solid waste program:

- Fire Waste Management – Handle all solid wastes on the Reservation.
- This includes: Casino ($18k/year) Present Transfer Station costs ($8k/year) TANF ($5k/year) and Tribal Hall ($4k/year) total of $35k/year.
- All in close proximity – set up logistics of moving trash.
Recycling Program

- Started (officially) this year.
- Dove in small, diverting recyclables from trash brought to dumpsters.
- Purchased scales and containers
- Paying Tribal Members cash
- CRV Aluminum cans, Glass Bottles
- #1 & #2 CRV plastic
- Accept all non CRV recyclables
Storage and Handling of recyclables
Compaction – best solution
Permitting Issues in California

- In CA, need permit to pay people for CRV.
- Tribes are sovereign, do not need permit, however can only redeem $500 per day at recycle centers.
- Must allow state inspectors on site to receive permit.
The End