



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

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March 3, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe
Acting Director of Public Works

SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON THE COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attached is the status report on the County Integrated Waste Management Plan for August 2004 through January 2005. Highlights of the report are provided below.

On August 3, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger released the California Performance Review (CPR) which described how State Government can be more responsive and efficient. Among other things, the CPR recommended the elimination of the California Integrated Waste Management Board as well as 100 other boards/commissions. Based on input received at public hearings regarding the CPR and in compliance with State law, on January 6, 2005, the Governor submitted a reorganization plan to the Little Hoover Commission that included a recommendation to absorb the Waste Board into the California Environmental Protection Agency. While the reorganization plan may yield potential benefits of a more coherent environmental strategy and a streamlined regulatory structure, many stakeholders expressed concern that it would remove them from the decision-making process and become less responsive to the needs of local jurisdictions and other stakeholders. In response to these concerns, on February 17, 2005, the Governor withdrew his reorganization plan.

On September 30, 2003, your Board instructed Public Works to take the necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon Landfill from the list of future landfill sites in the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element. In order for Elsmere Canyon Landfill to be removed from the Siting Element, the five-year review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP) and the Siting Element's amendment process must be sequentially completed. On June 23, 2004, Public Works forwarded the County of Los Angeles' CoIWMP Five-Year Review Report to the Waste Board for

approval. On September 21, 2004, the Waste Board unanimously approved the Five-Year Review Report. On September 16, 2004, Public Works began working with the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force in amending the Siting Element. The Task Force is undertaking a thorough review of the Siting Element as it is revised. This process is expected to be completed in late 2005.

The Electronic Waste Recycling Act, which was enacted in 2003, imposed a \$6 to \$10 fee on each Covered Electronic Waste, as defined (e.g., televisions, computer monitors, and laptops), sold in the State. On September 29, 2004, the State enacted Senate Bill 50 (Chapter 863) to clarify various provisions of the Act including establishing January 1, 2005, as the commencement date for imposition of the fee and establishing a Statewide payment system that prescribes how the collected fees will be distributed to collectors and recyclers of these Covered Electronic Wastes. The revenue collected from this fee would, among other things, be used to help offset local government costs in collecting/managing these Covered Electronic Wastes. Public Works, as the administrator of the Countywide Household Hazardous/Electronic Waste Management Program, is participating in the payment system. It is estimated that the program will be eligible for approximately \$300,000 per year in State funding and these revenues will be utilized towards enhancement of the program.

Your Board approved the Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance on January 4, 2005. This Ordinance will help increase the County unincorporated areas solid waste diversion rate and was an item on the State-approved SB 1066 Time Extension Application which states how the County will comply with the State's waste reduction mandate. The Ordinance becomes operative on March 6, 2005.

Public Works in concert with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County have finalized the guidelines for Phase 2 of the Waste Origin Verification Program at the Puente Hills Landfill. Phase 1 of the Program imposed requirements on wastes transported directly to the landfill and officially started on April 29, 2004. Phase 2 will impose requirements on wastes transported to the landfill via transfer stations. Public Works has scheduled two workshops this month on March 7 and 15 for transfer station operators and their waste hauling customers to learn about the program requirements and implementation. The target date for implementation of Phase 2 of this program is June 1, 2005. Failure to comply with the program requirements may subject facility operators and waste haulers to penalties and/or suspension of disposal privileges at the landfill.

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Waste Management, Inc., owner/operator of the Lancaster Landfill, has submitted an application to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning for an increase in its daily permitted disposal capacity from 1,700 to 3,000 tons per day (tpd). A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is currently being prepared. No date has yet been set for the release of the DEIR for public review yet.

Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI), owner/operator of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, continues its efforts to develop Phase 1, Unit 2, of the landfill in the City of Los Angeles. As proposed, Phase 1 would provide approximately 7.5 million tons of disposal capacity and an average daily disposal rate of 5,000 tpd. Phase 1 development is currently underway and it is anticipated to become operational by early June 2005.

Regional Planning, in conjunction with the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Health Services, Public Works, and County Counsel, drafted a new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the proposed combined operation of the portions of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill in the City of Los Angeles and the County. On January 12, 2005, the Regional Planning Commission held a public hearing in the Granada Hills community to receive public comment on the proposal and the draft CUP. The Commission continued the hearing to April 6, 2005.

Athens Services, owner/operator of the Athens Materials Recovery Facility, continues to seek approval from the Commission to increase its operating capacity from 1,920 tons per day to 8,500 tons per day. The Commission conducted a public hearing on the proposal beginning December 10, 2003, through June 2, 2004, and had directed staff to prepare final conditions of approval. On July 20, 2004, Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe conducted a town hall meeting to provide information in response to residents' concerns about MRF expansions in the San Gabriel Valley, including the Athens and Puente Hills MRFs in the unincorporated areas and the Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station in the City of Industry. Over 300 residents from the Avocado Heights and North Whittier unincorporated communities attended the evening meeting.

At the request of Supervisor Molina, the Commission reopened the public hearing on the Athens MRF to further receive public input on the proposal. The Commission received comments from interested parties on October 27, 2004, January 5, 2005, and March 2, 2005. Concerns expressed included, but were not limited to, traffic, dust, odor control, vector control, the operator's compliance history, and vibration. At the March 2, 2005, meeting, the Commission directed staff to revise the conditions of approval to address specific community concerns including a tonnage limit not to exceed 5,000 tpd.

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The Commission extended the hearing to May 4, 2005, at which time it will receive public comments on the draft conditions only.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
County Counsel
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste
Management Task Force

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CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1989 (AB 939)

- **Five-Year Review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element**

Section 41822 of the Public Resources Code requires the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP), which was approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) in June 1999, to be reviewed and revised if necessary every five years. The CoIWMP includes the Source Reduction and Recycling Elements (SRREs), Household Hazardous Waste Elements (HHWEs), and the Nondisposal Facility Elements (NDFEs) prepared by each of the 89 jurisdictions in the County; the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element); and the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan (Summary Plan).

On September 30, 2003, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors instructed Public Works to take the necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon Landfill from Siting Element's list of future landfill sites. As previously reported, in order for Elsmere Canyon Landfill to be removed from the Siting Element, the five-year review of the CoIWMP and the Siting Element's amendment process must be sequentially completed. On June 23, 2004, Public Works forwarded the County of Los Angeles' CoIWMP Five-Year Review Report to the Waste Board for approval.

On September 21, 2004, the Waste Board unanimously approved the Five-Year Review Report. With the Five-Year Review Report completed, Public Works began focusing its effort on amending the Siting Element. On September 16, 2004, Public Works began working with the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) in amending the Siting Element. Pursuant to State law, the Task Force is responsible for developing goals, policies, and procedures to provide guidance to the County in preparing the Siting Element. The Task Force is undertaking a thorough review of the Siting Element as it is revised. This process is expected to be completed in late 2005. Beyond this review, the amendment process will involve numerous additional statutory and regulatory requirements and is expected to be completed by early 2007 assuming no major complications occur.

- **Disposal Quantity Reporting**

The Solid Waste Disposal Quantity Reports for the first, second, and third quarters of 2004 were received, compiled, and forwarded by the Department in July 2004, October 2004, and January 2005, respectively, to over 300 jurisdictions throughout the State which utilized disposal facilities located in the County of Los Angeles. For the first quarter of 2004, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of

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approximately 3.17 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities located in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This tonnage is approximately 2,000 tons less than the quantity disposed in the first quarter of 2003. For the second quarter of 2004, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of approximately 3.32 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities located in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This tonnage is approximately 75,000 tons more than the quantity disposed in the second quarter of 2003. Based on the data available for the third quarter of 2004, jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of approximately 2.77 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities located in the County of Los Angeles. This tonnage is approximately 73,000 tons more than the quantities disposed in the third quarter of 2003.

In the first quarter of 2004, 530,880 tons of solid waste were exported by jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles to out-of-County landfills for disposal. This includes about, 3,721 tons disposed in Kern County, 1,157 tons in Kings County, 235,871 tons in Orange County, 231,267 tons in Riverside County, 835 tons in San Bernardino County, 22 tons in San Diego County, 155 tons in Stanislaus County, and 57,852 tons in Ventura County. In the second quarter of 2004, a total of 580,164 tons of solid waste were exported by jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles to out-of-County landfills for disposal. This includes about, 2,930 tons in Kern County, 12,912 tons in Kings County, 245,343 tons in Orange County, 259,185 tons in Riverside County, 508 tons in San Bernardino County, 13 tons in San Diego County, 164 tons in Stanislaus County, and 59,109 tons in Ventura County. Export data for the third quarter 2004 is currently unavailable.

Additionally, during the first, second, and third quarters of 2004, disposal facilities in the County of Los Angeles received approximately 98,434 tons, 123,802 tons, and 133,585 tons of waste, respectively, from neighboring counties compared to 100,346 tons, 100,232 tons, and 100,294 tons received in the first, second, and third quarters of 2003, respectively.

In summary, based on the available data, during the first three quarters of 2004, it is estimated that jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles disposed of approximately 9.26 million tons of solid waste at disposal facilities in and out of the County of Los Angeles. This is equivalent to an annual disposal rate of 12.35 million tons. In comparison to the 2003 disposal tonnage, the 2004 tonnage is estimated to have increased by approximately 0.15 million tons.

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- **Solid Waste Collection System—Options Analysis Report Implementation**

Model Franchise Agreement

On September 28, 2004, the Board adopted the proposed County Code revisions for authorizing franchising of solid waste collection services in the County unincorporated areas. This ordinance took effect October 28, 2004.

County Counsel is finalizing its review of the draft model franchise agreement which would be utilized in establishing future franchises. County Counsel is addressing the comments received from the working group's waste hauling industry representatives and anticipates finalizing the agreement by mid-March 2005. Once the agreement is finalized, Public Works, in consultation with the Board offices, will be conducting a series of community meetings; and based on community input, the franchise agreements will be finalized and submitted to the Board for consideration.

- **Solid Waste Information Management System**

Public Works is in the development stages of creating a web-based system to incorporate the business operation needs related to solid waste collection in the County of Los Angeles. The system is called SWIMS (Solid Waste Information System).

The concept of SWIMS was developed because of Assembly Bill 939 (passed by the State of California in 1989). The County, along with all jurisdictions in the State, is responsible for reducing the amount of waste diverted to landfills by 50 percent. Due to the large volumes of information required to be processed to track and measure the amount of solid waste being disposed within the County, the amount of time, money, and paperwork utilized to complete the State-mandated reports, SWIMS was developed to assist each City and County in estimating the amount of solid waste disposed by each jurisdiction.

Over 225 California cities, 50 counties, and two states dispose of waste in approximately 44 disposal facilities and transfer stations located in the County of Los Angeles. Public Works is responsible for tracking solid waste disposal data submitted by these facilities and producing State-mandated reports accounting for the waste disposed by each of these jurisdictions. In addition, Public Works tracks information submitted by over 120 permitted waste haulers operating within the County of Los Angeles. Public Works also manages solid waste handling services within the County unincorporated areas and tracks quantities of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and electronic waste collected at HHW collection events and HHW permanent collection centers.

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Because of the time required to collect, process, and summarize the information for the many programs mentioned above, Public Works commenced development of a Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS). The following development phases have either been completed or are currently underway:

Phase I—In 1998, an internal database application to support Public Works' reporting requirements was developed.

Phase II—In 2003, a web-based system that allows landfill and transformation facility operators to submit disposal quantity information over the Internet was developed. This system enabled Public Works to generate reports automatically and provided the public with limited access to those reports along with access to general information.

Phase III—Currently, Public Works is in the process of bidding out Phase III. This phase will add more users such as transfer stations and waste haulers. In addition, features will be added to enable users to submit waste disposal data efficiently, to verify data quantities, and to generate reports via the Internet.

Phase IV—This is the final phase and largest portion of the project. We are requesting a grant from the Information Technology Fund to complete the effort. A schematic diagram of the SWIMS project is included in Attachment A. Also, SWIMS' current hardware and software specifications are listed in Attachment B. All specifications listed are currently owned and licensed by Public Works.

Phases I, II, and III involve the collection of waste disposal quantity information on landfills, transfer stations, and transformation stations; all of which are mandated by the state. Phase IV involves Public Works' remaining business operational needs related to solid waste management and are not mandated by the State. These needs include information management for the Countywide Household Hazardous/e-Waste Collection program and waste collection activities in the County unincorporated areas, the Garbage Disposal District contracts, the waste collection franchise agreements for the unincorporated areas, and the ability for residents to register complaints and allow Public Works to track the status of those complaints.

Public Works is the first agency in the United States to develop such a comprehensive, web-based system to track this type of information. This system will serve as a model for other agencies throughout the nation.

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REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION

- **California Performance Review**

On August 3, 2004, a special panel convened by the Governor released a comprehensive report (entitled "California Performance Review") on how State Government can be more responsive and efficient. Overall, the Report recommended the elimination of more than 100 boards/commissions (including the Waste Board and establishment of 11 integrated departments. Specifically, the Report recommended:

- the elimination of the Waste Board as an independent State agency and its functions transferred to the California Environmental Protection Agency, and
- the consolidation of the State's solid and hazardous waste management programs to form a single waste management program, and the consolidation of the State's recycling and pollution prevention programs into one program pollution prevention and recycling program

We reviewed the Report's recommendations to determine its impact on our solid waste management responsibilities/programs and forwarded our comments to the Chief Administrative Office. Generally, while we recognized the potential benefits of a more coherent environmental strategy and a streamlined regulatory structure, we are concerned that we may be removed from the decision-making process, our ability to voice our concerns in an open forum may be diminished, and the new organization may be too large and become less responsive to the County's solid waste management needs.

In August 2004, a special commission was formed to receive public input on the Report's recommendations. On November 12, 2004, after conducting eight public hearings throughout the State, the special commission forwarded a report to the Governor that supported the concept of reorganizing the State boards/commissions, including the formation of an Environmental Protection Department that would incorporate the current California Environmental Protection Agency along with, but not limited to, the new duties described above.

On December 10, 2004, the Little Hoover Commission released its report to the Governor. Rather than address the merits of the California Performance Review Report recommendations, the report focused on the process of transforming State government.

On January 6, 2005, the Governor sent a proposal to the Little Hoover Commission recommending the elimination of several boards/commissions, including the Waste

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Board. Under this proposal, the Waste Board would be absorbed into the California Environmental Protection Agency and an officer (appointed by the Governor) would oversee the Waste Board at the pleasure of the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Based on comments received by the Little Hoover Commission, the Governor may modify his proposal. On January 6, 2005, the Governor also forwarded proposed legislative language to the State Legislative Counsel to implement his proposal.

The Governor is anticipated to submit his proposal to the Legislature in February 2005. Unless one house of Legislature votes to reject the Governor's proposal, the proposal would become effective 61 days after the proposal was submitted to the Legislature. If the Governor's proposal is approved, any legislative language to enact the proposals would be processed the following year (e.g. 2006). Provided the Governor's proposal is approved, the Waste Board will be absorbed into the California Environmental Protection Agency on July 1, 2005.

- **Changes to State Disposal Reporting System (DRS) Regulations—SB 2202**

As required by SB 2202, the Waste Board submitted a report to the Legislature in early 2002 recommending changes to the State DRS to address its deficiencies. The Waste Board then proceeded to develop draft revised regulations incorporating the recommendations in the Report. Informal drafts of these regulations were first made available in November 2002 and subsequently in June 2003.

Public Works submitted comments in opposition to the proposals since they are impractical, excessive, and unnecessarily burdensome to agencies in the amount of information required for an agency to provide to jurisdictions.

In September 2004, the Waste Board issued a formal notice releasing the revised DRS regulations for a 45-day comment period. On October 18, 2004, Public Works submitted comments commending the Waste Board and its staff for their efforts in developing the proposed regulations with an intent to ensure increased accuracy of the DRS. These regulations address most of the issues and concerns expressed in the July 18, 2003, Public Works letter. However, Public Works believes these regulations must include strict enforcement measures to ensure all waste handling enterprises provide accurate and timely waste origin data, and secondly, we feel the proposed requirement to submit an annual report on disposal reporting methods appear impractical and excessive. Further, the required information will not enhance the ability of a jurisdiction to calculate its diversion rate or the accuracy of the disposal reporting system.

In a related matter, on October 5, 2004, and November 30, 2004, the Waste Board held the first of a series of workshops to solicit stakeholder input on revamping the

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State's waste diversion compliance system. A primary topic of discussion is the possibility of changing the system to a program-based system to replace the current system based on detailed mathematical accounting. Pursuant to the recommendations approved by the Board in July 1999, Public Works will continue to participate and monitor the Waste Board's actions in this area to ensure a more reasonable and cost-effective way for measuring waste diversion.

- **California Air Resources Board Regulation for Solid Waste Collection Vehicles**

The recently adopted California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulation for Solid Waste Collection Vehicles requires municipalities that contract with waste hauler companies to include specification language in their contracts stating that the contractor must be in compliance with all applicable air pollution control laws. This requirement applies to new contracts with an effective date of December 31, 2004, or later. It also requires these jurisdictions to submit annual reports to CARB starting January 31, 2005, containing a listing of its contractors and information about them. In compliance with these requirements, Public Works' franchise agreements and Garbage Disposal District Contracts will contain the required language as each existing contract expires. The first annual report was submitted to the CARB on January 31, 2005.

- **State Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Regulations**

The Phase II regulations addressing the disposal of C&D debris became effective in February 2004. These regulations place facilities into regulatory tiers so that the level of oversight is consistent with the potential impact on public health and safety.

The regulations exclude some operations and place others in the Enforcement Agency (EA) Notification, Registration, or Full Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Tier. Under the EA Notification tier are Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operations. These can only accept specified inert materials which must be compacted to allow for structural or other beneficial loading. These materials will not be counted as disposal or recycling by the State. It is anticipated many of the inert facilities in the County of Los Angeles will fall under this tier. The Local Enforcement Agencies are currently in the process of placing the facilities in their tiers.

- **Proposed County C&D Debris Recycling Ordinance**

The C&D Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance is intended to increase diversion of C&D debris generated in the County unincorporated areas by requiring permittees to divert 50 percent of their debris. The Ordinance applies to projects that involve demolition, grading, or construction-related activities with an exemption for single-family homes, duplexes, and construction projects valued under \$100,000.

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Implementation of this Ordinance is required as a part of the State-approved Time Extension for the County unincorporated areas to meet the State's waste reduction mandate.

The Ordinance was adopted by the Board on January 4, 2005, and becomes operative on March 6, 2005. During this interval, Public Works and its C&D Debris Education Program contractor will be developing forms, processes, and materials to assist permittees in meeting the requirements of the ordinance. This contract was executed by the Director of Public Works on January 19, 2005.

- **Legislative Coordination Efforts–Task Force**

The Task Force monitors the Waste Board and the State Legislature and has taken a position on several legislative bills that would impact local governments including the two major bills listed below.

–Assembly Bill 338 (Levine) Support

This bill would require CalTrans to increase the amount of asphalt containing crumb rubber in proportion to the total amount of asphalt paving materials used, to be not less than 20 percent by January 1, 2006, 25 percent by January 1, 2009, and 35 percent by January 1, 2012.

The Bill was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

–Assembly Bill 1802 (Bogh) Support

This Bill increases the fines for dumping commercial quantities of waste to the following: (1) \$1,000 and \$3,000 for the first offense, (2) \$3,000 and \$6,000 for the second offense, and (3) \$6,000 and \$10,000 for every offense thereafter.

The Bill was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

–Assembly Bill 2901 (Pavley and Kehoe) Support

This Bill would require cell phone retailers to have in place, by July 1, 2006, a system for the acceptance and collection of used cell phones for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal.

The Bill was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

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–Senate Bills 20 and 50 (Sher and Romero) Support

These Bills attempt to address the electronic waste issue by placing a recycling fee on each Cathode Ray Tube (TV, computer monitors, etc.) sold in the State. The initial fee, effective April 1, 2004, is set between \$6 and \$10 based on device size. The fee may be adjusted in the future based on the actual cost of collecting and recycling the devices. In addition, these Bills prohibit the exportation of toxic e-waste to developing nations and require manufacturers to document and report their efforts to redesign their products to reduce toxic materials, use recycled materials, and generally design for recycling. These Bills would also prohibit the sale of electronic devices after 2007 that contain specified types and levels of toxic materials.

–Senate Bills 537 and 1387 (Romero) Oppose

These Bills were an attempt to prohibit the siting of any new MRF designed to receive more than 4,000 tons per day (tpd) of solid waste within the County of Los Angeles, and included a variety of payments and restrictions on the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

Both of these Bills died in Committee.

• **Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee**

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee is responsible for evaluating and promoting the development of conversion technologies to reduce dependence on landfills and incinerators. As stipulated in Condition 24.c of the CUP for the Puente Hills Landfill, the Director of Public Works initiated the formation of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee of the Task Force. The Subcommittee convened their first meeting on January 15, 2004. In the ten meetings they have held so far, the Subcommittee has been phenomenally productive, completing the following tasks:

- finalizing the Scope of Work for an alternative technology evaluation Service Agreement
- finalizing and distributing a Request for Proposals to complete the Scope of Work
- evaluating the three proposals received and selecting a contractor to complete the Scope of Work and carry out the Service Agreement
- directing, reviewing, and finalizing the Strategic Action Plan developed under the Service Agreement

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- providing expertise and feedback to the main Task Force on conversion technology issues
- providing comments and feedback to the Waste Board regarding the development of reports, regulations, and other issues relating to conversion technologies

After in-depth discussions and analysis, the Subcommittee concluded that an effective course of action would be to develop a demonstration facility in Southern California, which would serve to showcase the benefits of conversion technologies to meet the solid waste management needs of the region in an environmentally beneficial and economically feasible manner. A demonstration facility would produce the added benefits of providing real-world data regarding conversion technologies in a local setting, sound out the regulatory and other requirements of developing such a facility in the region, and provide a physical and tangible declaration of support to alternative technologies that will go a long way to promote the future development of these technologies. As a result, the Subcommittee developed a Strategic Action Plan which lays out in detail the steps necessary to develop a demonstration-scale facility in Southern California.

The Subcommittee additionally decided to focus on developing this demonstration facility by partnering with a local MRF, thereby better defining the potential feedstock for the facility, creating a built-in mechanism for any pre-processing of material that may be needed, and virtually eliminating any impacts from transportation of material to the site, among other benefits. So far the Subcommittee has visited three potential MRFs that have expressed an interest in partnering with a technology vendor to develop a facility soon.

The Subcommittee is now working to bring together a willing MRF with the ability to host a conversion technology facility and a conversion technology vendor with the capability to develop an appropriate and carefully chosen technology. Ultimately, this optimized pairing along with the support of the Subcommittee and its member representatives can help to bring about the development of a real-world facility that can inform decision makers regarding the viability of these technologies.

PROPOSED NEW LANDFILLS—COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- **Proposed Elsmere Canyon Landfill**

As discussed in the “Five-Year Review” section in this report, the Board instructed Public Works to take the necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon Landfill from the Siting Element’s list of future landfill sites. In order for Elsmere Canyon Landfill to be removed from the Siting Element, the Five-Year Review of the CoIWMP and

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the Siting Element's amendment process need to be sequentially completed. The Task Force is undertaking a thorough review of the Siting Element as it is revised. This process is expected to be completed in late 2005. Beyond this review, the amendment process will involve numerous additional statutory and regulatory requirements and is expected to be completed by early 2007.

DISPOSAL FACILITY EXPANSIONS/CLOSURES—COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- **Puente Hills Landfill**

The Puente Hills Landfill is owned and operated by the Sanitation Districts. Operations under the new CUP No. 02-027-(4) began on November 1, 2003, for a ten-year period.

As part of compliance with the facility's CUP, on December 10, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Sanitation Districts adopted an Ordinance to implement a new reporting system at the Landfill. This Ordinance is intended to assist the County of Los Angeles in its efforts to comply with the mandates of AB 939 by more accurately determining the origin of wastes disposed at the Landfill. Implementation of the Waste Origin Verification Program is to occur in two phases. Phase 1 would impose requirements on wastes transported directly to the Landfill and Phase 2 would impose requirements on wastes transported to the Landfill via transfer stations (TS)/MRFs. Phase 1 officially started on April 29, 2004. The data from Phase 1 of this Program has shown that the waste attributed to County unincorporated areas and disposed of at the Puente Hills Landfill has been reduced by approximately 7 to 8 percent in comparison to data from before the inception of this Program. Additionally, Public Works in concert with the Sanitation Districts have finalized the guidelines for Phase 2 of this Program. Two workshops have been scheduled in March 2005 to explain and educate all interested parties, e.g. waste collectors/haulers and TS/MRF operators who will be using the landfill for waste disposal. The target date for beginning the implementation of Phase 2 of this Program at the landfill is June 1, 2005.

The amended Waste Plan Conformance Agreement which is required by CUP No. 02-027-(4) was approved by the Board on November 9, 2004. The agreement provides for (1) controlling and accounting for waste entering and, in the form of recycled or diverted material, leaving the Landfill, (2) the implementation and enforcement of programs intended to maximize utilization of the available fill capacity at the Landfill, and (3) the implementation of waste diversion and recycling programs on site and off site in accordance with applicable city and County waste management plans.

- **Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center (LLRC)**

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Waste Management, Inc., the facility operator, has submitted an application to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning for an increase in its daily permitted disposal capacity from 1,700 tpd to 3,000 tpd. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is currently being prepared. No date has been set for the release of the DEIR for public review yet.

Public Works is currently working with Waste Management, Inc., to agree upon an amended Waste Plan Conformance Agreement for waste diversion and recycling programs at the LLRC. The amended Agreement is required by CUP No. 93-070-(5) to maintain consistency with applicable city and county waste management plans. The amended Agreement would provide for (1) controlling and accounting for certain waste, (2) implementing and enforcing programs intended to maximize utilization of the available fill capacity, and (3) implementing waste diversion and recycling programs.

- **Sunshine Canyon Landfill**

Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI), has obtained all necessary permits for development of Phase I, Unit 2, of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill in the City of Los Angeles. The proposed Phase I would provide approximately 7.5 million tons of disposal capacity and an average daily disposal rate of 5,000 tpd. The Sunshine Canyon City Landfill is currently under construction and is expected to begin accepting waste July 2005.

On September 29, 2004, at the request of Public Works, Regional Planning issued a Notice of Violation to BFI for non-compliance with Conditions 23 and 28 of the facility's CUP (in violation for commencement of landfill operations in the Phase IV area without first acquiring approved grading and drainage plans, and stockpiling soil in areas not approved for such use). On November 24, 2004, Public Works notified Regional Planning that BFI's operation of the landfill is in substantial compliance with Conditions 23 and 28.

On November 8, 2004, Regional Planning issued a letter denying BFI's request for authorization to proceed with solid waste disposal operations in the landfill bridge area, claiming the criteria for Condition 10b of the landfill CUP has been met. However, Regional Planning, in consultation with Public Works, determined that no landfilling activity can take place in the subject bridge area until the City allows Phase II of the City landfill to proceed. BFI was notified that further determination will have to be made that it is necessary to extend landfilling operations into the bridge area in order to implement Phase II of the City landfill. Based on discussions with County Counsel, although land use entitlements were granted by the City in 1999, the entitlements necessary for the use of the 42-acre bridge area and

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development of the proposed combined City/County Landfill are not effective until BFI has demonstrated to the County's satisfaction that the requirements of Condition 10b has been met.

On December 1, 2004, the Regional Planning Commission began consideration of BFI's request for a revised CUP to allow for a combined City/County landfill operation at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The Commission also released to the public the draft new CUP for the proposed combined City/County Landfill operation. On January 12, 2005, Regional Planning held a Public Hearing at the Granada Hills High School to take testimony from the public on the proposed request for a combined City/County landfill. The next meeting by the Commission on this matter is scheduled for April 6, 2005.

The proposed combined City/County Landfill is to include the 42-acre bridge area between the City and County Landfills which will enable the landfill to develop to its full capacity of 90 million tons.

- **Bradley Landfill**

Waste Management, Inc., the facility operator, has submitted an application to the City of Los Angeles Department of Planning to allow for a 43-foot increase in the maximum elevation of the Landfill from 1,010 feet above mean sea level. A DEIR is currently being prepared. No date has been set for the release of the DEIR for public review.

Waste Management, Inc., also has submitted an application to the City of Los Angeles Department of Planning for the development of a TS at the Landfill property. An Environmental Document is currently being prepared. No date has been set for the release of the document for public review.

PROPOSED MATERIALS RECOVERY AND COMPOSTING FACILITIES—COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

- **Puente Hills MRF**

This facility is a fully permitted MRF located on approximately 25 acres of the northwest portion of the Puente Hills Landfill site. It is estimated that the construction of the facility will be completed by March 1, 2005. The facility is anticipated to be fully operational and open to the public by early April to May of 2005, and will target commercial waste loads.

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The MRF is permitted to accept up to 4,400 tpd of municipal solid waste and a maximum of 24,000 tons per week (4,000 tpd, six-day average). Residual waste from the MRF could be transported off site to an out-of-County landfill by truck or rail.

- **Athens MRF Expansion (formerly United Waste Recycling and Transfer)**

Athens Services, owner/operator of the Athens MRF, is seeking approval from Regional Planning to increase its operating capacity from 1,920 tpd to 8,500 tpd.

The Regional Planning Commission conducted public hearings on the proposal on December 10, 2003; and on January 26, March 17, April 21, May 12, and June 2, 2004. At the June 2 hearing, the Commission closed the public hearing and directed staff to prepare final conditions of approval.

On July 20, 2004, Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe conducted a town hall meeting to provide information in response to residents' concerns about MRF expansions in the San Gabriel Valley, namely Athens MRF, Puente Hills MRF, and Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station. Over 300 residents attended the evening meeting where they received information regarding the present and future solid waste management needs of the San Gabriel Valley and the County as well as the status of the Athens and Puente Hills MRF projects. Representatives from the Sanitation Districts, Regional Planning, Health Services, and Public Works also participated in the meeting.

At the request of Supervisor Molina, the Commission reopened the public hearing on the Athens MRF to further receive public input on the proposal. The Commission received comments from interested parties on October 27, 2004, January 5, 2005, and March 2, 2005. Concerns expressed included, but were not limited to, traffic, dust, odor control, vector control, the operator's compliance history, and vibration. At the March 2, 2005, meeting, the Commission directed staff to revise the conditions of approval to address specific community concerns, including a tonnage limit not to exceed 5,000 tpd. The Commission extended the hearing to May 4, 2005, at which time it will receive public comments on the draft conditions only.

- **Proposed Municipal Direct Transfer Facility for the City of Pomona**

On June 21, 2004, the Task Force recommended approval of the City of Pomona's NDFE amendment to include the Pomona Municipal Direct Transfer Facility with up to 150 tpd capacity. On September 29, 2004, the Local Enforcement Agency (Health Services) granted the facility a full SWFP (19-AA-1065). The facility is a new direct transfer facility owned and operated by the City of Pomona. The facility's primary business is the direct transfer of solid waste to permitted landfill facilities in or outside the County of Los Angeles. Residential refuse collection trucks proceed

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to the transfer facility where collected refuse is transferred directly into closed container refuse trailers for transport to landfills.

- **Proposed Grand Central Transfer Station in the City of Pomona**

The City of Pomona along with Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station, Inc., is proposing to fully permit the Grand Central Transfer Station to be located in the City of Pomona. The TS will receive 1,500 tpd. The City of Pomona has selected a consultant to prepare the EIR and will be submitting their selection to their council for approval and award of the contract. A CUP will be applied for in about six to eight months.

WASTE-BY-RAIL PROJECTS

- **Mesquite Regional and Eagle Mountain Landfills**

The Sanitation Districts entered into Purchase and Sale Agreements in August 2000 on the only two fully-permitted rail haul landfills in California: the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County and the Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County. The Sanitation Districts closed escrow on the Mesquite Regional Landfill in December 2002. As previously reported, due in part to pending Federal litigation, the Sanitation Districts has not closed escrow on the purchase of the Eagle Mountain Landfill.

Closing escrow on the Mesquite Regional Landfill has allowed the waste-by-rail system development plans to move forward. Work on the master plan for the system began in fall 2003 and will be completed in early 2005. Following completion of the master plan, the Sanitation Districts intends to pursue concurrent final design and construction of the facilities necessary to begin operation. The Mesquite Regional Landfill is scheduled to open by 2009, which is consistent with the timetable in the new CUP issued by the Regional Planning Commission for the Puente Hills Landfill.

The Mesquite Regional Landfill is permitted to accept up to 20,000 tpd with a capacity of 600 million tons. This gives the Landfill approximate lifespan of 100 years. Eagle Mountain Landfill is permitted to accept 10,000 tpd for the first 10 years with the option of increasing the daily limit to 20,000 tpd after a review of environmental performance. Its permitted capacity of 460 million tons and total capacity of 700 million tons would give the Landfill and approximate lifespan of 100 years as well.

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- **Dedicated Waste-by-Rail Intermodal Facility Development**

On November 11, 2004, the Sanitation Districts reached agreements with the City of Industry Urban Development Agency and the City of Industry to secure the purchase of 17 acres for the development of a local, dedicated intermodal facility to serve the waste-by-rail system. Under the terms of the agreements, the Sanitation Districts would not acquire the property until after the environmental review of and the local land use permitting for the proposed project is successfully completed. The property, located at 2500 Pellissier Place in the City of Industry, is desirable to the Sanitation Districts due to its proximity to both the Puente Hills MRF and the Union Pacific mainline track that serves the Mesquite Regional Landfill. The City of Industry will be the local land use permitting agency and the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The Sanitation Districts anticipate filing an application with the City of Industry to develop the site as an intermodal facility in spring 2005.

The proposed development will include three main features: 1) an intermodal facility to support the loading/unloading of up to two dedicated waste-by-rail trains per day; 2) access to and from the site from the Puente Hills MRF; and 3) rail improvements to allow the efficient operation of the intermodal facility. The development of an intermodal facility at this location would require the demolition of an existing 457,000 square foot warehouse. An intermodal facility on the site could be designed to handle up to two trains per day, or approximately 8,000 tpd of refuse. At its permitted capacity, the Puente Hills MRF would only produce approximately 3,500 tpd of residual waste; as a result, the facility would have the capacity to receive rail-ready shipping containers from other materials recovery facilities.

As part of this project, the Sanitation Districts are investigating alternative access to the proposed project site that would allow inbound and outbound traffic to avoid public roads. Access options include a tunnel under or a bridge over Workman Mill Road and the Union Pacific Railroad mainline tracks. The Sanitation Districts would allow trucks carrying rail-ready shipping containers from other materials recovery facilities to also access the proposed intermodal facility via the alternate access route, thereby reducing local traffic impacts.

OUT-OF-COUNTY LANDFILLS

- **El Sobrante Landfill Expansion—County of Riverside**

El Sobrante Landfill is owned and operated by Waste Management, Inc. (previously called USA Waste Services). Permitted at 10,000 tpd, the Landfill receives approximately 60 percent of its solid waste from out-of-County sources on a monthly basis.

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On February 4, 2004, the LEA approved changes to the SWFP. The changes to the SWFP designate the "Operating Day" as 3 a.m. Monday to 8 p.m. Saturday each week and at the end of the "Operating Day" (Saturday), daily cover must be used unless the area of refuse does not receive any refuse within a 12-hour period.

In the past six months, several construction projects have been commenced at the El Sobrante Landfill. Phase 8 of the Landfill expansion began February 17, 2004, and was completed November 11, 2004. A 2.5-megawatt landfill-to-gas energy plant has been constructed and is currently operating.

- **Orange County Landfills**

Orange County landfills are permitted for a combined capacity of 20,500 tpd, 13,300 tpd of which are used by Orange County jurisdictions. The remaining 7,200 tpd are available for out-of-Orange County waste disposal.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors has contracted 3,400 tpd, five days/week for out-of-County waste. The contract with the Sanitation Districts expires in 2015 and is set at 1,000 tpd. During the second and third quarters of 2004, daily tonnage averaged 1,232 tpd and 1,130 tpd, respectively, of solid waste imported from the County of Los Angeles.

The Orange County Integrated Waste Management Department has initiated an EIR process on a long-range Strategic Plan referred to as Regional Landfill Options for Orange County (RELOOC). The RELOOC Strategic Plan proposes expansion at the Olinda Alpha and Frank R. Bowerman Landfills (two of the three County landfills). While no increase in daily tonnage is proposed, expansions would extend the life of the landfills by about eight and ten years, respectively.

- **San Diego County Landfills**

During this reporting period, the Otay Landfill received 35.37 tons of solid waste from the City of Los Angeles. The Otay Landfill is privately owned by Allied Waste Industries.

According to the County of San Diego's Draft Siting Element, the San Diego Sycamore Landfill is a fully permitted Class III Landfill operated by the San Diego Landfill Systems and is owned by Allied Waste of North America. The Landfill currently processes 3,300 tpd of solid waste, 315 days per year, and consists of a total property area of 520 acres, including a disposal area of 324 acres. As of May 2004, the Landfill's remaining capacity is 20.6 million cubic yards and, under its current SWFP, is estimated to close in 2016.

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Allied Waste has applied to the City of San Diego for a Planned Development Permit for two proposed increases in disposal tonnage. According to the City of San Diego's Local Enforcement Agency, the first proposed increase, from 3,300 tpd to 5,000 tpd, could occur in 12 (January 2006) to 18 months (June 2006). The second proposed increase, in 2011, would increase the daily throughput to 12,000 tpd.

PUBLIC/YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COUNTYWIDE/REGIONAL WASTE DIVERSION

- **Environmental Defenders Program**

The Environmental Defenders Program, Public Works' environmental education effort for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, continues to reach out to students and parents in the County delivering important reduce, reuse, and recycle messages. The main component of the program consists of assemblies conducted at elementary schools throughout the County with actors portraying the Environmental Defenders characters teaching students about the Three R's. Other outreach efforts within the program include teacher lesson plans, technical assistance for school campuses to start recycling or other environmental programs, production of promotional items, attendance at community and youth events, and media promotions.

The Environmental Defenders characters and assembly were recently modified to reflect up-to-date trends among kids. The new theme is "Rock the Planet." The characters were given a slightly more mature look, and changes were made to the assembly presentation live script and video. Promotional and educational items have been updated to reflect the new program image. Since August 2004, approximately 100,000 students in 147 schools have been reached.

- **Generation Earth**

The Generation Earth Program provides teacher training and curriculum for middle and high schools and the opportunity for students to complete hands-on activities to enhance their knowledge about source reduction, recycling, illegal dumping, household hazardous waste (HHW), and stormwater/urban runoff issues.

On August 28, 2004, Generation Earth hosted the Back-To-School Teacher Forum at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Altadena. The primary purpose of the forum is to train teachers to integrate environmental education into their classrooms. Twenty-six Los Angeles County teachers attended the workshop.

On September 24, 2004, a Back-To-School Youth Forum was held to recruit and train students to conceptualize and implement service-learning projects that will lead to improvements in waste reduction and recycling.

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September 30, 2004, marked the end of a six-year contract for the Generation Earth Program. Public Works is currently going through the RFP process to award a new contract.

- **Plan-It Earth Program**

Plan-It Earth is a newspaper-based learning program for sixth through ninth grade students that is co-sponsored by Public Works and the Los Angeles Times. The program provides teachers with an eight-week classroom subscription to the Los Angeles Times paid for by Public Works. To increase student knowledge about the environment, teachers use the newspaper for completing classroom exercises, and classes participate in an environmental essay contest.

At the beginning of each school year, the Times promotes the newspaper subscription portion of the program to teachers throughout the County of Los Angeles by placing ads in different sections of the newspaper. Since August 2004, a total of 624 teachers have registered to receive the newspaper. In total, 1,248 classrooms are participating reaching approximately 74,880 students.

Final arrangements are being made for the 2005 essay contest. The contest flyer is being designed and will be circulated during the first week of January 2005. The awards luncheon will occur in May 2005 at the Los Angeles Times headquarters.

- **Countywide Smart Gardening Program**

During the reporting period, the contractor, BioContractors, Inc. (BCI) conducted 28 Smart Gardening workshops at the County's 12 permanent demonstration centers, schools, and garden clubs. Close to 850 residents attended these workshops and more than 300 compost bins and worm bins were sold at subsidized prices. BCI also attended 8 regional events, including the Los Angeles County Fair and the Water-Wise Gardening & Landscaping Resource Fair, where over 7,500 residents visited the booth to get more information on the Program.

The increased number in attendance at the workshops is a product of the Program's enhanced public outreach efforts. Billboards are posted prior to the workshops, postcards are mailed out, and flyers are distributed near the vicinity of the workshops. The Program also introduced its new mascot, *Compost Charlie*. This mascot will enrich the look of the Program and will be included on creatives such as postcards, brochures, billboards, and other promotional advertisements.

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- **Countywide Smart Gardening Program Video Production**

As of November 29, 2004, all scripts and principal photography have been completed and the contractor, Showreel, Inc., is currently in its post-production stage. When completed, the contract will develop an informative, broadcast quality video to act as an alternative method of outreach to a targeted audience for the Countywide Smart Gardening Program. We anticipate our final video product to be completed by March 2005.

- **Departmental Recycling Education/Outreach Services**

A \$250,000 two-year contract with Strategy Workshop, Inc., was approved by the Board on June 15, 2004, to help County departments comply with the waste diversion requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) by expanding and enhancing the County Departmental Recycling Program. The work will principally include implementing recommendations developed by a previous contractor for the Departmental Recycling Program and developing education/outreach and technical assistance materials for County employees to increase waste diversion and improve reporting by County departments.

The Contractor will be holding workshops in March 2005 to train Departmental Recycling Coordinators in the use of the Departmental Recycling database (part of the Departmental Recycling Website) which will allow Coordinators to record, monitor, and print diversion information on their respective departments. Following the workshops, the Contractor will begin visiting Departments in April to assist them in enhancing and expanding their recycling and reuse programs. A telephone hotline (213-622-0023) is also dedicated to answer any County employee's questions on recycling in the County.

- **Integrated Waste Tire Recycling Program**

The Peterson Group, the County's contractor for the County's Waste Tire Amnesty Days Program has conducted half of their required waste tire recycling events. During this reporting period, the contractor conducted a waste tire recycling event in Boyle Heights on August 21, 2004, collecting 101 passenger equivalent tires, and in Norwalk on October 16, 2004, collecting 663 passenger equivalent tires. The tires collected were recycled into roofing shingles and loose playground fill.

- **Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone (LACRMDZ)**

The LACRMDZ is one of 39 zones that are part of the State's program to expand markets for recycled material generated within the State. The LACRMDZ was previously administered by the County of Los Angeles Community Development

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Commission (CDC) with support and cooperation provided by Public Works. To more effectively manage the program, and with mutual agreement by the CDC and Public Works, the program was transferred to Public Works effective July 1, 2004. Public Works is integrating the program with its current recycling and outreach activities.

Public Works has begun working to provide businesses in the LACRMDZ with referrals and assistance they need such as siting, permitting, and alternate funding sources. Among the most requested services from small business is feedstock. The LACRMDZ is looking into the feasibility of creating a feedstock database, which can be used by all LACRMDZ businesses.

LACRMDZ will also setup quarterly meetings with member jurisdictions in an effort to develop marketing and outreach strategies for locating potential RMDZ loan recipients. In addition to these meetings, LACRMDZ is working with California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) staff to hold a series of regional RMDZ meetings. This will provide LACRMDZ with the opportunity to share resources and ideas on best practices for developing a low cost marketing campaign with other jurisdictions.

There are currently two companies under review for RMDZ loans. These companies are each seeking \$2 million in funding for start-up costs or expansion.

- **Environmental Hotline (1-888-CLEAN-LA)**

Public Works' Environmental Hotline was established to provide a convenient means for County residents to obtain information on proper disposal of HHW and E-Waste, Used Oil Recycling, Stormwater Pollution Prevention, Illegal Dumping, Recycling, Grasscycling, and other environmental issues. The hotline received approximately 32,903 telephone calls during this time period.

- **Environmental Resources Website (www.888CleanLA.com)**

The County's Environmental Resources Website, at www.888CleanLA.com, provides residents and businesses with valuable information about the County's waste reduction efforts and recycling programs. These include the Household Hazardous Waste, Smart Gardening, Residential Recycling, Youth Education, Tire Recycling, and Business Recycling Programs. The website also provides useful environmentally friendly information such as where to recycle computers, how to reduce junk mail, when you need to apply for an industrial waste permit, and seasonal information like Christmas tree recycling. Environmental-related "Frequently Asked Questions" are updated regularly based on feedback from the public, updates to our programs, and new information. The website also includes a

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section dedicated specifically to Stormwater Pollution Prevention providing information on who to contact to report clogged storm drains, request storm drain stenciling, and learn about what a certain city is doing to improve water quality. In addition to a wealth of relevant environmentally related information, the website contains updated schedules for the HHW collection events and Smart Gardening workshops.

Responses to e-mail inquiries from the public through the website are also provided on a timely basis, usually in less than one working day. During the reporting period, pages on the website were viewed over 362,000 times in nearly 143,000 visits by approximately 95,000 residents, officials, and representatives of governments and organizations.

COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREA WASTE DIVERSION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **Residential Recycling Program**

The Program focused on promoting the recycling of Christmas trees after the holiday season. Approximately 50,000 Christmas tree recycling bill inserts were distributed through waste haulers operating in the County's unincorporated areas and a press release was distributed to 375 English and Spanish media outlets. Christmas tree recycling information from all cities in the County, as well as for the unincorporated areas, was also provided on the website.

In addition, 60 bus tail advertisements were placed on buses with routes through the County's unincorporated areas. A telephone survey and the final report for the contract documenting all outreach conducted were also completed. The current public outreach contract ended January 13, 2005. The next outreach contract is being developed and its issuance is anticipated for spring 2005.

- **Business Recycling Program**

During the reporting period, the contractor, Edelman, conducted site visits to over 200 businesses in the unincorporated areas to assist them in implementing recycling and waste reduction activities. To disseminate the Program's message and to raise awareness to the business community, in January Edelman mailed out the program's brochure to all 22,000 unincorporated area businesses. In addition to the mass mailings and the site visits, the contractor conducted one presentation to the California Cast Metals Association during a regional meeting in the Rosemead area.

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A telephone tracking survey was conducted to gather information on business recycling and waste reduction practices to evaluate the Program's impact on business practices and to measure changes in activities over time. Previous surveys have been conducted in 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, and 2004. The results of the recent survey indicated that now a greater proportion of businesses participate in waste prevention and reduction practices since the Program's inception in 1995.

To maintain the accuracy of business listings during the contract period, Edelman purchased a complete database of all businesses in the unincorporated areas from InfoUSA. This allows the contractor to add new businesses and refresh data for each business in the Business Recycling Program database. The Recycler Locator, available through the Program's web site at www.businessrecycling.com, is also continuously updated with the most up-to-date information of recyclers within the County of Los Angeles region.

HHW AND SPECIAL WASTE PROGRAMS

- **Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste HHW/E-Waste) Collection Program**

During the reporting period, a media plan was in place providing newspaper advertising, community announcements, and correspondence to County of Los Angeles and city officials to promote the 25 Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Collection Events (HHW/E-Waste) held in the Cities or unincorporated communities of: Whittier, Arcadia, Sierra Madre, Glendora, Carson, Burbank, Alhambra, South Pasadena, Covina, Beverly Hills, Montebello, Unincorporated Firestone District, Palmdale, Acton, Duarte, South Whittier, Bellflower, El Segundo, Monterey Park, Lomita, Malibu, LaVerne, Bell Gardens, Hermosa Beach, and South El Monte. As part of this program, the City of Los Angeles conducted a Hazmobile collection event in the community of Reseda. The City of Los Angeles' continues to collect HHW/E-Waste from all residents countywide at the five permanent collection centers.

From August 1, 2004, through January 31, 2005, 241,256 gallons of HHW and 690,770 pounds of electronic waste were collected at the County events from 26,640 car loads.

In addition, out of 15,948 car loads, 187,746 gallons of HHW and 514,633 pounds of electronic waste were collected at the City of Los Angeles events and collection centers from August 1, 2004, through November 30, 2004.

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- **Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC)**

As previously reported, in 2002 the Waste Board awarded a \$698,667 grant to the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale to establish the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center. This Center will provide a permanent location for residents to drop off HHW (twice a month), and E-Waste and waste tires (based on the availability of grant funds) on a quarterly basis. As agreed, the City of Palmdale will be the lead agency in constructing the Center. To expedite the Center's construction (since the Waste Board will only reimburse actual expenditures), the County and the two cities have agreed to advance one-third of Center's construction costs in the amount of \$232,899 which will be reimbursed from the grant proceeds.

In November 2004 it was determined that the Center exceeded its anticipated development cost, and the Cities agreed to share this excess cost with the County equally. In accordance with the agreement, in early November 2004 the County contributed an additional \$70,000 of non-reimbursable funding as our share of the excess cost towards the successful completion of AVECC.

On December 2, 2004, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Mayor of Palmdale, the Vice-Mayor of Lancaster, and a Waste Management, Inc., representative joined together in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Center. Once the Center is constructed, the County and Waste Management, Inc., will jointly fund the operation and maintenance of the Center for three years. The Center is anticipated to be open to the public in spring/summer 2005.

- **Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week**

The 2005 Antelope Valley Environmental Pride Week is scheduled to take place this spring. Past events during the week have included collection of waste tires, free trash collection, tree-planting events in various locations, a free one-day HHW/E-Waste collection event, and Smart Gardening Workshops. Anticipating the development of the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center, the one-day HHW/E-waste collection event traditionally scheduled during Environmental Pride week, will not be conducted in 2005. Instead, the AVECC will be collecting HHW/E-waste beginning this Spring or early Summer.

Environmental pride week is a collaborative effort between the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Waste Management, Inc., private entities, volunteers, and Public Works to raise environmental awareness in the Antelope Valley. We anticipate another successful event this year.

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- **Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Technology Center**

The County operates the Center in cooperation with the Waste Board to reduce waste tire disposal by promoting use of rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) constructed with recycled tires. The Center provides education, training, and consultation on the technology and use of RAC in road rehabilitation.

The Center conducted a workshop for the County of San Diego Department of Public Works and the City of San Diego on August 26, 2004, where there were over 40 attendees. The material presented included a discussion of the composition of RAC, the processes, benefits, production and history, photographs of streets which have been resurfaced with RAC, and a discussion of current and future issues. The Center also conducted a technical workshop in the City of Redlands on October 28, 2004, which was attended by Caltrans and City personnel.

The Center also participated in the League of California Cities Exposition held in Long Beach on September 17-18, 2004. Over 250 attendees, including mayors, council members, managers, engineers, attorneys, firemen, and consultants from Cities throughout the State visited the Center's booth and expressed interest in RAC. The Center handed out over 100 informational brochures and pamphlets, and was complimented in efforts in diverting tires from landfills by promoting the use of RAC. The Center created a database of contacts specifically for this conference to assist in the follow-up efforts. The Cities expressed interest in learning more about alternative uses of recycled tires such as in rubberized surfacing for playground, track, and other recreational facilities.

On November 3, 2004, in Sacramento, the Center met with Waste Board member Cheryl Peace and Caltrans Acting Chief Deputy Director to discuss the leadership role Caltrans plays with smaller cities and counties in the design of highways and the importance of how collaboration with the Center can stimulate the market for RAC. Caltrans agreed to share research information and invite the Center to participate in their RAC technical advisory group.

The Center held a booth at the 2004 Waste Management Conference and Exhibit on November 4, 2004, in Anaheim. The Conference was sponsored by the Southern California Waste Management Forum and the American Public Works Association. Over 200 council members and representatives of cities and counties attended the conference.

The Waste Board, at their December 2004 Meeting, approved to renew their contract with the Center at \$225,000 for fiscal year 04/05. However, RAC marketing duties had been removed from the scope of the contract. Per a Waste Board 2004

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commissioned report, the Center was not meeting expectations in marketing RAC, and therefore that function will be reassigned to a Waste Board contractor.

- **Used Motor Oil Recycling Program**

The Seventh Cycle Used Oil Block Grant final report was approved by the State. The final payment was received in the amount of \$42,060.37.

The Seventh Cycle Used Oil Opportunity Grant final report was submitted to the State in January 2005. The campaign consisted of Chinese newspaper/magazine ad placements promoting the used oil collection event. Ads were placed in AutoWorld Magazine, Sing Tao Daily News, and International Daily News. Flyers in Mandarin were also distributed to local merchants in the City of Monterey Park where the used oil collection event was held in November 2004. Additional flyers promoting the event and local certified centers in the unincorporated areas of Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights were provided to Supervisor Knabe's Office. Supervisor Knabe's Office distributed flyers to Hacienda Heights Library, Neighborhood Coordinating Council, and the Supervisor's District Office.

The collection event was conducted on November 13, 2004, at East Los Angeles Community College in Monterey Park. A total of 450 gallons of oil and 167 oil filters were collected from 86 residents. Our Mandarin Chinese hotline continued to assist callers with questions related to used motor oil recycling and the collection event. A total of 150 calls were received between August 2004 and January 2005.

Public Works was recently awarded the Tenth Cycle Used Oil Block Grant in the amount of \$335,079 with ten percent withheld until the final report is approved at the end of the grant term. The grant funds will be used to continue outreach efforts in English and Spanish as well as continued outreach to the Chinese communities in the County.

During the reporting period, the used oil campaign focused on a promotion with Kragen Auto Parts to encourage Do-It-Yourselfers (DIYers) to recycle used motor oil. Used oil recycling containers were given away between August and September 2004 at Kragen stores. The program was promoted through a five-second tagline in our 60-second used oil recycling radio public service announcements. A total of 2,700 containers were distributed through 53 selected stores within the County. The promotion was well received by DIYers and store managers. This pilot promotion is being considered for expansion to other stores utilizing Ninth Cycle grant funds. A used oil tracking study was done to assess the lasting impact of recent media activities on consumer used oil and filter disposal. The study's results are currently being reviewed.

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We are currently developing the media plan that will begin in March 2005 and be funded through the Ninth Cycle Block Grant.

- **Recycled Paper Purchasing Program**

County departments continue to purchase 30 percent post-consumer, recycled-content paper using the County's cooperative purchasing program which began on March 6, 2000. The program enables governmental entities, such as the Cities of El Segundo, Glendale, Hermosa Beach and Los Angeles to join the County in purchasing recycled bond paper. Through December 2004, more than 20 cities in the County are participating with County departments and have purchased more than 920,000 cases of paper with a cost savings of approximately \$710,000.

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