

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAM UPDATE

All local jurisdictions in California are required by law to file a report every year to CalRecycles (formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board) documenting progress toward achieving and maintaining the State's 50% mandate established under AB 939. In 2008, the State modified its attention from looking at simple diversion percentages to overall City programs. The focus was to insure cities had sufficient programs in place to ensure mandated diversion compliance. New diversion formulas were established for communities based on populations and waste disposed per person (in pounds). From these new calculations, compliance is measured and diversions established.

Historically, the City has maintained compliance with the State's mandated 50% for several years. In 2008, the City maintained a 59% diversion rate, 64% in 2009, and for 2010, the diversion rate was 58%. Diversion fluctuations are attributed to changes in the economy and its effect on personal consumer and commercial purchase practices, which translates into disposal practices. Even with the changes, the City continues to maintain a rate well above the State requirement.

The residential sector has a very active residential curbside recycling program in which recyclable materials, including glass, plastics, metal containers, paper products, and green waste, are collected on a weekly basis. Collection is handled by way of a franchise agreement with Waste Management/G.I. Industries. The 2010 diversion reports illustrate recycling from the residential sector yields a 56% diversion, while the commercial sector diverts 44% annually. Currently for 2011 year to date, the percentages are 57% and 44%, respectively.

The commercial sector is an annual permit system with 13 permitted collectors (haulers) who can provide regular commercial refuse collection and/or temporary bin service for construction projects. This open market system affords businesses the ability to select a provider that best meets their economic needs. The 13 permitted haulers can also provide temporary bin service in the residential sector. This affords residents the ability to select a hauler in a competitive price structure that best meets their needs. All permitted collectors are required to divert waste from the landfill.

City Programs

In addition to the regular residential collection, the City also has the following programs available to residents and businesses:

1. Free Bulky Item Collection (residential)
2. Free Saturday ABOP Drop Off (Used Oil, Paint, Oil Filters, Auto Batteries)
3. Free Residential Door-to-Door HHW/E-Waste Collection (3 times per year)
4. (New) Free Business –E-Waste Program (Twice per year)
5. Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program

While programs 1-4 do not factor into the overall City solid waste diversion, additional required reports are submitted to various state agencies. These programs continue to demonstrate to CalRecycles the commitment of the City to divert all waste from landfills and the comprehensive solid waste programs in place.

State Legislation

Over several fiscal years, the Legislature made several attempts to raise the bar in the State's mandated diversion for local municipalities. The Legislature believes it can achieve an overall 75% state solid waste diversion. Past bills introduced included:

- **SB 1020** (2007-08) CIWMB to develop a plan to meet 75% by 2020.
- **SB25** (2009-2010) Increased diversion rate to 60%.
- **AB 737** (2009-2010): Required CalRecycle to report to the Legislature on potential strategies to achieve 75% diversion.

Each of these bills stalled in Committee, with the exception of AB 737 that was vetoed by the Governor. These bills demonstrate the Legislature's commitment to changing the diversion mandate for cities and will require changes to the statewide solid waste programs. Should the diversion be changed, it is anticipated that modification to the City's Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program may be necessary as construction debris is highly recyclable. It is possible an organic (food waste) program may be necessary. These will require review by City staff.

Future Tasks

Staff continues to look forward and attempts to increase the City's diversion rate at a conservative pace in anticipation of a 75% diversion change. The City's solid waste consultant, Solid Waste Solutions Inc., will assist staff in identifying areas of improvement. For FY 2011-12, a review of the potential to increase the current Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program thresholds is scheduled. Additionally, composting workshops are being examined to help educate and promote waste reduction among residents.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council receive and file the report.