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CALIFORNIA



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May 4, 2010

Honorable Councilmember Ed Reyes
Chair, Planning & Land Use Management Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 5-4-10

Submitted in PLUM Committee

Council File No: 10-0468

Item No.: 12

Deputy: submitted by Bureau of Sanitation

Dear Councilmember Reyes,

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has mandated that all California Cities reach 50% landfill diversion by 2000. The Green material recycling and mulching operation plays an integral role in achieving the 50%. In addition the City Council on February 2006, adopted the Recovering Energy, Natural Resources, and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles (RENEW LA) Plan which provides a blueprint, and identified twelve goals, to set the City on the path to Zero Waste. The goal of zero waste as defined in the RENEW LA Plan is to reduce, reuse, recycle, or convert the resources now going to disposal so as to achieve an overall diversion level of 90% or more by 2025, and to dispose of only inert residual.

Mayor Villaraigosa has recently set a goal to achieve 70% diversion by 2013. As a result, the Bureau of Sanitation began an intense stakeholder-driven process in April 2007 to develop the 20-year Solid Waste Integrated Resource Plan (SWIRP) also known as the Zero Waste master plan. This plan identifies the City's commitment to achieving zero waste.

SWIRP is a two phase project. During the first phase, which was completed in June 2008, a total of 253 public outreach meetings were conducted (106 key constituent meetings, 27 house meetings, 75 business interviews, 42 SWIRP Regional Workshops in the six wastesheds throughout the City, 3 Citywide Conferences). To date, there are over 3,000 SWIRP stakeholders that have engaged in providing feedback and input into the Zero Waste Plan.

In May 2008, the SWIRP stakeholders made up of City residents identified the road to zero waste by developing 12 stakeholders Guiding Principles. The residents have called for an increase in recycling and composting operation, to help achieve the City zero waste and reduce reliance on landfills.

In addition the City has adopted a policy prohibiting the Bureau to landfill green material or utilize it as Alternative Daily Cover. The bureau has successfully met the requirements due



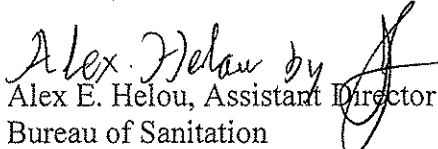
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largely to the presence of the green processing facilities in the valley. Currently all City collected green material 500,000 tpy are beneficially reused. Farmers and City residents rely on this material to reduce plant water consumption as well as the use of fertilizers.

The BOS currently has a contract with WM thru 2013 for the processing and beneficial re-use of material collected in the green container (Yard Trimmings). During the month of April 2010, approximately 500 TPD of yard trimmings collected in Valley were delivered to the Bradley site for beneficial re-use, An additional 590 TPD of yard trimmings collected from other areas of the city are processed at this site. The vehicles used by the BOS to deliver the material directly to the site are clean fuel vehicles powered by Natural Gas. After processing, the material is delivered to farmers for soil amendment and plant growth.

The current yard trimmings recycling operation being conducted at Bradley as well as the community has helped the City of Los Angeles achieve the highest recycling rate of any major City in the nation. 65% in 2009. Cal Recycles also promotes the composting and mulching of green material instead of landfilling.

Sincerely,


Alex E. Helou, Assistant Director
Bureau of Sanitation

c: Macaria Flores
Jorge Santiesteban