

**BUREAU OF SANITATION
AFTER ACTION REPORT OCCUPY LOS ANGELES
October 6, 2011 to November 30, 2011**

Report Prepared: December 5, 2011
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Bureau of Sanitation

Submitted in PS Committee
Council File No: 11-2004
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INTRODUCTION

On Saturday, October 6, 2011, approximately 400-500 ~~men~~, women and children¹ converged on the north lawn of City Hall as part of a growing national protest in opposition to corporate practices and financial conditions in this country. This protest became known as Occupy Los Angeles (Occupy LA). Protest encampments consisting of tents and other makeshift homes eventually formed on both the north and south lawns of City Hall (City Hall Park), thus encircling the entirety of City Hall and overtaking its grounds. The occupation lasted sixty days.

Protecting public health and the environment, the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS or Bureau) coordinated with other city agencies² to provide service and accommodate the daily infrastructure needs of the encamped protestors. Specifically, BOS provided solid waste, recycling and clean water management services. Below is a report detailing the Bureau's participation during the Two-month Occupation, Post-Occupation Clean-up, Bureau Response Assessment and Lessons to be Learned.

TWO-MONTH DEMONSTRATION

In coordination with Mayor Villaraigosa's office and the Los Angeles City Council³, BOS provided sanitation and environmental services to the encamped protestors in the form of equipment, collection services and labor during the sixty day encampment period of Occupy LA.

The Bureau tracked its deployment of solid waste management services for the sixty day period including refuse and recycling collection services as well as labor costs at 53.9 tons of refuse collected and 8.15 tons of recyclables with a total cost of

¹ This number is an estimate based on statistics from various media outlets. It should be noted that at any given time during the two-month occupation, the numbers fluctuated to be greater or less than the reported figures by the media.
² Coordination with other city departments includes LAPD, LAFD, BOSS, Public Health, etc.
³ See Los Angeles City Council Resolution , October 28, 2011

\$45,430.13.⁴ During the encampment period, BOS provided 31 black bins for non-recyclable solid waste, 40 blue recycling bins, and four four-yard cubic yard dumpsters that were serviced daily. The Bureau serviced these containers three to four times per week over the sixty-day period. Additional services included the procurement of port-a-toilets and hand-wash stations for the use of the protestors. The chart listed below gives a detailed breakdown of the solid resources management expenditures for both equipment and labor during and after the occupation.⁵

Summary of Expenditures for Occupy Los Angeles October 6, 2011 through November 30, 2011

	Prior to Clean-up Day (10/06/11- 11/29/11)	Clean-up Day (11/30/11):	TOTAL
Labor	\$ 8,622.87	\$ 29,856.46	\$ 38,479.33
Tip Fee	\$ 1,502.80	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,802.80
Container Costs	\$ 136.16	\$ 11.84	\$ 148.00
Bio-Waste	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Total Costs	\$ 10,261.83	\$ 35,168.31	\$ 45,430.13
Total Regular Hours Worked	70.90	288.00	358.90
Total Over-Time Hours Worked	22.50	54.00	76.50
Total Tonnage	28.90	25.00	53.90

The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) Solid Resources Program provided refuse and recycling collection services at the City Hall Park during the Occupy Los Angeles demonstrations from 10/6/11 to 11/30/11. During this period, BOS collected an estimated **53.9 tons of refuse, and 8.15 tons of recyclables** and incurred a total cost of **\$45,430.13**.

It should be noted that the tracking period began on October 6th and ended on November 30th.

⁵ The figures in this chart are the final numbers and supersede any previously submitted figures.

POST - DEMONSTRATION CLEAN-UP



On November 30, 2011, the Occupy LA protest was shut-down and the protesters were ordered to evacuate the entirety of the grounds surrounding City Hall just after midnight of the same day. The Bureau and other city agencies were notified of the evacuation and the immediate clean-up to follow. At 2:00 am, BOS Solid Resources Truck Operators (RTOs) were stationed at First and Main Streets awaiting further instructions from LAPD to move-in and begin the clean-up. BOS management began to assemble both its solid resources and clean water personnel including on-site management for purposes of the clean-up effort. Bureau staff was assembled and ready to be deployed for the clean-up by 4:30am immediately following LAPD's completion of the evacuation and cataloguing of personal items left behind by the 200 protestors who were arrested for refusal to comply with the evacuation order.

Solid Resource Division's Deployment



The BOS solid resource deployment involved the use of six rear-loader trucks, two front-loader trucks, two roll-off trucks and three box trucks. There were thirty-five staff present from the Solid Resources Divisions including Refuse Collection Truck Operators (RCTOs), Maintenance Laborers (MLs), Community Ambassadors (Ambassadors) and management. The cost of the clean-up effort alone was \$35,168.31.⁶ The Solid Resources clean-up staff cleared and collected an additional 25 tons of refuse and debris from the encampment site which roughly translates into the equivalent of servicing 2,000 single family residences.

⁶ See, Summary of Expenditures for Occupy Los Angeles October 6, 2011 through November 30, 2011 Chart at page 2 of this report.

Clean Water Collection Systems Division Deployment



The Bureau's Clean Water Collections Systems Division (Clean Water) also provided support for the Occupy LA clean-up effort. Clean Water dispatched four crews and a supervisor to pressure wash the sidewalks surrounding City Hall. The crews cleaned a total of nine catch basins adjacent to the complex and removed approximately 500 pounds of debris from those structures. Crews blocked the catch basins to prevent and catch any contaminated water that might have been introduced during the pressure washing process. The captured water was then disposed of properly into the sanitary sewer system. The entire process lasted approximately six hours and crews utilized approximately 10,000 gallons of potable water to accomplish this task. Additionally, the Bureau's Watershed Protection Division provided two inspectors for on-site monitoring and performance of run-off water sampling to determine the extent of any contamination.

On December 1, 2011, two crews and a supervisor were once again dispatched to support a final clean-up effort being performed by the Department of General Services to the interior walkways of the grounds. These crews followed the above-mentioned procedures to collect any potentially contaminated water and to ensure that it was properly disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. The chart listed below details the estimated costs associated with the Clean Water and Watershed Protection Divisions participation in the clean-up effort.

Clean Water/Watershed Protection Summary of Expenditures for Occupy Los Angeles November 30, 2011 & December 1, 2011

Watershed

Date Submitted: 12/02/2011

CITY EXPENDITURES REPORT: Occupy Los Angeles, City Hall

DEPARTMENT/BUREAU: Bureau of Sanitation /Watershed Protection Program

Submitted by: _____

Name, Title

Phone No.

Salary Costs			
Class Title	Activity/Work Performed	No. of Hours Worked	Salary Costs (Straight-time)
Wastewater Collection Worker		06	\$ 2,003
Wastewater Collection Supervisor		12	\$ 483
Env Compliance Insp		8.5	\$ 309
Sr Env Compliance Insp		1	\$ 41
Ch Env Compliance Insp		2	\$ 98
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
		0	\$ -
SUBTOTAL - Net Salary Costs (Straight-time)			\$ 2,933 (A)
		Compensated Time Off (CTO) 21.58%	\$ 833 (B)
SUBTOTAL - Gross Salary Costs (Net Salary Costs + CTO)			\$ 3,586 (C)

BUREAU OF SANITATION RESPONSE ASSESSMENT



The Bureau's response to Occupy LA was swift and comprehensive. The Bureau shifted staff and equipment resources to accommodate the unexpected demands of this unusual situation for both the two-month demonstration as well as the post-demonstration clean-up. The shifting of resources on November 30, 2011 resulted in temporarily delaying certain public education and outreach programs (BOS Ambassador Program) and the washing and repairs of collection containers.

The coordination between BOS and other agencies such as LAPD, LA City and County Health Departments was helpful and practically seamless. However, BOS believes that coordination with other agencies could be improved through better communication and assignment of accountability of emergency service functions. With the assignment of functions and responsibilities to appropriate agencies, unusual and unexpected situations could run even better without posing the threat of disruption to existing city services

LESSONS LEARNED



The Bureau believes that there are many “lessons to be learned” from Occupy LA including: (1) confirm city agency jurisdictional authority; (2) develop “Standard Operating Procedures” for response and clean-up for public demonstrations and protest events; (3) include as part of routine “Tailgate Safety” meetings for staff; (4) establish curtained-off “Relief Station” which includes water, fruit and energy snacks for staff; (5) reservation of all liquids for hazmat personnel to handle; (6) establish and set-up “Decon Station” for staff to change with eye-wash, sanitizing handwash and coveralls; (7) add “Standard Operating Procedures” to contingency plan maintained by Solid Resource Managers; (8) establish call-out list to include Los Angeles County Public Health, HRDD with an industrial hygienist reaction responder; (9) assign a “Site Commander” and “Communication Representative”; (10) have BOS “Call Center” instructions prepared; (11) establish a “Personnel Protective Equipment” checklist included with “Standard Operating Procedures” that includes tyvek suits, dust masks, head and shoe/boot coverings, and earplugs; and (12) consider the purchase of light-duty equipment with clamshell bucket.

The Bureau believes that the abovementioned items would greatly improve the overall coordination between city agencies as well as its own performance during situations similar to that of Occupy LA.