

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to SAN NEWS! Many of you expressed an interest in re-establishing a newsletter exclusively for Bureau of Sanitation news. Thanks to many of you who made this first edition possible. I know lots of thought and hard work went into this and it is much appreciated.



My hope is that SAN NEWS will be a forum to celebrate our achievements, explore solutions to our challenges, share information and have some fun. Consider this a work-in-progress that will grow as we do. I appreciate your thoughts and suggestions as SAN NEWS matures.

In the meantime, I know how much all of you contribute to the excellence of this Bureau. My future messages will focus on many of your outstanding achievements. You are truly the best

and I am honored to be your Director!

-Rita Robinson

A CURE FOR THE RECYCLING BLUES

Apartments and condos to receive City services.

By Cathie Chavez

The City of Los Angeles is among the growing number of cities committed to reducing the amount of trash sent to landfills. With a goal of diverting 70% of its trash from landfills by the year 2015, the city has developed specialized programs aimed at providing residents with enhanced recycling opportunities. One such program, the Multi-family Residential Recycling Program, is Los Angeles' first attempt at providing citywide recycling services to multifamily residential properties. Starting August 2007, multi-family residential properties, such as apartments and condominiums, will be eli-

gible to receive FREE recycling service similar to the type provided to single family residential homes.

Historically, the Los Angeles Municipal Code designates apartment buildings and condominiums of five units and larger as "commercial," which makes them ineligible for City collection services, including recycling services. Over the past three years, the City of Los Angeles has been conducting a pilot program to determine the best way to provide recycling service to multifamily residential buildings contracting with private waste haulers.

(see CURE on page 7)

More than an Internship

By Carolyn Cardenas

When I first found that I was going to be working at the Bureau of Sanitation for the next six weeks, I was worried that I was not going to enjoy any of it. When many hear "sanitation", they assume the work is going to be dirty, and I admit I assumed the same, but from the very first day I knew my expectations were about to change. Bhupendra Patel (IWMD Chief Industrial Waste Inspector I), who has been amazing to me, sat me down and gave me a detailed overview of the responsibilities of the IWMD and I was nothing short of overwhelmed. We went through the different treatment plants in the Bureau, how they are different, why Hyperion is so amazing, why we have to monitor what restaurants and industries discharge into the sewers, and more importantly, the consequences of negligence.

Some of the information I was familiar with, but never did I consider the significance of the work that is done nor the value of the people that have to do it. I think that I had a very nonchalant attitude about the City, and really didn't think that it had an influence over my life. I always tried to be aware of my own actions; for example, I recycle, I try not to litter, and I never mark up private property, but I did all this because it was how I was brought up, not because I acknowledged my impact to my community-but I was soon going to realize how much it did.

On my very first field trip, I followed Environmental Engineering Assoc. II Ahmed Ghanem (WESD) to different sewer lines. We met up with a couple of workers from WCSD who helped open the maintenance holes. Ahmed explained about the air pres-

(see INTERNSHIP on page 6)



Pictured left: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa speaks in front of an apartment building on Figueroa.

Recycling Ambassadors Hit The Streets of L.A.

By Richard Wozniak

Who are those guys in the blue shirts sorting through the black, green and blue containers on your street and why are they doing it?

The Bureau of Sanitation is proud to announce the launching of our new **Recycling Ambassador Program** and introduce our new **Recycling Ambassadors**. The ambassadors duties are to help us all improve our recycling habits and reduce waste destined for the landfill, by giving residents tips on reuse and recycling and educating residents on the proper use of the three containers.

The Bureau of Sanitation is working hard at finding alternatives to land filling, through methods such as alternative technologies, reduction in packaging, reuse of materials and increased recycling. Since the inception of the blue recycling container program the city has achieved over 60% diversion, the highest in the country for cities with a population above one million thanks to the great effort made by our City residents. We still need your help to reach the goal of 70% diversion by the year 2015, set by our Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. One great place to start is by placing

a separate recycling container inside your home right next to your trash container. In most homes you'll find that if you take the time to separate in your home, the recycling container will fill up twice as fast as the other container.

Did you know that throughout our city neighborhoods we discard over 400 tons of recyclable materials into our household black contain-

City would receive \$10,000 per day in recycling revenue. That's a whopping \$22,000 per day turn around. Waste characterization studies have identified the following recyclable materials in the black bins: newspapers, magazines, envelopes, catalogs, phone books, plastic bottles and jugs, plastic bags glass, metals and aluminum cans, yard trimmings and metal and plastic hangers.

In addition to working on getting the recyclables out of the black and into the blue, they are also focusing on contamination in the blue bins. A large portion of the material that you take the time to separate and place in your blue bins is getting contaminated? This merely means that the items that start out clean in your blue bin can become dirty once they are all mixed together and compacted in the recycling truck.

How can you do anything about that? Good question. The contamination normally comes in three ways:

- 1) By inadvertently placing non recyclable items such as clothing, carpets, fabric, hoses, window glass, etc. in the blue bin. Although some of these items may be of a recyclable content they are currently not part of our recycling program. (please see below for proper disposal).
- 2) By placing recyclable containers into the blue bin without fully emptying the contents (i.e. soda,

(see RECYCLING page 5)



Recycling Ambassadors top row from left, Wortham Briscoe, James Norman, Elton Atkins, Littleton Gardner, and Frederick Glover; bottom row from left, Jose Alonso, Daniel Lucero, Jesus Morga, and Emanuel Madison.

ers everyday and that these recyclable materials are being transported directly to a landfill? That's 800,000 pounds per day! This equates to approximately \$12,000 per day in landfill tipping fees. Now if we were recycling that same 400 tons per day, the

Engineering Class Title Change: Sanitary becomes Environmental

By Traci Minamide

It's official! The class title of the City's sanitary engineering series has been officially changed to *environmental engineering*. The Bureau of Sanitation initiated this effort over a year ago and after many discussions between the Office of Management Employee Services (OMES), Personnel Department, affected departments, and affected unions, the Civil Service Commission approved the title change at their June 14, 2007 Board meeting. The term environmental engineering is much more in tune with today's times and has become

widely used in the engineering industry as well as in college curriculums throughout the nation. With so much emphasis now being placed on protecting our environment, this new title creates a more positive and immediate connection to the type of work performed by our engineers and the great efforts being made to improve the environment and protect our natural resources.

The class title change is effective throughout the City in all departments and renames the sanitary engineering series as shown below.

(Job duties remain unchanged.)

Environmental Engineering Associate
Code 7871

Environmental Engineer
Code 7872

Senior Environmental Engineer
Code 7874

Principal Environmental Engineer
Code 7875

So all you environmental engineers, now is the time to update your business cards!

SANITATION RECEIVES TWO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

We did it again!! The Bureau's efforts to be a leader in environmental awareness and education have once again been nationally recognized—this time by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). NACWA awarded the Bureau's "Sewer Science Resource Video Program" as the winner of the 2007 National Environmental Achievement Award in Public Information and Education category.

The Sewer Science Resource Video Program is a two-video set developed and produced through the collaborative efforts of Industrial Waste Management Division (IWMD) and Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) staff. The two video set is comprised of Teacher's Version and Student's Version. The Teacher's Version acts as a resource and guide to educators and mentors who would want to teach the Sewer Science Program. The Student's Version helps to broaden the students' knowledge of environmental pollution and its prevention and control, through the teaching of the importance of wastewater treatment systems.

The Sewer Science Videos are an extraordinary resource for our school district, other public agencies and teachers nationwide. Cities such as Redwood, Palo Alto, Washington, D.C., and Dallas have adopted the Sewer Science Educational Program and benefited from the use of these videos.

The Goals of the Sewer Science Resource Video Program are:

- Launch a self-sustainable grass-roots approach to deliver messages of pollution prevention and environmental protection.
- Increase the public's environmental awareness by discussing wastewater treatment and water pollution prevention and control.

The Video Program Objectives are:

- Facilitate the learning process through videos of actual treatment processes and living micro-organisms necessary in treating wastewater.
- Visualize the steps of laboratory testing procedures and safety protocols.
- Emphasize safe alternative cleaning methods and environmental-friendly disposal habits.
- Equip the educators with sufficient resources to independently deliver the Sewer Science Educational Program.

The video program helps the students to learn interactively, become active thinkers on issues relating to wastewater pollution and environmental protection, and be more aware of their responsibility to practice proper disposal habits. With these videos, teachers have an additional resource in instilling environmental accountability to our young citizens and the public in general. An additional benefit in the production of these videos has been their use as training videos for the City's wastewater treatment operators. Copies of the videos will be made available for public access at the local libraries.

During its annual meeting and awards ceremony on July 18, 2007 in Cleveland, Ohio, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) awarded the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation 2 prestigious national awards. The awards received by the Bureau of Sanitation were:

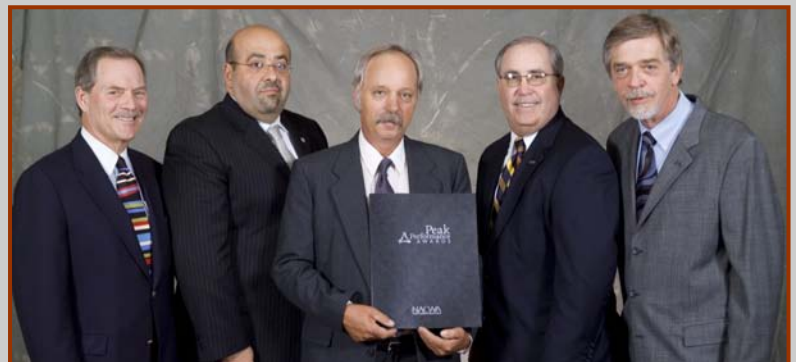
Recipient of the 2007 Public Information and Education Award:

Bureau of Sanitation's "Effective 21st Century Learning: Sewer Science Resource Video Program" for outstanding and innovative video, printed publication and/or educational program related to wastewater treatment or pollution prevention or control.



Recipient of 2007 Platinum Award:

Bureau of Sanitation's Terminal Island Treatment Plant for achieving 100% compliance with the NPDES permit limit for 6 consecutive calendar years.



NACWA Representatives flank: second from left - Wastewater Engineering's Division Manager Adel Hagekhalil, center - Terminal Island's Superintendent David Gumaer, and second from right - Assistant City Attorney Chris Westhoff.

BUREAU OF SANITATION EMPLOYEES GIVE BACK - IN ALASKA

Rodney Bernaldo, Management Analyst supporting WESD, volunteered for two weeks this past July with Habitat for Humanity International. He had the privilege of working alongside 20 other volunteers from across the country (from Rhode Island to California) of all ages (from 17 through 69) to help build 12 townhouses (see below) in Anchorage, Alaska through a program called Global Village which

ences of building homes in the Philippines. This has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences he has ever had. A Global Village adventure can be hard work, yes, but it is certainly far more.

Accommodations consisted of several Sunday school rooms (sleeping bags on air mattresses) and a kitchen and large dining area where dinner was hosted for the Habitat partner families. It was awesome meeting the families that they were helping. There was plenty of work to keep the group busy as each unit progressed at different stages. There was framing, hanging sheetrock, painting, roofing, installing siding and even assisting an electrician pulling wire. After long days at work they would take showers at the Alaska Club Fitness Center then partake in various coordinated activities taking advantage of the longer summer days (about 19 hours of sunlight). Besides the heavy labor, there was also time to kayak, bike, hike, cruise the Kenai Fjords National Park, visit glaciers, and

experience the marvelous landscapes of the last frontier state.



provides hope and homes to low income families. They like to say, not a hand out but a hand up.

He was inspired to participate back in March, after a coworker, Michelle Saalfeld, shared her experi-

His most memorable moment was during an early morning stroll through Homer and hearing a swoosh swoosh swoosh overhead. It was a bald eagle flying 30 feet above. He imagines by now, two families have been fortunate enough to move in. If you've been inspired, check out their website at www.habitat.org

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MARCH OF DIMES CAMPAIGN

The Bureau of Sanitation has been a strong supporter of the March of Dimes efforts to fund research and programs to prevent premature birth and other threats to babies' health. The Wastewater Engineering Services Division (WESD) coordinated this year's Bureau of Sanitation 2007 March of Dimes Campaign. Thank you to everyone in Sanitation for raising \$17,000 for this year's campaign! The staff of the Bureau of Sanitation

rose to the challenge of supporting the March of Dimes Campaign by:

1. Participating in the Griffith Park Walk America event;
2. The purchase of tee shirts, barbecue meals, flashlights, stuffed animals, MP3 players, and other products to raise money.
3. Providing the Divisions' March of

Dimes Coordinators assistance for the fund raising events.

There are many Bureau of Sanitation staff members whose assistance resulted in a successful March of Dimes Campaign. Please find a partial list of March of Dimes Coordinators below:

- Administration - Rowena Ho
- D.C. Tillman - Dora Avendano
- Environmental Monitoring - Mark Moshlak
- Financial Management - David Ventura
Toni Li
Marshall Gable
- Human Resources Development - Dave Taylor
- Hyperion Treatment Plant - Tracy Duffin
Michael Dinius
Keela Gordon
- Industrial Waste Management - Fariba Fahami
- L.A. Glendale WRP - Joseph Regala
- Regulatory Affairs - Joyce Jones
- Solid Resources Citywide Recycling - Mayra Araza



Pictured left: The presentation of the \$17,000 check from the Bureau of Sanitation to the March of Dimes on July 16, 2007 at the Public Works Building. Nathalia Allevato of the March of Dimes receives the check from the Bureau of Sanitation Director, Rita Robinson.

Driver's Summit

The Bureau of Sanitation held its first "Commercial Driver Safety Summit" on Saturday, June 23, 2007. This summit brought all of the Bureau's commercial drivers together in the first mega event of this type. Over 700 drivers/operators attended the event held at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Safety tips, important information including new laws and how it will affect their licenses were shared by the California Highway Patrol. Speakers included Board of Public Works President Cynthia Ruiz, Bureau of Sanitation Director Rita Robinson, and Executive Officer Enrique Zaldivar.



Pictured right, the California Highway Patrol presenting their lecture to Bureau of Sanitation drivers and operators.

(RECYCLING continued from Page 2)

water, milk, juice, ketchup bottles, mayonnaise jars, pet food cans, pizza and fast food containers, empty plant pots with dirt residue, small amounts of building materials etc.) Once compacted in the truck, the liquids, jells, and syrups mix with the dirt, debris and building materials which then contaminate the recyclables.

3) By ignoring the type of container and purposely placing yard trimmings, building materials, dirt, food waste, diapers and/or hazardous material in the blue bins.

So, as you can see, the ambassadors have a big job on their hands. They will be in neighborhoods throughout the city, checking the containers for proper usage and leaving notifications at homes where improvement is

needed. They will be handing out educational materials, discussing collection issues with the residents they come in contact with, collecting field data, and tracking their findings. Public outreach meetings will be scheduled with community groups and neighborhood councils to discuss the findings in individual neighborhoods and propose possible solutions. For more information please visit: <http://san/srcred/index.htm>



Blood Donor Center

AND THE BUREAU PROVIDE HELP, BLOOD DRIVE

Refuse Collection Truck Operator Andy Morales (pictured below), works at the North Central District and has been with the City of Los Angeles almost 22 years. Earlier this year he was diagnosed with a form of cancer.



Part of his rigorous treatment program requires that he receive regular blood transfusions. During the third week of June, the Bureau organized a Blood Drive with City of Hope at three locations. The Blood Drive proved to be very successful and collectively, 110 units of blood were given for the cause. As of August, Andy has had a successful surgery and is at home recovering.

Kudos to Malikka Gist (Public Works Building) for coordinating with all the parties involved, and to the South Yard's Cherysies Williams for collecting the most sign-ups and Ce-

ilia Aragon for helping with the decorations. Also a big thank you goes out to Adriana Nunez (North Central), Paula Hofsommer (West Valley), and Efren Corran (East Valley), location coordinators for the events for both the South and Valley Divisions. Finally, thank you to everyone who participated; know that you made a difference in someone's life.



Pictured above, donating his pint is Thomas Lucero, Refuse Collection Truck Operator from the North central yard. Thank you to all the donors.



Pictured left, Superintendent Jonathan Polk, of the South and Harbor District yards giving his pint.

Did you know that one, just one, blood donation can touch 3 lives? It's simple math: 1 pint = 3 lives..

INTERNSHIP (continued from Page 1)

sure and why it has to be watched, what contributes to the smell and gases, and I was able to actually look inside the maintenance hole. When I related this to my friends, they thought I was crazy for actually being excited and proud that I was able to do such a thing, but from that moment on I really began appreciating the City a little more.

And, of course, this wasn't the only trip in which I learned something new. On my trip to the Environmental Monitoring Division, I had a chance to see real scientists at work and learned about the process a sample goes through. When I shadowed Mel Haroutounyan (Industrial Waste Inspector) on one of his inspections, I learned how an inspector goes about inspecting an Industrial User; what they look for, how they handle themselves and their contacts, and what a report entails. When I went to Lopez Canyon landfill, I learned from Rosalia Rojo (Environmental Engineer) and James Kurz (Solid Waste Disposal Superintendent II) how they have to control all the trash, hide it, and watch how it's settling. We even discussed the problems they face from the community.

All of this is but a taste of my experience here, and, as you can see, it is a lot to grasp. I've learned and seen a lot and I am grateful that Ronald Mayuyu (Environmental Engineering Assoc. IV - IWMD) and Bhu-

pendra Patel have worked so hard to try to expose me to everything. I'm leaving with a newfound appreciation of my City and this Bureau, and most importantly with an understanding of how the different levels and establishments within the City of Los Angeles work together for a common goal: to create a clean and safe environment for the people of Los Angeles. Thanks to the City, the staff of IWMD, and this program for all the wonderful exposure I've had these past six weeks.

Background:

Carolyn Cardenas is a graduate of University High and was hired through the Board of Public Works High School Internship program. Sponsored by CH2MHill, she was assigned to work for the Bureau of Sanitation, Industrial Waste Management Division (IWMD). Carolyn will be attending Santa Monica Junior College in the fall and plans to transfer to UCLA.

The Board of Public Works, along with MWH, developed the High School Intern-

ship Program to expose disadvantaged and minority students to career options within the water, wastewater and environmental engineering industry by integrating classroom learning with work-based experience. In 2007, 57 interns were hired through this program. For more information, please contact Diana Williams of the Board of Public Works at (213) 978-0249 or Diana.Williams@lacity.org.



Carolyn Cardenas (right) looks on with Herbert Corleto of CH2MHill (no vest), and La Tanya Moore of Dorsey HS (2nd from left) and Veronica Lopez of Grant HS. Ahmed Ghanem of WESD (kneeling) installs a pressure-measuring device.

MARCH OF DIMES (continued from Page 4)



Pictured above: The Bureau of Sanitation team presenting the check to Nathalia Allevato.

- Solid Resources South Collection
Solid Resources Valley Collection
Malikka Gist
- Solid Resources Support Services
Jeanette Hall-Smith
- S.R. Processing & Construction
Vanessa Williams
- Terminal Island
Cary Chiang
- Wastewater Collection
Simboa Wright
- Wastewater Engineering Services
Tina Navarro
- Watershed Protection Division
Lisa LaFrance

A final thank you to WESD Manager Adel H. Hagekhalil, and Kook Dean for leading the Bureau's efforts.

Quality & Productivity Award for Innovation in Odor Control Effort

On May 31st, members of the Sewer Odor Control Team were presented an award from the City's Quality and Productivity Commission for their innovation and initiative in improving the way the Bureau of Sanitation conducts pressure tests throughout the sewer system. The award ceremony is an annual event and was hosted at the Biltmore Hotel. The guest speaker/M.C. was local reporter David Horowitz. Along with the presentation ceremony, the event included a

luncheon and a reception/exhibit time before the ceremony for each award recipient to set up a booth to present their programs. Twenty two groups from throughout the City were honored with awards.

The Bureau's Sewer Odor Control Group is comprised of employees from both the Wastewater Collection System Division and the Wastewater Engineering Services Division. One task of the group is testing both pressure and hydrogen sul-

fide levels within the sewer system. Until recently, this was performed by consultants since the Bureau lacked the equipment and the knowledge to conduct the tests. The team was recognized for determining how to create the equipment and how to conduct the tests themselves, avoiding the inefficiencies and costs associated with working through an outside third-party. It is estimated that the City will save approximately \$60,000 per year as a result of this innovation.



Pictured from left to right, Rafael Yanez, Vlad Lorenzo, Farah Lavergne, Ahmad Ghanem, Scott Hare, Adel Hagekhalil, Brent Lorscheider

CURE (continued from Page 1)

City staff and residents have been pleased with the results of the three year pilot program that serviced nearly 70,000 multi-family residential units. Approximately 10,900 tons of waste have been diverted from landfills during the pilot program despite its limited service area. Property owners observed fewer overflowing trash bins and odor complaints because of their ability to store recyclables in blue bins. Some buildings were able to divert enough recyclable materials from their trash bin that they reduced the frequency of trash pickups. Ultimately, they were able to significantly reduce the cost of weekly trash collection.

With the success of the pilot program, the city has pledged to implement a

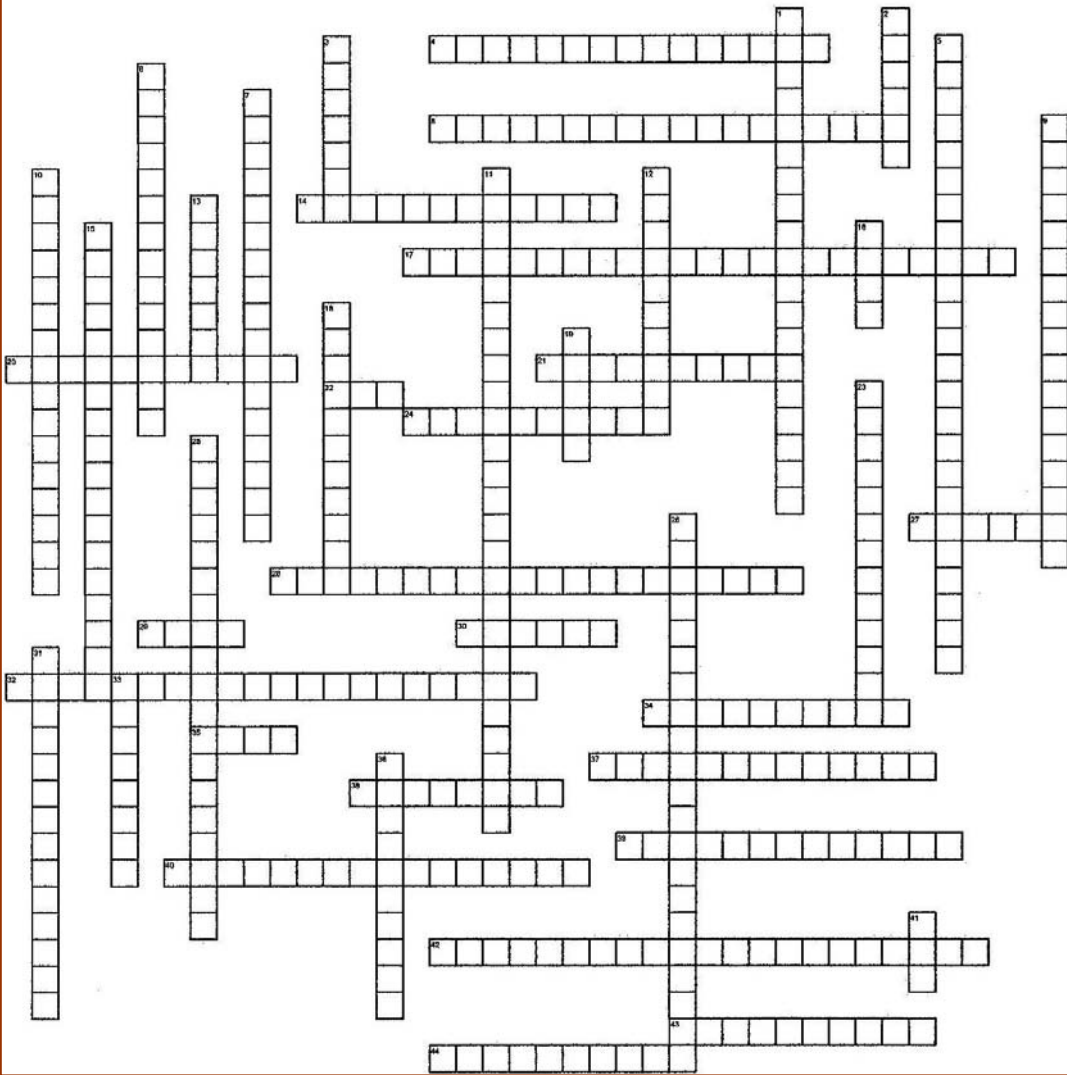
permanent citywide program that would provide recycling services to the over half a million units in the city through a source separated recycling program. Participants will segregate recyclables from regular trash and place commingled recyclables into designated blue bins. In addition to receiving free recycling services and blue bins, residents will also be provided educational materials explaining what types of recyclables can be placed in blue bins. Recyclables accepted in the blue bins include beverage containers, bimetal cans, glass containers, newspaper, mixed paper, plastic bags, wire hangers, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, styrofoam and many other items. The recyclables will be taken to Material Recovery Facilities where they will be sorted, baled, bundled, and shipped

to companies needing recyclable material for the manufacturing of new products.

Since registration began in mid-2006, approximately 500 buildings have expressed interest in participating in the citywide program. Individual property owners and project management groups have agreed to register their properties at the request of tenants or homeowner associations. The enrollment list is expected to grow significantly as additional multifamily residences request to participate in the program. Tenants, property owners or property management groups interested in enrolling buildings in the Multifamily Residential Recycling Program can contact 1-800-773-2489 or email multifamily@lacity.org. Further information is also available at www.larecycles.org

Financially Yours

JoAnn Moss



WORD BANK

(hint: spaces count)

- BENCHMARKING
- BUDGET
- CIP
- COMMERCIAL PAPER
- CONTRACT AGENCIES
- CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
- DEDICATION
- ENTERPRISE
- ENVIROMENTAL LEADERSHIP
- EVAPORATION
- FAIR AND EQUITABLE
- FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
- FISCAL YEAR
- GOAL
- IRRIGATION
- KRAS
- LANDFILL
- LEADERSHIP
- LEGAL MANDATE
- LOW INCOME
- MISSION STATEMENT
- MOTTO
- OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP
- ORGNIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
- ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY
- OUTSTANDING SERVICES
- PRC
- PROJECT RESTORE
- QUALITY
- QUALITY PEOPLE
- RECYCLE
- SAFE
- SAFETY AND SECURITY
- SANITATION
- SEWAGE
- SPECIAL FUNDS
- SSC EXEMPTION
- STRATEGIC PLAN
- TEAMWORK
- TRUST AND INTEGRITY
- VALUES
- VISION STATEMENT
- WORK ORDER

ACROSS

4. Oversees restoration of City Hall and other cultural landmarks
8. Sewer Service Charge must be
14. Comparing performance against other agencies
17. Course of action chosen as right approach to achieve goals
20. July 1 through June 30
21. SSC subsidies are available to this type of customer
22. CIP oversight committee
24. Bureau Motto, Part 2 (see 31 down and 32 across)
27. Liquid waste containing solids
28. KRA 5
29. Desired result or outcome
30. Prized abstract qualities
32. Bureau Motto, Part 3 (see 24 across and 31 down)
34. Used to track costs
35. Program to dispose of hazardous waste
37. What you get if you're an SB 1821 property
38. Place for refuse
39. Funds that are not general
40. What on organization would like to be
42. Bureau Value
43. Type of funding that must be self supporting
44. Bureau value

DOWN

1. Bureau value
2. Summary of intended expenditures
3. How to reduce refuse
5. KRA 1
6. Comprehensive document that is set forth as part of the OS
7. What an organization aims to do
9. City provides wastewater services to 29 of these
10. Short-term debt financing
11. KRA 6
12. Activity that may result in a commercial SSC adjustment
13. Bureau value
15. Assessment of the viability, stability, and profitability of a business
16. Critical areas of focus
18. Activity qualifying someone for a commercial SSC adjustment
19. Favorite saying of an organization or group
23. KRA 2
25. KRA 4
26. Community clean up and anti-graffiti program
31. Bureau motto (see 24 across and 32 across)
33. Bureau value
36. Hygienic disposal or recycling of waste
41. Plan for infrastructure improvements

A solution to this puzzle will be provided in the Winter issue.



SAN NEWS is published by the DPW, Bureau of Sanitation, 1149 S. Broadway, Ste. 900, Los Angeles, CA 90015

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