

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: June 6, 2001

To: Ellen Stein, President
The Board of Public Works

From: Judith A. Wilson, Director
Bureau of Sanitation

Subject: Transmittal of Revised 70% Strategy Letter For Your Consideration

On May 23, 2001, the Board of Public Works began consideration of the strategic recommendations for the City's year 2020 70% diversion rate goal. At the meeting, testimonies were received from several speakers and letters submitted by three interested parties. The matter was continued for two weeks to allow the Bureau to review testimonies and letters from interested parties. Upon review of the information received, the Bureau made substantial changes to the recommendation letter, which will improve the City's overall strategy for reaching 70% diversion. Other written comments received as of Friday, June 1, 2001 have been included, as appropriate.

The following general and/or specific revisions were incorporated into the current letter:

- 1) References to the proposed hauler franchise have been removed from the letter, as the report will not be forwarded with the 70% diversion strategy letter and will require separate action with the Board, the Mayor, and the City Council.
- 2) The Bureau has added language that strengthens the commitment to reducing the amount of material reaching landfill disposal. For example, the following sentence was added on Page 1: "The City must continue its efforts by focusing on the waste currently reaching disposal sites and implementing programs to reduce overall landfill disposal."
- 3) Language was added and/or modified throughout the document to specify that private sector participation would be included. For example, the following sentence was added under Goal 1 – Maximize Waste diversion, "New programs to further increase waste diversion from the waste that is currently landfilled will incorporate both private and public sector participation in both the planning and implementation process."
- 4) The following three items were added under Recommendations for Immediate Implementation (Page 3):
 - a) Establish a website for posting of comments, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes pertaining to solid waste issues such as monthly reports, Board of Public Works meeting agendas, and staff reports on program evaluation.
 - b) Establish a stakeholders group with private sector participation as well as other interested parties with regular open meetings to focus on program development, funding, and other specific aspects of waste diversion and disposal.
 - c) Use pilot programs as a tool to test the viability and efficiency of potential new programs.

- 5) Language was added to further strengthen the commitment to increase the use of mixed waste processing facilities, which will service both residential and business wastestreams within the City.
- 6) A sentence was added on Page 2 to restate that new programs will be designed to maximize the diversion potential at the lowest cost.

As presented in the May 23rd Board Report, the Bureau will use information from the waste characterization study currently in progress to develop specific recommendations for pilots and programs. Specific issues and programs are not intended to be part of this general strategy letter. The new Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) will be reviewed by the stakeholders group and will then be submitted for consideration to the Board of Public Works, the Mayor, and the City Council. The strategy letter is intended to be a policy directive to reaffirm the 70% diversion goal and to provide direction. It is intended to be descriptive, not all-inclusive.

Many of the comments which were not incorporated regarded specific potential programs and will be investigated further during the development of the new SRRE. One letter dealt specifically with the Solid Resources Infrastructure Facilities Plan, which had been approved by the Board in March, 2000, and forwarded to the Mayor and the City Council. At that time the document was posted on the Bureau's website for greater distribution. This document is currently ready for reconsideration at the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee. It was initially heard in September 2000, and a revision subsequently posted on the Bureau's website in November 2000. Interested parties will be notified when it is scheduled for consideration.

All those who provided written comments, testimony, or attended the previous stakeholders meetings will be invited to continue their participation as new programs are developed.

The Bureau recommends that the letter with the strategic recommendations for meeting the year 2020 70% diversion goal be approved and forwarded to the Mayor and the City Council for consideration.

6/7/01

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