



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT*** **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **PARK PLACE RECOGNIZED AS RECYCLING COMPLEX OF THE MONTH**

#### ***DOWNTOWN FACILITIES EXCELS IN WASTE DIVERSION***

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is proud to honor Park Place as the July, 2009 Complex of the Month for their commitment to the City of San Diego's recycling program.

The condominium/townhouse complex is a participant in the Environmental Services Department's multi-family recycling pilot program. Through this program, participants are provided on-site assistance with setting up disposal areas for recycling materials. With grant funding provided by the California Department of Conservation, residents were given reusable recycling bags to carry recyclables to the designated disposal locations in their complex.



Park Place, managed by The Prescott Companies, works with residents on a one-on-one basis to assist them with proper recycling procedures. Since receiving the reusable bags, they have doubled their diversion rate. Management staff continues monitoring the trash output to decrease its collection services to achieve the CRO's 40% diversion goal.

With a large portion of Park Place occupants being seasonal residents, staff relies on a core group of participants who are excited about the recycling programs.

"We applaud their efforts and continue to provide support to them and all the other participants in our programs," said, Stephen Grealy, Waste Reduction Program Manager for the City of San Diego.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On January 1, 2009, apartments and condominium complexes of 50 residential units or more, and businesses of 10,000 square feet or larger are required to comply with the City's recycling ordinance by recycling at least all plastic, glass bottles, jars, cans, paper, and cardboard.

The 2007 Recycling Ordinance aims to reduce recyclables entering the Miramar Landfill and to stretch its life, meet California recycling mandates to increase recycling and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on the Ordinance visit [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/).

### **ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- Owners and property managers of apartment and condominiums must provide recycling services to their tenants and employees.
- Apartments and condominiums are required to provide recyclables collection at least twice a month.
- Commercial and non-residential buildings are required to provide collection of recyclables as frequently as necessary.
- Facilities must have designated areas for City-approved recycling containers, and containers must have appropriate signage.
- Owners and property managers must also provide education to occupants on the types of materials accepted in the recycling program and location of the recycling containers.
- It is the responsibility of all tenants and employees to participate in the program by separating recyclables from trash and placing recyclables in the designed containers.

### **RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT**

Violators who do not comply with the statute's requirements are subject to inspections, Notices of Violation tags, and possible fines:

- Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officers are conducting inspections in targeted areas and based on complaints and reports provided to the City.
- Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitation Drivers are placing violation tags on refuse containers that include recyclables.
- The first, second and third violations will be handled with notification and advisement of recycling requirements and the provision of technical assistance from City staff.
- After the third inspection, violations will be cited and fined.
- Fines are based on the magnitude of the violation.
- Cases will be referred to the City Attorney's Office after constant refusal to comply with recycling ordinance requirements.
- Fines up to \$1,000 will be assessed in cases where education and assistance have been offered and the violator continues to fail to meet the requirements of the Ordinance.
- To report possible violations of the recycling ordinance, such as recyclables discarded in a trash container, call 858-694-7000, or e-mail [sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov](mailto:sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov).

### **HELP IS AVAILABLE**

The City can help with educational resources and technical assistance to help ensure businesses, apartment and condo complexes and special events implement successful recycling programs:

- The City of San Diego Environmental Service Department's waste reduction web page, [www.sdrecyclingworks.com](http://www.sdrecyclingworks.com), provides links to downloadable fliers, sample tenant letters and sample newsletter articles to be used in setting up a recycling program. The web page also has many other resources including lists of service providers and links to other helpful organizations.
- City Recycling Specialists can provide free technical assistance and advice on how to set up a successful program. Call 858-694-7000. Or e-mail: [sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov](mailto:sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov).