



Association of Local Government Auditors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUDIT REPORT WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

LEXINGTON, KY -- The 2014 Exemplary Knighton Award for best performance audit in the extra-large audit shop category has been awarded to San Diego's Office of the City Auditor by the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA). The Award was formally presented at ALGA's Annual Conference in San Diego, CA, on May 4, 2015.

The report, [*Performance Audit of the Environmental Services Department's Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs: Opportunities Exist to Improve Recycling Rates and Reduce Adverse Impacts Generated by Waste Hauling*](#), was judged on several key elements, such as the potential for significant impact, the persuasiveness of the conclusions, the focus on improving government efficiency and effectiveness, and its clarity, concision and innovation.

The audit is a thorough and well-documented examination of an issue – increasing recycling rates - that is an environmental and financial imperative for San Diego taxpayers, residents, and businesses. The only City-operated landfill is nearing capacity, and when it closes, disposal costs are expected to rise significantly. The audit found several innovative ways the recycling rate can be improved for single-family residents, who receive trash and recycling collection services from the City, as well as multi-family and business properties, which are serviced by private haulers.

Most importantly, the audit evaluated the City's current non-exclusive franchise system, where 12 private haulers operate in all areas of the City, and found that the City would benefit from a transition to a districted exclusive franchise system, where each hauler operates within a defined area. This system can produce better incentives for private haulers to recycle, and also allows haulers to maximize routing efficiency - resulting in better prices for customers and reductions in street deterioration, air pollution emissions, and noise.

The awards committee also noted the report is especially effective for three types of readers: 1) busy decision-makers who need to understand issues quickly and why they matter, 2) those that learn best via visual representation, and 3) readers who need details in order to champion change.

Each year, local government audit organizations from around the U.S. and Canada submit their best performance audit reports for judging. The purpose of the competition is to improve government services by encouraging and increasing levels of excellence among local government auditors. Judges from peer organizations determined that this audit was among the best of 2014.

The Association of Local Government Auditors is a national audit association founded in 1985 committed to supporting and improving local government auditing through advocacy, collaboration, education, and training, while upholding and promoting the highest standards of professional ethics.