



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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CITY REFUSE COLLECTION FLEET LAUDED FOR INNOVATION AND COST SAVINGS

SAN DIEGO, CA– The City of San Diego’s Collection Services Division was named 2005 Fleet of the Year by FleetOwner magazine. The recognition, announced by Mayor Jerry Sanders and Council President Scott Peters during the July 11 meeting of the City Council, praises the City’s cost-efficient management practices and strong record of innovative strategies for residential trash collection in San Diego.

Peters declared July 11 as “Fleet Management Day” in the City of San Diego and also announced that the division was named “Best in Class” by FleetOwner editors. The magazine is a national trade publication targeted to owners and operators of large vehicle fleets.

“This is an absolute tribute to the good work of the Collection Services management team,” said Mayor Sanders. “They have saved the City taxpayers millions of dollars by avoiding costs, improving service and taking care to do things just right,” he said. Sanders made his remarks while presenting the FleetOwner award to Elmer L. Heap Jr., director of the Environmental Services Department (ESD), which includes the Collection Services Division.

The City’s Collection Services management team has a long history of innovation in San Diego. Last year the team launched three initiatives that will save the city more than \$18 million over the next 10 years, improve service standards for collection vehicles and cut tailpipe emissions in excess of California’s already demanding standards. In accepting the award, ESD Director Elmer Heap said “The Fleet of the Year Award is the finest honor we have received so far.” Heap mentioned that the

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department did not apply for the award, nor is it linked to any industry association. "Rather," said Heap, "the FleetOwner magazine editors picked the candidates."

The innovative collection services management team, headed by Deputy Director Charles Woolever of Rancho Penasquitos, employs a wide range of job skills to save San Diegans millions of dollars.

Fleet Engineer Sam Mendoza traveled to Sacramento to gain "early implementer" status under the state's new Diesel Particulate Regulations, saving San Diego taxpayers \$1,000,000 for one time out-of-pocket costs for emissions equipment that Mendoza demonstrated were not needed on the City's natural gas vehicles.

Assistant to the Director Nader Tirandazi, of Carmel Valley, and Information Technology Specialist Scott Daeschner, Clairemont Mesa, developed the technical plan for re-routing the City's trash collection routes that reduced vehicle miles traveled and saved approximately \$1,000,000 per year.

District Managers Ben Torres of Paradise Hills and Menzore Brassfield, a Chula Vista resident, are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the City's collection services fleet that serves approximately 500,000 customers each week while maintaining consistently high customer satisfaction ratings. Fiscal Manager Monique Coleman, San Marcos, provides accurate and timely fiscal analysis of initiatives taken by the division and prepares and administers its annual \$50,000,000 budget.

The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally-sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. For more information about the Environmental Services Department and innovations of the Collection Services Division, visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/. For facts on FleetOwner magazine, visit www.fleetowner.com.

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