



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FACT SHEET

# CITY WASTE DIVERSION RATE REACHES NEW HIGH

## *CITY CONTINUES TO EXCEED STATE MANDATE BY REACHING 55%*

Mayor Jerry Sanders has announced that the City has achieved a 55% waste diversion rate. The California Integrated Waste Management Board has confirmed that the City continues to exceed the state mandated 50% diversion goal. The City has exceeded the state mandate during each of the Mayor's two years in office and is up 3% from last year.

### MAYOR COMMITTED TO INCREASING RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES IN SAN DIEGO

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB939) set the 50% waste diversion requirement and directed local agencies to implement the programs and regulations to achieve that goal. The City has embraced the state mandate because of the limited and diminishing landfill capacity in the region and because recycling helps to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Mayor Sanders has consistently supported the City's recycling efforts. In the past year he was successful in pushing forward both a citywide recycling ordinance and a construction and demolition debris waste reduction ordinance. The new ordinances are very significant steps in the City's effort to preserve the life of the Miramar Landfill – the only waste disposal facility operated by the City.

### SANDERS SUPPORTS OTHER WASTE REDUCTION INITIATIVES

The Mayor has directed the Environmental Services Department (ESD) to explore other initiatives designed to increase waste diversion in the future. These include:

- Expanding the range of organic materials now accepted at the Miramar Greenery
- Developing a Long-Term Resource Management Strategic Plan
- Implementing the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy for City departments.

## **CITY OFFERS BROAD ARRAY OF RECYCLING SERVICES**

The City of San Diego offers a broad range of recycling services to local residents. These include:

- Residential curbside recycling and greenwaste pickup
- Business waste assessment and recognition programs
- Waste diversion and recycling education programs
- Web-based recycling directories and a recycling hotline

The City's Greenery Recycling Facility at the Miramar Landfill makes compost, mulch and wood chips from the approximately 100,000 tons of green waste and food waste brought there each year. The landfill also serves as the hub for city waste management programs that include a full-service public recycling center that accepts appliances and electronic waste among many other items. The landfill also hosts a household hazardous waste transfer facility open to local residents.

## **MORE INFORMATION ON RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION.**

More information about the City's waste reduction and recycling programs is available on the City website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/>. Questions about the City's waste diversion rate can be addressed to Stephen Grealy, Waste Reduction Program Manager, at (858) 573-1275.