



# City of San Diego Recycling Proposal

DRAFT for Comment  
August 22, 2007

## **Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting:**

**August 29, 2007, 9 – 11am  
Environmental Services Department Auditorium  
9601 Ridgehaven Court, First Floor  
San Diego, CA 92123**

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## **Draft City Recycling Proposal**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this recycling proposal is to establish requirements for recycling of solid waste generated from residential facilities, commercial facilities, City buildings and special events. These requirements are intended to increase the diversion of recyclable wastes from landfill disposal, conserve the capacity and extend the useful life of the Miramar Landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and avoid the potential financial and other consequences to the City of failing to timely meet AB 939 requirements.

### **Recycling Requirement for Residents and Small Businesses Serviced by City of San Diego**

Effective January 1, 2008, residents and small businesses who receive City-provided curbside recyclable waste collection services must participate in the City curbside recycling program.

### **Recycling Requirement for Residential Facilities Serviced by Other Parties**

- **Single Family**. Effective January 1, 2008, occupants of single-family residences that receive solid waste collection service from a private hauler or who self-haul their solid waste shall be required to recycle either by participating in a recycling program offered by the hauler or a recyclable waste collector or by personally separating and delivering their recyclable wastes to a recycling facility.
- The recycling program services for Single Family shall include, at a minimum:
  - (1) Collection of recyclable wastes at least two times per month;
    - (a) Recyclable wastes shall include at a minimum: plastic bottles and jars, paper, metal containers, cardboard, and glass containers.
- **Multi-Family**. For multi-family residential facilities that receive solid waste collection service from a private hauler or who self-haul their solid waste, the facility owner/operator/ manager will provide on-site recycling services by the following dates:
  - (1) January 1, 2008, for multi-family complexes with 100 units or more;
  - (2) January 1, 2009, for multi-family complexes with at least 50 but not more than 99 units;
  - (3) January 1, 2010, for multi-family complexes with up to 49 units.

- Occupants of these multi-family residential facilities shall participate in a recycling program by separating recyclable waste from other solid waste and depositing the recyclable waste in the recycling container provided and as directed by the private hauler, recyclable waste collector or facility owner/operator/ manager, beginning on the applicable dates listed above.
- The recycling program services for Multi-Family shall include, at a minimum:
  - (1) Collection of recyclable wastes at least two times per month;
    - a) Recyclable wastes shall include at a minimum: plastic bottles and jars, paper, metal containers, cardboard, and glass containers;
  - (2) Utilization of recycling receptacles that comply with the standards in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Guidelines established by the Department;
  - (3) All signage on containers shall comply with the standards described in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Guidelines established by the Department;
  - (4) Designated recycling collection and storage areas.
- The facility owner/operator/manager of the multi-family facility will ensure that recycling receptacles are clearly labeled and occupants are educated about the recycling services as follows:
  - (1) Information will be distributed to all occupants annually;
  - (2) All new occupants will be given information and instructions upon occupancy;
  - (3) All occupants will be given information and instructions when there is any change in recycling service;
  - (4) All signage shall comply with the standards described in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Guidelines established by the Department;
  - (5) ESD will make available downloadable signage and educational materials on its website.

**Recycling Requirements for Commercial Facilities Serviced by Other Parties**

- Commercial facilities. For commercial facilities which receive solid waste collection services from a private hauler or which self-haul their solid waste, the facility owner/operator/manager shall provide on-site recycling services to occupants by the following dates:

- (1) January 1, 2008, for commercial facilities of 20,000 square feet or more;
  - (2) January 1, 2009, for commercial facilities of 10,000 square feet or more, but less than 20,000 square feet;
  - (3) January 1, 2010, for commercial facilities of 5,000 square feet or more, but less than 10,000 square feet.
- Occupants of commercial facilities which receive solid waste collection service from a private hauler or which self-haul their solid waste shall participate in a recycling program by separating recyclable waste from other solid waste and depositing the recyclable waste in the recycling containers provided and as directed by the private hauler, recyclable waste collector or facility owner/operator/manager, beginning on the applicable dates listed above.
  - The recycling program services for commercial facilities shall include at a minimum, all of the following:
    - (1) Collection of recyclable wastes as frequently as necessary to meet demand;
    - (2) Collection of plastic bottles and jars, paper, metal containers, cardboard, glass containers, and other recyclable wastes for which markets exist, such as scrap metal and wood pallets, as specified in a list maintained by the Director of Environmental Services on the ESD website;
    - (3) Utilization of recycling receptacles or containers which comply with the standards in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Guidelines established by the Department;
    - (4) All signage on containers shall comply with the standards described in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Guidelines established by the Department;
    - (5) Designated recycling collection and storage areas.
  - For commercial facilities, the facility owner/operator/manager shall ensure that recycling containers or receptacles are clearly labeled as such and that occupants are educated about the recycling services as follows:
    - (1) Information shall be distributed to all occupants annually;
    - (2) All new occupants shall be given information and instructions upon occupancy;

- (3) All occupants shall be given information and instructions upon any change in recycling service to the commercial facility;
- (4) All signage shall comply with the standards described in the Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling Guidelines established by the Department;
- (5) ESD will make available downloadable signage and educational materials on its website.

#### **Recycling Requirements for City buildings**

- All City buildings over 5,000 square feet, as designated on the City's real estate asset inventory, will be required to comply with the recycling requirements applicable to commercial facilities.

#### **Recycling Requirements for Mixed Use Facilities Serviced by Other Parties**

- Mixed use facilities with the majority of its square footage devoted to residential uses shall comply with the residential recycling requirements (single-family or multi-family, as applicable).
- Mixed use facilities with the majority of its square footage devoted to commercial uses shall comply with the commercial recycling requirements.

#### **Annual Reports from Franchisees, City Designated Recyclables Collectors, and Self Haul**

- Private haulers and City-designated recyclables collectors providing collection services to residential facilities, commercial facilities, City buildings, and/or mixed use facilities, will submit an annual report covering the period of July 1 to June 30 of the immediately preceding fiscal year by July 31 of each year to the Department including the following information for each facility serviced:
  - (1) Person(s) responsible for solid waste management at the facility serviced;
  - (2) Name and address of the facility serviced;
  - (3) The volume, measured in cubic yards, of refuse and recyclable wastes collected from the facility;
  - (4) The frequency of refuse and recyclable waste collection service provided to the facility;
  - (5) The types of recyclable waste collected from the facility; and

(6) Additional information as required by the Director.

- Persons who self-haul or use the services of a recyclable wastes or materials collector which is not a City-designated recyclables collector will be required to comply with the above reporting requirements.

### **Special Events Recycling**

- Effective January 1, 2008, for a special event requiring an event permit from the City of San Diego, the permit applicant shall provide recycling receptacles throughout the event venue and ensure that all recyclables are collected and recycled.
- The number of recycling receptacles shall equal the number of refuse receptacles and the recycling and refuse receptacles shall be placed next to one another throughout the event venue.

### **Exemptions**

- Multi-family residential facilities, Commercial facilities, City buildings, and Mixed-use facilities which generate 4 cubic yards or less of solid waste per week will be exempt. This threshold may be lowered at the discretion of the Mayor or his designee upon 90 days' public notice to be provided by posting the notice on the Environmental Services Department website and in a newspaper of general daily circulation within the City of San Diego for a period of 10 days.
- Other exemptions to some or all of the requirements may be granted at the discretion of the Director upon consideration of the following factors: available markets for recyclable wastes, available space for recycling bins, number of employees, alternative recycling efforts, and the amount and type of solid waste or recyclable waste generated.
- Applications for exemption shall be made by completing and submitting a request for exemption on a form approved by the Director. To be effective, an exemption must be in writing and signed by the Director. An exemption may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the Director if one or more of the factors justifying the exemption no longer exist or other change in circumstances warrant revocation.

## **Self Haul**

- No person is prohibited from personally collecting and transporting their own recyclable waste to a recycling facility or from using the services of a recyclables collector which is not a City-designated recyclables collector.

## **Designated Recyclables Collectors**

- Except for self-haulers, recyclables collectors may apply to the Director for a Designated Recyclables Collector certificate.
- Applicants for a designated recyclables collector certificate must complete and submit to the Director an application on a form approved by the Director and which includes at a minimum:
  - (1) Name, address, and phone number of the applicant;
  - (2) Description of vehicles used to provide service;
  - (3) Address where vehicles will be stored and maintained;
  - (4) Insurance coverage that meets the requirements to be established by ESD
- Certificates shall be valid for no more than two years. The certificate may be revoked at the discretion of the Director if the Designated Recyclables Collector fails to comply with any provision applicable to the Designated Recyclables Collector after being requested to comply therewith by the Director or designee. An appeal of a revocation may be made to the Mayor or designee, whose determination shall be final.
- All containers provided by Designated Recyclables Collectors for collecting and storing recyclables must be clearly labeled with the collector's name and phone number and must be equipped with a lock or other feature to prevent scavenging.
- The Director will post the list of City-designated recyclables collectors on Environmental Services Department website and include it in other City recycling educational materials

## **Enforcement**

- Lack of participation will be monitored from reports provided to ESD by Franchisees, and Designated Recyclables Collectors, and other sources.

- The initial emphasis for enforcement of the single-family, multi-family and commercial sectors will focus on education materials and the provision of recycling containers.
- Enforcement will focus first on education, with compliance as a goal and with punitive measures as a last resort.
- Potential penalties will be the same as those applicable to violations of other Municipal Code provisions as provided in the City's municipal code.

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