

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



Spring 2009

Volume 58

CalRecycle Sustainable Business Award

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) selected carpet manufacturer Bentley Prince Street, Inc., as the recipient of the 2008 CalRecycle Sustainable Business Award. This award is the highest honor from the Board's annual Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP), and acknowledges a business that has taken extraordinary measures to reduce waste by cutting the amount of trash it produces, conserving resources, and reducing waste disposal in landfills. CIWMB Chair Margo Brown presented the award at its facility on January 27, 2009.

“As California's largest commercial carpet manufacturer, we believe we have a responsibility to help move our State toward a zero-waste future as we work toward our Mission Zero™ goal of eliminating our potential negative impact on

the environment by the year 2020,” said Anthony Minite, president of Bentley Prince Street, when he received the award.

Bentley Prince Street was chosen based on a set of criteria developed in cooperation with the business community. Practices evaluated included waste prevention, materials reuse, recycling, recycled-product procurement, and employee education. Bentley Prince Street has a comprehensive recycling program that started in 1994.

This is the sixth consecutive year Bentley Prince Street was recognized for its progressive efforts to reduce waste and conserve resources as a winner of the WRAP award. For additional information, contact Jeanne Ouellette at (626) 934-2152 or jeanneo@ca.rr.com.



Pictured (l to r): Mike Mohajer, Judy Pike, Margo Reid Brown, and Anthony Minite.

JOIN THE TEAM: If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste*, please contact [Vanessa Lopez](mailto:vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov) at 626-458-6563, or vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or to contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

Santa Clarita's Recycling Ordinance a Success!

In 2005, the City of Santa Clarita adopted the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Ordinance holding new construction and tenant improvement projects accountable for recycling. What makes this ordinance unique is that it does not just require an overall diversion of 50% for project waste materials. Santa Clarita requires a minimum diversion of 50% of all inert materials (concrete, dirt, rock, sand) and 50% of all other materials (wood, dry-wall, cardboard, metals, etc.) generated during the project.

The following is the criteria for projects required to follow the C&D Ordinance:

- * Any improvement project valued by the City's building official over \$100,000
- * New building projects valued by the City's building official over \$500,000
- * All demolition projects

Before a project is approved by the City's Building and Safety Division, the project proponent must submit a Construction & Demolition Materials Management Plan (C&DMMP) for approval. The City has created the C&DMMP form to assist applicants in planning their recycling efforts. The applicant must also submit a refundable deposit. The deposit is calculated at 3% of the City's valuation of the project or \$50,000, whichever is less.

In 2008, the City approved 109 applications for the C&D Ordinance and refunded a total of 65 deposits for projects that were found to be compliant with the City's requirements. A total of 3,128 tons of material were generated by the 65 projects. Approximately, 2,600 tons of material were recycled or reused, and the remaining 528 tons were taken to local landfills equaling a diversion rate of 83%. The amount of construction waste entering local landfills has significantly diminished due to the success of the C&D Ordinance.

If you have any questions regarding the City of Santa Clarita's C&D ordinance, please contact Mark Patti, Project Development Coordinator, at (661) 286-4098.

Recycling Success in Inglewood - Compliance Order Removed

Good news! Through City leadership and its partnership with Waste Management, on January 12, 2009, the City of Inglewood was taken off compliance order from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the State's waste and recycling regulatory agency.

A City is taken off compliance when their efforts to recycle and reduce waste are working and have met the rigorous requirements by the State.

The compliance order required the City to work with Board staff to determine gaps in program areas and to make recommendations in improving, expanding, or implementing new diversion programs. Through the local assistance plan, the City committed to and fully implemented a comprehensive concept for waste diversion.

Major program elements included implementation of a commercial commingled recycling program, waste-to-energy transformation (a total of 6,600 tons from 2005 to 2008 from business participants in the source-separated programs), automated three-cart residential curbside collection of waste, recyclables, and green waste, and a comprehensive construction and demolition recycling permit program.

For more information about Inglewood programs, contact Angela Williams at (310) 412-5333 or awilliams@cityofinglewood.org.



City of Huntington Park Annual Earth Day Poster Contest

The City of Huntington Park recently hosted their annual Earth Day poster contest for kids in grades K-5 with the theme "Be the Solution to Ocean Pollution" (a theme borrowed from Heal the Bay). Over 200 students participated in the contest, which involved drawing ways they and their community can solve ocean pollution.

The City's Recycling Coordinator gave teachers and students a 30-minute presentation where they were shown the hazards of trash/pollution and how it reaches the harbor by way of storm drains and/or riverbeds. During the presentation, kids were shown the benefits of picking up litter and caring for the environment.

Heal the Bay is an active participant in facilitating field trips to the beach where students see first hand the devastation that trash and pollution have on our harbors.

According to Angela Almodovar, Title I Coordinator at Pacific Boulevard Elementary School in Huntington Park, the poster contest and the environmental awareness it creates gives kids an opportunity to express solutions to real environmental problems.

The City of Huntington Park partners with organizations such as Heal the Bay to bring needed awareness to the community. For more information, contact Christine Dixon at (323) 584-6323.

Mike Mohajer Receives ASCE Award 2008 "Outstanding Engineer in Legislative Activities"

The California American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) honored Mike Mohajer from the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force for being a proven and influential Civil Engineer in the area of environmental laws and regulations. Mr. Mohajer was named the 2008 "Outstanding Engineer in Legislative Activities" in February 2009 by the ASCE in Sacramento.

Through his interaction with legislators and regulators, Mr. Mohajer has built a legacy of accomplishments in legislative and regulatory matters regarding a broad array of waste management issues, including but not limited to, landfills and their post-closure maintenance, recycling and other waste diversion activities, and the proper management of challenging materials such as sharps and universal waste.

ASCE also acknowledged Mr. Mohajer for his tireless effort to improve the quality of life for all residents of California through advocacy, legislative, and regulatory activities. Whether it is sponsoring and advocating legislative or regulatory policies, interacting with legislators, or traveling to

Sacramento at his own expense to testify at numerous meetings and hearings, Mr. Mohajer is always giving his all to help shape public policy for the benefit of all Californians. Congratulations, Mr. Mohajer, on your well-deserved honor!



Art with a Message

The City of Calabasas presented its Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award to Cindy Kamin-Brenek during the Environmental Commission meeting on February 3, 2009. The Environmental Excellence Award is named for the late Carl Gibbs, a prominent Environmental Commissioner and one of the City's founders. The award is a symbol of commitment to California's environment and honors a wide array of individuals, businesses, municipalities, government agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Ms. Kamin-Brenek is a visual arts teacher at Castlebay Lane Elementary School in Northridge. The City Environmental Commission received over 320 entries from local students for the 2008 Recycling Coloring Contest. Out of thirteen winning drawings selected to appear in the 2009 Community Recycling Awareness Calendar, five



were created by students of Ms. Kamin-Brenek, including the grand prize winning cover page.

The winners were chosen by Environmental Commissioners during the November 4, 2008, public meeting based on creativity and theme of their illustrations. The 2008 theme was "The Benefits of Paper Recycling." The 2009 contest theme is "The Benefits of Food Waste Recycling." The Calendar is a public education tool distributed to Calabasas residents that features drawings from local students, facts about recycling, and the City's recycling events.

Other recipients of the 2008 Award were the Girl Scouts of the San Fernando Valley, the California Wildlife Center, the Aerospace Cancer Museum, and the Cornell Preservation Organization. For more information, please contact the City Recycling Coordinator, Michael LaRussa, at (818) 224-1600.

Household Hazardous waste can be taken to any of these locations. Electronic waste is also accepted. Call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1 (888) CLEAN-LA for more information.

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey St.
San Pedro, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90023
*Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(Under construction until May 16.)*

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall St.
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UCLA Location

550 Charles E. Young Dr.
West Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center

4600 Colorado Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center

Antelope Valley Public Landfill
1200 West City Ranch Rd.
Palmdale, CA 93551
Open 1st and 3rd Saturday each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

What's Up?

HHW ROUNDUPS are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at **1 (888) CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events, call **1 (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

- April 25 **Azusa** - Northrop Grumman Corporation, West 3rd St. and Zachary Padilla Ave.
- April 25 **South Gate** - South Gate Park, Tweedy Blvd. at Hildreth Ave.
- May 2 **La Mirada** - La Mirada Regional Park Tennis Court/Swimming Pool Parking Lot Adelfa Dr.
- May 9 **Palos Verdes** - Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall/City Yard, 30940 Hawthorne Blvd.
- May 9 **West Covina** - West Covina Maintenance Yard, 825 Sunset Ave.
- May 16 **Unincorporated Altadena** - L.A. County DPW Fleet Maintenance Yard, 252 West Mountain View Ave.
- May 23 **Maywood** - Maywood Park, 57th St. and Heliotrope Ave.
- May 30 **Pomona** - L.A. County Fairplex, Hotel & Exposition Complex, Gate 23, Arrow Highway
- June 6 **Torrance** - American Honda 1919 Torrance Blvd., Enter the event from Harper's Way, off of Van Ness Ave.
- June 13 **Irwindale** - L.A. County Department of Public Works, Flood Maintenance Yard 160 East Longden Ave.
- June 14 **Unincorporated Agoura** - Calabasas Landfill (Scale Area), 5300 Lost Hills Rd.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

- May 14
- June 18
- July 16

All meetings are scheduled at 1 p.m. in Conference Room C.

For information, call Benjamin Cortez at 626-458-2536, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking for up-to-date information about the Task Force?

Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.

“Brag About Your Bag®” Crew Joins Supervisor Gloria Molina’s Program - “A Green Bag for a Clean Earth”

On February 4, 2009, the “Brag About Your Bag®” team from Public Works’ Environmental Programs Division joined Supervisor Gloria Molina, Heal the Bay, and Fox Sports en Español at Lillian Street Elementary School located in the unincorporated Florence area to educate 3rd through 5th graders about the environmental impacts of single use bags.

Heal the Bay and the “Bag Monster” touched upon the harmful aspects of litter on the marine environment from single use plastic bags. Students were provided the opportunity to sign and submit post cards to support legislation to reduce the impact of single use plastic bags on the environment.

Public Works’ “Brag About Your Bag®” team followed with an animated skit about the four “R’s,” - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink. Recycle Reuben and Reuse Queen Christine encouraged the young students to reduce waste, use their reusable bags

whenever they go shopping, recycle their plastic bags and paper bags, and to rethink their environment.

To motivate students and their families towards reusable bags, Supervisor Gloria Molina will give out prizes to students. Each time students take their reusable bags to participating stores, they will receive stickers on their “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” Prize Cards. Supervisor Molina announced attractive prizes, including free tickets to a Dodger’s game, to the class with the highest number of cards filled with stickers by Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

Raul de Quesada and Alejandro Luna from Fox Sports en Español closed the event by addressing the students and reinforcing the importance of reusable bags to make the earth a cleaner place.

For more information about the County’s Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program, visit www.BragAboutYourBag.org.



The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Showcases Environmental Programs at the Budget Summit

On January 31, 2009, the Department of Public Works (Public Works) joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District) and the Empowerment Congress for the Empowerment Congress Budget Summit at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. This Budget Summit was designed to educate community members about the major provisions of the 2009 California State Budget and potential impacts to County operations and programming.

Public Works educated residents about protecting the environment since it is everyone’s responsibility and emphasized it starts with understanding the issues. The basic concepts included reducing energy and materials consumption, reusing what they can, and recycling the rest to the maximum extent possible. Public Works also provided residents with information regarding the importance of recycling and using the County’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program to dispose their toxic wastes properly. As a reminder of what the residents learned, they received items made from recycled materials like shoe laces made from recycled water bottles, mini trash cans and license plate frames made from recycled plastic, and pens made from recycled corn. In addition, Public Works distributed “Brag About Your Bag®” reusable grocery bags to the public.



Pictured (l to r): Neonika Walker (Public Works), Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District), and William Moreno (Public Works).

2009 - 2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The Task Force continuously monitors and analyzes pending legislative bills that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below is a summary of bills the Task Force has taken a position on during the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Bill Number	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
AB 64	Oppose Unless Amended	Amended 03-18-09	This bill would amend the Renewable Portfolio Standard Program (RPSP), effective January 1, 2011, to include local publicly owned electric utilities in the RPSP and to increase the renewable electricity requirements. This bill, among other things, imposes new contradictory requirements that remove municipal solid waste from eligibility as a source of renewable energy.
AB 68	Support	Introduced 12-12-08	This bill would, on and after July 1, 2011, prohibit a store, as defined, from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer unless the store charges a fee of not less than \$0.25 per bag at the point of sale.
AB 87	Support	Amended 03-18-09	This bill would, on and after July 1, 2010, prohibit a store, as defined, from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer unless the store charges a fee of not less than \$0.25 per bag at the point of sale.
AB 283	Express Concern	Introduced 02-12-09	This bill would create the California Product Stewardship Act of 2010, requiring the Waste Board, without input from local governments and lifecycle analysis, to adopt regulations by July 1, 2011, to establish environmentally sound product stewardship protocols that encourage cradle-to-cradle producer responsibility and reduce the end-of-life environmental impacts of products.
AB 473	Express Concern	Introduced 02-24-09	This bill would require an owner of a multifamily dwelling on and after July 1, 2010, to arrange for appropriate recycling services.
AB 478	Oppose	Introduced 02-24-09	This bill would require the Air Resources Board to consult with the Waste Board in developing the regulations to include rules for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste reduction and recycling.
AB 479	Oppose	Introduced 2-24-09	This bill would increase the State Diversion mandate to 60% by January 1, 2015, and 75% by 2020; require businesses to arrange for recycling services; and require local jurisdictions, by January 1, 2011, to adopt a mandatory commercial recycling ordinance. This bill would also increase the State waste disposal surcharge from \$1.40 per ton to \$3.90 per ton after January 1, 2010, and may provide \$2.50 of that fee to local jurisdictions after January 1, 2015, on a per capita basis, subject to achieving the new waste reduction mandates, as well as other requirements/restrictions.
AB 1141	Oppose	Introduced 02-27-09	This bill would prohibit local governments from imposing a fee on paper bags and from banning or restricting plastic and paper bags; redefine reusable bags to include lighter weight plastic bags; establish a 50% recycling benchmark by 2014; increase the recycled content of plastic bags, provided market conditions allow sufficient supply/quality of materials; require manufacturers to directly pay into a \$25 million fund for litter abatement. Funds remaining after State administrative costs would be allocated to local governments (on a per capita basis) and state agencies, based on guidance from a special advisory panel.

2009 - 2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS (continued)

Bill Number	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
AB 1358	Support	Introduced 2-27-09	This bill would prohibit food vendors from utilizing disposable expanded polystyrene food containers, non-recyclable plastic food containers, or non-recycled paper containers. The bill would authorize the use of compostable plastic containers only in a jurisdiction where organic waste is collected curbside for composting. The bill would also prohibit a state facility from acquiring and/or using a polystyrene foam or expanded polystyrene foam food service container use at state facilities.
SB 25	Concern	Introduced 12-01-08	This bill would require the Waste Board, by an unspecified date, to develop a strategic and comprehensive plan to achieve a 60% and 75% diversion rate from landfill disposal or transformation.
SB 26	Support	Introduced 12-01-08	The bill would authorize a local enforcement agency to approve a consolidation point for the collection of home-generated pharmaceutical waste.
SB 390	Support	Introduced 2-26-09	Existing law establishes the Recycling Market Development Revolving Loan Program (Program) and establishes a sunset date of January 1, 2012. This bill would repeal the sunset date for the Program.
SB 531	Oppose	Introduced 2-27-09	This bill would establish the Single-use Carryout Bag Responsibility Act and would require, on and after July 1, 2011, suppliers of plastic or paper single-use carryout bags to remit a Single-use Carryout Bag Responsibility Fee of \$0.001 for each single-use carryout bag supplied directly to a store.

For more information on these bills or copies of Task Force letters, please visit our website, www.lacountyiswmtf.org, or contact Coby Skye of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5163, M-Th, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Generation Earth Participates in Cleanup Event in the Community of Florence-Firestone

The Generation Earth program was established in 1996. Generation Earth is an environmental education program of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) providing educational opportunities to middle and high school students throughout the County of Los Angeles. The program teaches students to take an active role in solving environmental problems and helps them understand how their actions impact the environment.

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, Public Works, through the Generation Earth program, conducted a cleanup event in the unincorporated area of Florence-Firestone. The cleanup event was a cooperative effort with Public Works, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, community leaders, Florence-Firestone Community Enhancement Taskforce, community churches, and youth organizations.

The cleanup event provided students with a sense of owner-

ship to keep their community clean from illegal dumping. More than 60 students participated and collected 3.9 tons during the clean up effort. Items collected included couches, mattresses, chairs, car parts, tires, paint cans, used motor oil, clothes, mixed paper, newspaper, plastic bags, cigarette butts, etc.

All participants received certificates for their participation following the cleanup event. Each participant also received a reusable canvas bag, Generation Earth T-shirt, along with other promotional items, and information regarding illegal dumping.

To find out about the Generation Earth program, log on to www.generationearth.com or contact Edna Gandarilla of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-6536, M-Th, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. or eganda@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Inside Fact: Disposal Down Due To Economy

Recent economic conditions have weakened consumer demand for materials, impacted the construction industry, and slowed the production and manufacturing of goods. In turn, the amount of waste that businesses and the general public generate, as well as dispose of, is impacted. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the downward disposal trend for

Los Angeles County from 2006 to 2008. The decline is anticipated to continue into 2009. For more information, please contact James Benken of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works at (626) 458-2520 or Nick Morell of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at (562) 908-4288, Ext. 2444.

