

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS
SOLID WASTE DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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July 1, 2002

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: WEEKLY COLLECTION OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: CITYWIDE

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the City complete its first full year of citywide bi-weekly commingled recycling program (January 2003), and report back to Council in March of 2003 on the potential impacts weekly recycling might have on the City's recycling program.

CONTACT PERSON: G. Harold Duffy, Solid Waste Manager 433-4932

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: July 23, 2002

SUMMARY:

This is a report back from the midyear report, where Council requested information on the cost for weekly recycling.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION: None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Currently, the Solid Waste Division provides bi-weekly collection of commingled recyclables to City of Sacramento residents. The budget for this service is approximately \$3,000,000. The dispatch of equipment and manpower changes daily based on the day of the week and the collection area. Some days require 10 trucks to service 10,000 homes per

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day and other days require 13 trucks to service the same number of homes. Customer participation can vary from street to street (90% to 10%) but on average, daily participation per route is approximately 55% to 60%. The success of the program is based on tons diverted and not the number of containers placed at the curb each week. In the year 2000, residents diverted 12,000 tons of recyclable material from the curbside recycling program; in 2002, the Solid Waste Division is projecting that residents will divert 28,000 tons (attachment I).

Bi-weekly recycling has been in place since 1993 and was implemented to reduce the cost of service, thus reducing the need for rate increases. To accommodate this collection schedule, residents are notified of their collection schedule every December. Residents are provided information on the week that recycling will occur. Recycling always occurs on the day that solid waste is collected. Bi-weekly recycling has the following efficiencies:

- Resources are focused in the same geographical area
- Operation savings due to reduced route mileage and labor cost

Citizens concerns due to bi-weekly collection:

- Containers are set out for collection when they are less than full because of overflow concerns
- Confusion about collection schedule
- Forced to wait two weeks if you forget to place container out for collection
- Recycling capacity is limited for high participation areas
- Schedule frustrates some and they decide not to recycle

Benefits of Weekly Collection of Recyclables:

It is estimated that over 80% of residential household waste can be recycled, while 20% is garbage. However, garbage is collected on a weekly basis and the recyclables collected every other week. Avid recyclers complain because of the imbalance in service levels; they would prefer more capacity to recycle. Weekly collection may reduce the frequency residents place containers out for collection because they will be able to place it out on any trash collection day. Weekly collection will allow the Solid Waste Division to increase its route size, resulting in more efficient collection patterns.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Staff estimates that five new routes, resulting in 15 total routes, would be needed to provide weekly recycling; approximately half of the routes needed to collect garbage each weekday. Staff estimates that the set out rate would drop to 50% resulting in half the accounts needing service each week, although this number would swell during the holiday season to approximately 60-75%.

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It is estimated that two of the five trucks needed to move toward weekly recycling service can be provided at no additional expense to customers as the transfer of tons from garbage containers to recycling containers will allow the Solid Waste Division to convert two garbage routes to recycling routes. It is also estimated that the City will save an additional \$100,000 in disposal fees if weekly collection increases recycling by 10%. The total estimate for three trucks and five fulltime employees is approximately \$950,000 (\$630,000 in equipment and fuel and \$300,000 in personnel cost) or \$.75 per month, per household.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The change in the collection of recyclables from a bi-weekly program to weekly service is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act and will have no significant impact on the environment. No further environmental documentation is required.

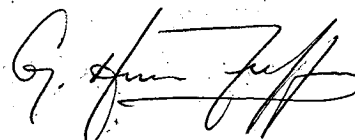
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

Implementation of this program is consistent with City Council priorities related to the achievement of aggressive waste diversion goals and is consistent with City Council's strategic plan resulting in increased customer service and improved efficiency and quality of service.

ESBD/SBE:

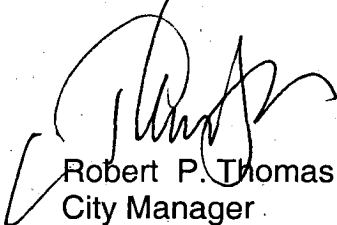
No goods or services are provided.

Respectfully submitted,



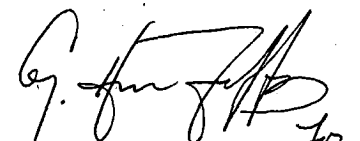
G. Harold Duffy
Solid Waste Manager

RECOMMENDED BY:



Robert P. Thomas
City Manager

Approved:



Michael Kashiwagi for
Director of Public Works

Historic Recycling Tonnage from Residential Recycling

Year	Tonnage	Notes
1991	4,033	Program began in September
1992	11,613	
1993	13,221	Program changed to bi-weekly collection
1994	11,527	
1995	8,693	
1996	9,558	Began collecting used motor oil
1997	11,406	Added mixed paper and used oil filters
1998	11,957	
1999	12,000	
2000	12,696	Began commingled implementation
2001	19,620	Completed commingled implementation
2002	28,000	Projected tonnage based on 1st Quarter

