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DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

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SOLID WASTE DIVISION

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DAVID A. PELSER  
SOLID WASTE  
DIVISION MANAGER

October 2, 1990

Transportation and Community Development/  
Budget and Finance Committees  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: AB 939/Source Reduction and Recycling Element - Information Report

### SUMMARY

City Council will be asked to approve and adopt the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) required by AB 939. This document will have far reaching repercussions on integrated solid waste management projects well into the next century. The adoption of the SRRE by Council will entail the implementation of projects for recycling 50% of our waste stream by year 2000. This action is likely to have significant impacts on consumer rates for refuse disposal.

The Solid Waste Division anticipates writing the Source Reduction and Recycling Element in-house with the possibility of utilizing a consultant to do some portion of the document. Much of the essential writing and basic research has already been done in relation to prior staff reports. Solid Waste Division Staff will draw heavily on prior work relating to previous reports presented to Council on a wide range of subjects including composting, curbside recycling, education and promotion, etc. However, no monies have been budgeted for writing the SRRE and it may be necessary to return to Council for budget authorization to employ a consultant to assist staff in this endeavor.

### BACKGROUND

AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, is the omnibus recycling bill for the 1990's and beyond. Although it continues to be amended by clean-up legislation (e.g. AB 1820), the emergency regulations promulgated in its wake will govern the City of Sacramento's solid waste management planning.

AB 939 establishes a prioritized hierarchy for waste management:

1. Source Reduction
2. Recycling and composting
3. Transformation
4. Landfilling

As a prioritized hierarchy, every City and County must first reduce the solid waste generated at its source through various waste reduction strategies. Communities then proceed to implement recycling and composting projects. Under AB 939, transformation is defined in a manner intended to primarily discourage the combustion of waste as a method of meeting recycling and waste reduction goals.

AB 939 requires every City and County to reduce or recycle 25% of its waste stream by 1995 and 50% of its waste stream by 2000. Under AB 939, transformation cannot be counted as diversion toward meeting the first 25%; only 10% of the 50% mandate may be counted with respect to transformation. Every City and County is also required to prepare a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) of a County Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan to plan for meeting the above recycling mandates. The new California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is authorized to levy fines up to \$10,000/day for noncompliance.

Regulations implementing the new laws are still being written by the CIWMB. However, the law requires the City to complete an SRRE by July 1, 1991. In order to meet the deadline for the SRRE including appropriate review periods, it will not be possible for any community to wait until the new regulations are generated. Every city and county in the State is in the awkward position of being forced to proceed without knowledge of the regulations that will be used to determine compliance with the law.

Current regulations require the SRRE consist of the following components:

- o Waste characterization
- o Source Reduction
- o Recycling
- o Composting
- o Education and public information
- o Funding
- o Special Waste
- o Facility capacity
- o Household hazardous waste
- o Integration component

The SRRE must be completed and adopted by the Council before July 1, 1991. Current regulations require that various components of the SRRE provide for a 15 year period. AB 939 also requires the formation of a Task Force to advise the City on the SRRE preparation. In a previous action, the City Council appointed the existing City/County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and its City Recycling Subcommittee as the Task Force. Staff will be working closely with these groups in writing the SRRE.

Staff has just begun the task of preparing the Source Reduction and Recycling Element. We anticipate that the required diversion of solid waste will be met through a combination of various strategies which will be developed in detail in the SRRE.

The Solid Waste Division intends to fully comply with all aspects of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). After the draft SRRE is reviewed by the City Council, it is expected that an initial study will be prepared as a first step toward CEQA compliance. The Solid Waste Division will coordinate CEQA review with the Environmental Services Division.

#### FINANCIAL DATA

The Solid Waste Division anticipates writing the Source Reduction and Recycling Element in-house with the possibility of utilizing a consultant to do some portion of the document. Much of the essential writing and basic research has already been done in relation to prior staff reports. Solid Waste Division Staff will draw heavily on prior work relating to previous reports presented to Council on a wide range of subjects including composting, curbside recycling, education and promotion, etc. However, no monies have been budgeted for writing the SRRE and it may be necessary to return to Council for budget authorization to employ a consultant to assist staff in this endeavor.

Residents of New Jersey are used to paying up to \$150/ton for the disposal of solid waste, not including collection costs. This is in contrast to less than \$10/ton for the City's own landfill. But, the residents of the City of Sacramento will also come to see the cost of refuse disposal increase dramatically. The cause of this dramatic increase is primarily attributed to the cost of implementing recycling programs to meet state mandated goals and the higher costs of transporting and landfilling.

The implementation of a plethora of programs ranging from large scale composting to the recycling of commercial waste will require a substantial investment of public monies. The adoption of the SRRE will commit the City Council to the funding mechanisms identified in the Funding Component of the SRRE. Therefore, the Funding Component of the SRRE will require staff to perform considerable rate analysis and revenue projections arising out of the strategies adopted to meet the 939 mandates.

### POLICY MATTERS

City Council will be asked to adopt the SRRE which will outline those projects for implementation intended to achieve the AB 939 mandated recycling rates. Adoption of the SRRE will involve a policy decision with wide ranging repercussions. Because of the programs and projects which will be implemented as a result of adopting the SRRE, City Council may want to give consideration to adopting the SRRE as a component of the City's General Plan.

### MBE/WBE

Where applicable, MBE/WBE policies and procedures will be applied in the awarding of contracts as programs and projects are implemented under the SRRE.

### RECOMMENDATION

Forward this report to the City Council to file for information.

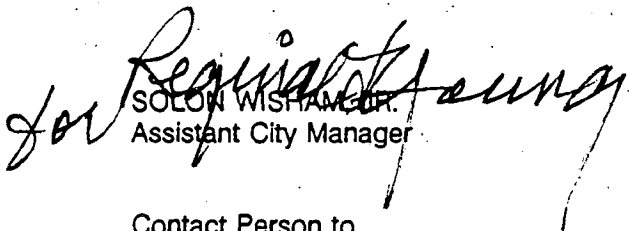
Respectfully submitted,



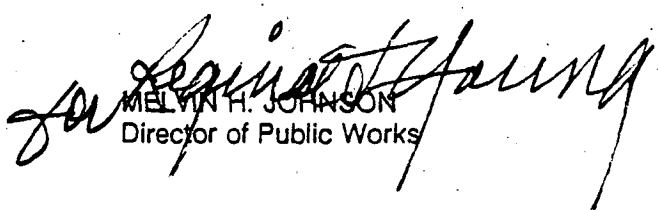
DAVID A. PELSER  
Solid Waste Division Manager

Approved for Committee Information:

Approved:



SOLOM WISNIAM  
Assistant City Manager



MELVIN H. JOHNSON  
Director of Public Works

Contact Person to  
Answer Questions:

October 2, 1990  
All Districts

DAVID A. PELSER, SOLID WASTE DIVISION MANAGER  
449-2043

Attachment: Proposed SRRE Implementation Schedule

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
PROPOSED  
SRRE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

TASK	TARGET DATE
City Staff, SWAC and City Recycling Subcommittee work together to draft SRRE	9/1/90
The City of Sacramento shall publish a notice in a local newspaper at least 30 days in advance of the SRRE.	1/2/91
Complete administrative draft of SRRE for circulation and comment by City Departments (e.g. Parks and Recreation, General Services, City Attorney, Planning and Development, etc.)	1/14/91
Complete Preliminary Draft of SRRE and circulate to adjoining cities, Sacramento County and the 939 Task Force for maximum 45 day review period (Chap. 14, Section 18763); begin CEQA review	1/28/91
Public Hearing on Preliminary Draft	2/4/91
Copies of comments on the preliminary draft made by the 939 Task Force shall be forwarded simultaneously to the City of Sacramento and the CIWMB.	3/15/91
Submit Final draft of SRRE to Task Force for comment and review (3 week review period between receipt of comments on preliminary draft and final draft)	4/5/91
The City of Sacramento will conduct a public hearing on the adoption of the final draft of the SRRE by City Council (must be at least 45 days prior to copy going to Task Force). The City of Sacramento shall adopt the SRRE by Resolution.	4/8/91
Submit Final Draft of SRRE to City Clerk with public hearing and Task Force comments addressed	5/21/91
The City of Sacramento shall transmit a copy of the Final Draft of the SRRE to the County as soon as it is adopted by City Council.	
The City of Sacramento shall submit the SRRE directly to the CIWMB if the County does not submit its plan.	
The CIWMB may approve, partially approve or disapprove the SRRE at a public hearing and must notice the City within 30 days of its action.	
The City of Sacramento shall have 120 days to resubmit a corrected version of the disapproved portion of the SRRE.	
The City of Sacramento shall resubmit an annual report which summarizes the progress toward achieving the mandated waste reduction goals pursuant to AB 939.	