

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

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



Fall 2008

Volume 56

## Recycled Bottles, Cans, and Glass Can Become T-Shirts, Chairs, and Fiber Glass

### Did you recycle today?



*DPW Outdoor Recycle Bin*

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) is on a mission to encourage its employees to recycle beverage containers. Public Works has made this effort as convenient and hassle free by placing bins for beverage container recycling throughout its headquarters and field facilities. Employees are encouraged to recycle at work and at home to help save natural resources and extend the life of our landfills.

Beverage containers such as aluminum cans, glass, and plastic bottles can be recycled into fiberglass, pie plates, T-shirt fabric, shoes, sweaters, coats, luggage, and even toys! Recently, the California Refund Value (CRV) was increased to 5¢ for each beverage container less than 24 ounces and 10¢ for each container 24 ounces or greater to encourage more people to recycle their beverage containers.



For more information on how you can implement beverage container recycling at your organization or to learn more on beverage container recycling, call 1 (888) CLEAN LA or visit [www.888CLEANLA.com](http://www.888CLEANLA.com).

**The Choice is yours. The Environment is OURS.**

## Make the Right Choice. RECYCLE!

**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** at 626-458-6563, or [vlopez@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto: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!

# Update on CIWMB's Proposed Regulations to Strengthen Landfill Financial Assurance Requirements

Currently, State regulations require three types of financial assurances for municipal solid waste landfills:

- Closure Financial Assurance – covers the costs associated with closing the landfill.
- Post-Closure Maintenance (PCM) Financial Assurance – covers the costs for maintaining the landfill 30 years beyond its closure date.
- Corrective Action (CA) Financial Assurance – covers remediation costs associated with water contamination issues while the landfill is operating, in closure, or in post-closure status.

As required by Assembly Bill 2296 (2006 Statutes), the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) began a two-phase rulemaking process to strengthen the above financial assurance mechanisms in the event a landfill owner or operator fails to meet its legal obligations. By July 1, 2009, the CIWMB must adopt these regulations and develop recommendations for the Legislature.

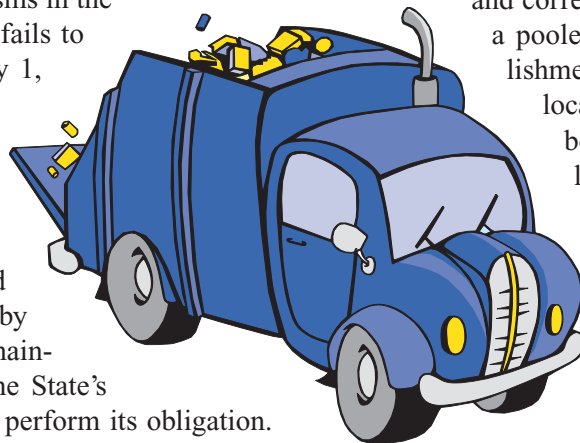
To date, the CIWMB has completed Phase I of the rulemaking process by revising closure and post-closure maintenance cost estimates based on the State's liability should the operator fail to perform its obligation. The regulation became effective on February 25, 2008.

For Phase II, the CIWMB completed a study on various financial assurance mechanisms that would protect the State from long-term PCM or CA costs. After working with the AB 2296 Consulting Group, of which the Task Force is a member, and various stakeholders, the CIWMB directed its staff to begin drafting the proposed regulations for a 45-day public comment period. The regulations are expected to be officially released for public comment in late 2008. The proposed regulations are expected to address the following key issues:

- Require all landfills permitted after 1988 to update their PCM plans every five years during the PCM period (currently, only permitted sites closed after 2003 are subject to this requirement);
- Require financial assurance for CA not related to water quality;
- Clarify cost estimate regulations concerning PCM, premature closure, and greatest extent of closure; and
- Develop requirements for a pooled fund and performance evaluation.

In addition, the CIWMB and landfill operators support the formation of a pooled fund as a backstop should landfill owners or operators default on their responsibility to provide for the landfill closure and post-closure maintenance and corrective actions. The formation of such a pooled fund that requires statutory establishment has been consistently opposed by local governments and the Task Force because it would allow the private landfill owners or operators to file for bankruptcy at anytime and walk away from their legal responsibilities, ultimately leaving the cities, counties, and other public agencies held liable. As such, the three recent landfill industry sponsored bills, AB 2866, AB 1390, and SB 1252 (proposed amendment dated August 22, 2008), designed to establish such a pooled fund, failed to receive the Legislature approval in 2008.

For more information, please contact Martins Aiyetiwa of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at 626-458-3553, M-Th, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or [maiyet@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:maiyet@dpw.lacounty.gov); or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at 909-592-1147; or visit the CIWMB's rulemaking site at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/rulemaking/Postclosure/default.htm](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/rulemaking/Postclosure/default.htm).



## 2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – END OF SESSION SUMMARY

Bill Number	Position	Status	Summary
AB 2866 As amended 7/1/08	Oppose	Failed	Increases the State’s solid waste tipping fee from \$1.40 per ton to \$2 per ton beginning July 1, 2009, and directs additional funding toward specified “clean fuel demonstration projects,” including programs for compostable organics diversion as well as creation of a “pooled fund” to pay for the proper closure, post-closure maintenance and corrective actions for those landfills whose owners/operators fail to provide the said required work.
SB 1016 Enrolled 8/26/08	Support	Chaptered 9-26-08	Revises the current diversion rate measurement system to a per-capita disposal based system, using the average of 2003-2006 disposal rate as a base year.
SB 1252 As proposed to be amended 8/22/08	Oppose	Proposed Amend Failed	Increases the waste diversion mandate imposed on local governments from 50 to 60 percent by January 1, 2015, and 75 percent by January 1, 2020; increase the Statewide landfill tipping fee from \$1.40 per ton to \$2.13 per ton, with the increased revenue to be used for specified purposes including creation of a “pooled fund” to pay for the proper closure, post-closure maintenance and corrective actions for those landfills whose owners/operators fail to provide the said required work; and change the designation of greenwaste used as alternative daily cover from beneficial use to disposal for the purposes of charging the Statewide tipping fee, under certain circumstances.
SB 13 Enrolled 8/31/08	Support	Chaptered 9-30-08	Allows up to \$20 million to be expended between July 1, 2009, to January 1, 2012, for regional beverage container recycling and litter reduction programs grants.

For more information on these bills or copies of Task Force letters, please visit our website, [www.lacountyiswmf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmf.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.

### continued from page 3 **Waste Board’s Strategic Directive 6.1** **May Impact Los Angeles County Jurisdiction**

governments, the Waste Board needs to formally define the terms “organic-” and “compostable organic-” materials through a regulatory process for the purpose of SD 6.1.

Further, as part of SD 6.1 implementation and the Waste Board’s consideration to potentially eliminate any diversion credit for use of green waste as a landfill alternative daily cover, the Waste Board is currently pursuing the siting of composting facilities and providing subsidies to make these operations economically viable. Within a highly urbanized area such as metropolitan Los Angeles County, the development of composting facilities is not viable due to factors such as stringent air quality regulations, a lack of suitable sites, and opposition from nearby communities.

Alternatively, by placing greater reliance on the development and siting of new conversion technology facilities, the Waste Board is able to derive much benefit towards achieving significant diversion of organic materials from landfills. As such, the Waste Board should consider the findings of local studies as well as those by their AB 2770 Report regarding conversion technologies, rather than tending towards “soft” solutions such as forming additional committees and duplicating efforts.

On August 13, 2008, the Task Force forwarded a letter to the Waste Board formalizing the above concerns and is currently awaiting their response. For more information, please contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at 909-592-1147.

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 90021  
*Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**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 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

**Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center**

4660 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 Road  
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)**

- November 1 **Unincorporated South Whittier**  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department STAR Training Center, 11515 South Colima Road
- November 8 **Bellflower** - Simms Park  
Clark Avenue and Oak Street
- November 8 **South El Monte** -  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department STAR Training Center, 11515 South Colima Road
- November 15 **El Segundo** - Raytheon Company, Parking Lot G  
Hughes Way off of Sepulveda Boulevard
- November 15 **Lennox** - Park and Ride Lot  
9AM - 2PM Hawthorne Boulevard & 111th Street
- November 22 **Monterey Park** - East Los Angeles College  
Stadium Parking Lot  
Bleakwood Avenue & Floral Drive
- December 6 **Malibu** - Malibu Civic Center (Rear Parking Lot)  
23519 West Civic Center Way
- December 13 **Lomita** - Lomita City Hall Parking Lot  
24300 Narbonne Avenue
- December 20 **La Verne** - Bracket Field  
Fairplex Drive & West McKinley Avenue
- January 10 **Bell Gardens** - John Anson Ford Park  
Swimming Pool Parking Lot  
7800 block of Scout Avenue
- January 17 **El Monte** - El Monte Airport  
4233 North Santa Anita Avenue

## TASK FORCE MEETINGS

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

November 20  
December 18  
January 15

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](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org) where you can find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter.



# SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL UPDATE

The combined Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, when fully operational, would be one of the largest landfills in the nation, straddling two jurisdictions: the County of Los Angeles unincorporated area and the City of Los Angeles. Because of this unique situation, the permitting and oversight of the Landfill have been an ongoing complex process. Below is a list of notable events since early 2008 categorized according to the type of permit.

## Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP)

○ January 8 - Browning-Ferris Industries of California (BFI), the owner/operator of the Landfill, submitted a Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) application to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) for the combined City/County Landfill. The application was submitted to the CIWMB directly since at the time, there was no single Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) in existence at local level that could operate as the LEA for the combined City/County Landfill.

○ June 17 - The CIWMB issued a SWFP for the proposed combined Landfill even though BFI had not obtained a Finding of Conformance (FOC) from the Task Force. The Task Force repeatedly informed the CIWMB that its action directly violates State regulations (Title 14, Section 18756) that require an FOC be granted prior to issuance of an SWFP. However, the CIWMB responded that based on its policy guidelines, it determined the requirement of the said regulations was satisfied since the project is an existing landfill identified in the County's Countywide Siting Element. The Task Force believes that the CIWMB is inconsistent in its policy in this regard. While on one hand, the CIWMB requires the Task Force to implement the requirements of the Countywide Siting Element pursuant to the said regulations, the CIWMB disregards the FOC process in the permitting of this landfill on the other hand.

○ July 22 - The CIWMB certified the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA). The SCL-LEA is a new entity created by the City and County to serve as the LEA for the combined landfill.

○ August 1 - The CIWMB transferred the LEA responsibilities to the SCL-LEA.

## Finding of Conformance

○ May 21 - BFI submitted a Finding of Conformance (FOC) application to the Task Force for the proposed combined landfill. At its July meeting, the Task Force Facility Plan and Review Subcommittee deemed the application incomplete citing specific deficiencies, including the need for BFI to provide evidence from the City that BFI can commence operation of the combined City/County Landfill. On August 4, the Task Force also forwarded a letter to the City Mayor requesting

clarification on the City's current land use permit approval status.

## Land Use Permit

○ August 28 - The County's Technical Advisory Committee met to evaluate whether BFI fulfilled all the pre-requisites prior to BFI operating the combined landfill. The Committee determined that BFI satisfied most of the prerequisites except: 1) obtaining an FOC for the City/County Landfill from the Task Force; 2) obtaining a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City and County for the equitable allocation of revenue to be derived from the combined City/County Landfill; and 3) providing evidence from the City that BFI is authorized to operate a combined City/County Landfill.

○ September 9 - The County issued a Notice of Violation to BFI for not complying with the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit's requirement that at least 50% of the cumulative total waste accepted by the City and County Landfills, measured on an annual basis, be deposited on the City side.

○ The City and County are currently working towards an MOU to combine efforts for the combined City/County Landfill regarding certain land use conditions adopted by each jurisdiction to be consolidated, merged, and/or reconciled for any inconsistencies. The MOU will also allow coordination of certain specified land use requirements for more efficient operation of the combined City/County Landfill.

## Waste Discharge Requirements

○ August 15 - The Water Board issued a tentative revised Waste Discharge Requirement order to BFI. The Water Board will hold a public hearing on October 2, 2008, to consider the matter. It is expected that the Water Board will take action at the hearing.

The City and County continue to work with BFI to ensure that BFI meets all the requirements of both jurisdictions' land use permit requirements prior to operating a City/County Landfill in order to protect public health and safety, and the environment.

For more information, please contact Martins Aiyetiwa of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at 626-458-3553, M-Th, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## 2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – END OF SESSION SUMMARY

Below is a summary of those legislative proposals that the Task Force had taken a formal position on during the second half of the 2007-08 Legislative Session. Out of 13 bills, only 5 were enrolled and forwarded to the Governor, who in a “normal” legislative process, has 30 days to sign, veto, or allow the enrolled bills to become law without his signature.

Bill Number	Position	Status	Summary
AB 501 Enrolled 8/15/08	Support	Vetoed	Requires a pharmaceutical manufacturer, upon consumer request, to provide a sharps container, a coupon for a sharps container, a toll-free telephone number, or website that directs the patient to a sharps container supplier.
AB 712 As Amended 5/02/07	Oppose	Failed	Imposes a new tipping fee of \$0.50/ton of waste disposed in California to fund air quality compliance for off-road diesel vehicles that dispose, transfer, or process solid waste or recyclable materials.
AB 1075 As Amended 5/14/08	Support	Failed	Revises the definition of “transformation” to exclude anaerobic digestion, and define composting operation and facility.
AB 1390 As Amended 8/22/08	Oppose	Failed	Increases the waste diversion mandate imposed on local governments from 50 to 60 percent by January 1, 2015, and 75 percent by January 1, 2020; increases the Statewide landfill tipping fee from \$1.40 per ton to \$2.13 per ton, with the increased revenues to be used for specified purposes including the creation of a “pooled fund” to pay for the proper closure, post-closure maintenance and corrective actions for those landfills whose owners/operators fail to provide the said required work; and change the designation of greenwaste used as alternative daily cover from beneficial use to disposal for the purposes of charging the Statewide tipping fee, under certain circumstances.
AB 1391 Enrolled 9/05/08	Support	Vetoed	Beginning July 1, 2009, requires a retailer that sells a covered electronic device to provide a customer with information on the California Integrated Waste Management Board’s Internet website. The website shall include information on returning, recycling, or disposing of the device.
AB 1860 Enrolled 9/11/08	Support	Chaptered 9-29-08	Requires the manufacturer of a recalled product to properly dispose of the product. The manufacturer cannot export the product, or permit it to be exported, for disposal in a manner that poses a significant risk to the public’s health or the environment.
AB 2640 As Amended 8/4/08	Oppose	Failed	Would make green waste used as alternative daily cover (ADC) subject to a solid waste tipping fee after January 1, 2010. The revenue generated would be used to provide grants for new or existing composting facilities, excluding any process that utilizes “high-temperature thermal technology.”
AB 2695 As Amended 6/26/08	Support	Failed	Allows solid waste local enforcement agencies to maintain an inspection program that include public awareness activities, enforcement and abatement of illegal dumping in their inspection program, and establishes an illegal dumping grant and loan program by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
AB 2829 As Amended 4/7/08	Support	Failed	Requires stores to provide bags with a statement describing the negative environmental and wildlife impacts caused by littered plastic bags. Therefore, encouraging the use of reusable bags. Under certain conditions, requires stores to charge a plastic bag impact fee of \$0.25 per bag.

## County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works Takes a Safe, Proactive Approach in Properly Managing Home-Generated Sharps Waste

Beginning September 1, 2008, State law (Senate Bill 1305 - 2006 Statutes) makes it illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste in the trash, recycling, green waste, or commercial containers and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container. Home-generated sharps waste means hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications derived from a household, including a multifamily residence or household.



Each year in the United States, approximately three billion home-generated sharps waste end up in the trash, recycling containers, or are flushed down the toilet. When sharps waste is not disposed of properly, it poses a serious health risk to children, sanitation workers, and the general public.

To provide safe and convenient means for residents to properly dispose of home-generated sharps waste and comply with the law, the County of Los Angeles expanded its existing Household Hazardous Waste Management Program (the largest in the Nation) to provide for collection of home-generated sharps waste. The Program is being implemented by the County Department of Public Works (Public Works). As part of the expanded Program, Public Works purchased State

approved sharps containers which are available free of charge to Los Angeles County residents. Residents can pick-up a sharps container at one of the County's designated distribution sites. Once the container is full, it can be exchanged for a new container at any participating designated collection site. For the elderly and the disabled residents, a mail-back program is available to assist with proper distribution and disposal.

Currently, the expanded Program provides for collection of home-generated sharps waste at its weekly Household Hazardous Waste Collection Roundup events throughout Los Angeles County, the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center in Palmdale, and at the City of Los Angeles' six S.A.F.E. centers. To better assist the residents, Public Works has secured additional collection and distribution sites by partnering with certain cities, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and some Goodwill stores. Detailed information on all the designated sites can be found at [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com).

For more information about the County's Home-Generated Sharps Waste Management Program, call Neonika Walker at (626) 458-3509, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. You may also visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or call 1(888) CLEAN LA for more details.

## Waste Board's Strategic Directive 6.1 May Impact Los Angeles County Jurisdiction

The California Integrated Waste Management Board's (Waste Board) Strategic Directive (SD) 6.1 calls for a 50 percent reduction in the amount of "organics" being disposed in landfills by 2020. The term "organic," however, has not been defined by statute or by the Waste Board. Depending on how the term is defined, this could mean a waste diversion mandate in excess of 80 percent for jurisdictions in California which may cost local governments millions of dollars in their attempt to achieve such an unrealistic mandate.

Based on Item 15 of the Waste Board's December 11, 2007, agenda and Item 11 of their June 17, 2008, agenda indicating that "Organic materials comprise over 30 percent of the waste stream disposed in California landfills," one may assume that the goal of SD 6.1 is focused on "composting" and/or diverting "source separated" streams, such as green waste, food

waste, and manure, and not the total "organics" currently being disposed in landfills. However, such an assumption is inconsistent with the 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study released by the Waste Board, which stated that the "organic" fraction of solid waste disposed of in California landfills ranges between 70 to 80 percent.

The Webster's Dictionary definition of "organic" is: "of, relating to, or derived from living organisms" and "of, relating to, or containing carbon compounds." Applying this definition (since the term "organic" is not defined by statute nor has it been defined by the Waste Board as it relates to SD 6.1) would mean a potential mandate of over 80 percent diversion on jurisdictions. In order to avoid confusion among the legislature and regulatory bodies, regulated communities, and local

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# Calabasas Passes Recycling Goals

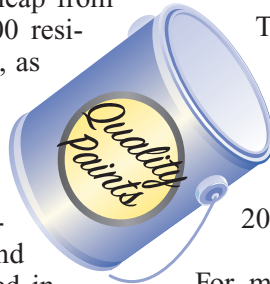
The City of Calabasas (City) made great strides to encourage residents to recycle everything from television sets to oil filters. The Calabasas City Council adopted a resolution earlier this year requiring 75 percent of the City's trash to be recycled by 2012. The City offers frequent recycling round-ups throughout the year, collecting electronic waste, paint, batteries and other hard to dispose items. During the 2007/2008 fiscal year, Calabasas collected 183,090 pounds of mixed electronic waste, surpassing the year's goal of 150,000 pounds and the previous year's total of 110,000 pounds. Next year's goal is to collect and recycle at least 200,000 pounds of discarded electronics. E-waste roundups are open to residents and businesses in all cities and communities.



The City increased its dry cell battery collection efforts by nearly 25 percent, recycling more than 11,000 pounds last year. Next year's goal is 13,000 pounds of batteries. Battery drop-off tubes are available at 20 public and 8 private locations including all schools, city facilities, and supermarkets.



During the same period, the City collected nearly 7,500 gallons of water-based paint from local areas, a leap from last year's total of 2,000 gallons. Nearly 1,000 residents brought in almost 5,000 gallons of paint, as well as 73 car batteries and 58 used oil filters. When the paint donations are mixed together, it produces a grayish color, good for painting homes, schools and gymnasiums, and for covering graffiti. The paint is often used in disadvantaged communities to paint schools and churches. A permanent advertisement is placed in the Penny Saver under "Free Stuff" for people to collect recycled paint for free.



On a separate front, the City collected and recycled 395 pairs of old eyeglasses that are cleaned, sorted and shipped to developing countries. The City partnered with Lions International for the eyeglass distribution. The City also advertised a light bulb drop-off and recycled nearly 1,600 fluorescent and regular light bulbs since February. "The City of Calabasas is committed to recycling hazardous products to protect our local ecosystem," said Alex Farassati, City's Environmental Services Supervisor.

Recycling goals can't be achieved without active public participation. To promote the City's collection events, the City uses several outreach programs. Advertisements, announcements, and banners were placed in a regional newspaper called the *Acorn*. Events were also advertised on the City's cable TV, in the citywide recycling calendar, in various city locations, online through various City websites, and on our City's e-news. In addition, advertisements are placed on the City's recreation brochure that is distributed quarterly to all households. In addition, environmental service staff responded to approximately 1,560 recycling related phone calls each year.

To make sure the message reaches the younger generation, the City began a recycling drawing contest for elementary and middle school students. The drawings are due on November 3, 2008, and the winners' drawings are selected by the Environmental Commission to be published in the City's 2009 community recycling awareness calendar.

For more information, please contact Alex Farassati at 818-224-1600.