



APPROVED  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

4.3

JUN 21 1994

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

921 TENTH STREET  
SUITE 500  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2715

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

June 10, 1994

916-449-5757

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EVERY-OTHER-WEEK CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION**

**LOCATION and COUNCIL DISTRICT: City**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report recommends that the City Council, by resolution, authorize the following:

- Continue the current curbside recycling program for every-other-week collection.
- Direct staff to return to Council in six months for an update on the program.

**Contact Person:**

Reina J. Schwartz  
Acting Solid Waste Division  
Manager  
264-7043

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:**

June 21, 1994

**SUMMARY**

This report conveys to Council curbside recycling information regarding the impact from switching to every-other-week collection. Preliminary results from program implementation suggest the following:

- The switch to every-other-week collection will save \$525,000 in annual collection costs resulting in a rate reduction from \$1.11 per month per household to \$0.69 per month per household. This represents a 38% rate

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reduction.

- Total tons recycled has decreased by 14% with a negligible increase in disposal costs due to reduced diversion.
- Total diversion from curbside recycling will decrease from an estimated 1.73% for 1993 to 1.48% for 1994. This estimate annualized the reduction in tonnage collected from the first quarter 1994 in comparison with first quarter 1993.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION**

None Required.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On September 7, 1993, City Council directed staff to implement every-other-week collection of recyclables as a means of reducing cost and increasing efficiency of collection. City Council also requested that staff provide periodic reports on the program's progress. On January 3, 1994, curbside recycling switched to every other week. The table below summarizes and compares pertinent data from the first quarter 1993 and 1994, the last quarter for which data is complete.

	<b>WEEKLY COLLECTION 1st Qtr. 1993</b>	<b>EVERY OTHER WEEK COLLECTION 1st Qtr. 1994</b>	<b>INCREASE/ DECREASE</b>
Total Tons	3019.8 tons	2583.2 tons	-436.6 tons -14.5%
Cost per ton Recycled (includes adjustment for revenue)	\$126/ton	\$100.47/ton	-\$25.53/ton

Weekly curbside recycling collection required the use of 16 trucks and drivers on a daily basis. Every-other-week recycling reduced this number to 10 collection trucks and drivers. Fuel and labor savings resulting from reduced frequency of collection has reduced the overall budget from \$1.625 million to \$1.1 million.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Every-other-week collection has reduced our annual cost by \$525,000, a 38% improvement in efficiency. However, total tons

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recycled has dropped an estimated 14% based on a comparison between first quarter 1994 figures and first quarter 1993. If this trend continues, we should anticipate collecting 1,746 tons less for Calendar Year 1994 as a result of the switch to every-other-week collection.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The essential issue for consideration is the balance between improved efficiency, decreased cost and the loss of some diversion due to the switch to every-other-week collection. Achievement of this balance rests on consideration of the following:

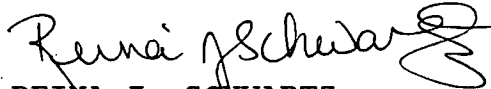
- The reduction in tonnage may be attributed to some public confusion as to collection schedules.
- The cost of curbside recycling represents an unfortunate paradox. The disposal cost avoided from recycling and the revenue from the scrap value of the materials recycled is greatly exceeded by the cost of collection. Therefore, in general, the more we collect, the more we have to charge the rate payer to subsidize the program. The more we recycle through curbside collection, the greater the cost of the program.
- Does the higher participation and tonnage recycled in a weekly program justify the increased cost of weekly collection?
- Curbside recycling is neither economical or self-supporting from the sale of recyclables. Curbside recycling diverts approximately 2% of the City's waste stream.
- A return to weekly curbside recycling collection would incur a 38% cost increase in operation of the program to increase diversion by less than .26% of the total waste stream.

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**MBE/WBE**

MBE/WBE issues are not applicable since no goods or services are being purchased.

Respectfully Submitted,



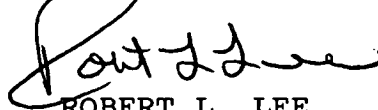
REINA J. SCHWARTZ  
Acting Solid Waste Division Manager

Recommendation Approved:



WILLIAM H. EDGAR  
City Manager

Approved:



ROBERT L. LEE  
Deputy Director of Public Works

RESOLUTION NO. 94-405

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION  
OF EVERY-OTHER-WEEK CURBSIDE RECYCLING  
AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO REPORT BACK  
ON THE PROGRAM'S PROGRESS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO that the current curbside recycling program will continue collection every other week and that staff are directed to report back on the program's progress in six months.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

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FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_