PUBLIC WORKS

Bridging the Gap to Recycling

Sanitation opens an exhibit in City Hall on waste reduction.



Councilmember Jan Perry, Club Member, presents a City Council resolution to Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz. In the background is Richard Myles, Bureau of Sanitation Division Manager, Solid Resources Valley Collections.



A blue recycling bin with a banner showing items that can be placed in the blue bin. A green bin with a banner showing items that can be placed in the green bin.

On Aug. 12, Public Works/Sanitation opened its solid resources exhibit titled "On the Road to Zero Waste." The educational exhibit aims to improve recycling practices and the proper disposal of hazardous waste as well as increase awareness of Sanitation services to the public.

The exhibit is in the rotunda and Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery on the third floor of City Hall downtown.

In attendance at the opening ceremony were Councilwoman Jan Perry, Club Member; Cynthia Ruiz, President, Board of Public Works; Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director, Public Works/Sanitation; Alex Helou, Assistant Director of Solid Resources, Public Works/Sanitation; Karen Coca, Acting Division Manager, Solid Resources Citywide Recycling; Khalil Gharios, Division Manager, Solid Resources Construction and Processing; Chris Johnson, Division Manager, Solid Resources South Collections; Richard Myles, Division Manager, Solid Resources Valley Collections; and Jorge Santiesteban, Division Manager, Solid Resources Support Services.

Public Works/Sanitation's five Solid Resources Divisions—Citywide Recycling, Processing and Construction, South and Valley Collections and Support Services—properly and safely manage more than 1.6 million tons of the City's massive solid waste stream annually, achieving a 65 percent diversion rate of solid waste from landfills. As a result, the City has the highest recycling rate out of 10 of the largest U.S. cities surveyed in the March 2, 2009 edition of Waste & Recycling News.

California Assembly Bill 939, known as the Integrated Waste Management Act, mandated compliance in the reduction of solid waste being disposed in landfills and required jurisdictions to meet solid waste diversion goals of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000.

Public Works/Sanitation implements solid waste collection, recycling and hazardous waste programs for the City that exceed California's mandated 50 percent diversion rate of waste from landfills. The Bureau's goal is to meet a 70 percent diversion rate by 2015.



Banner of a Bureau of Sanitation Refuse Collection Truck



Councilmember Jan Perry, Club Member, with Public Works/Sanitation staff, from left: Alex Helou, Assistant Director, Solid Resources; Chris Johnson, Division Manager, Solid Resources South Collections; Khalil Gharios, Division Manager, Solid Resources Construction and Processing; Richard Myles, Division Manager, Solid Resources Valley Collections; Karen Coca, Acting Division Manager, Solid Resources Citywide Recycling; and Jorge Santiesteban, Division Manager, Solid Resources Support Services.

