

# Newsbriefs

## PUBLIC WORKS SUMMER INTERNS:

The eighth annual City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works High School Internship Program (PWHIP) kicked off July 6, placing 63 Los Angeles-area high school students in paid internships for six weeks through mid-August, announced Public Works Board President Cynthia M. Ruiz. "In the 2010 edition of the program, students will receive hands-on training from 23 Southern California firms as they explore in-demand wastewater engineering and construction management careers," she said.

"We are extremely pleased with the Public Works High School Internship Program," said Public Works Commissioner and PWHIP Coordinator Andrea Alarcon. "Through this program, partnering firms offer internships that integrate classroom learning with work-based experience as students are exposed to various career options."

According to a National Science Foundation estimate, the United States will have a shortage of 70,000 engineers this year. "While contributing significantly to the development of our youths, the program has created a diverse pipeline of future architects and engineers," Alarcon added. "As we make a difference in the lives of students and their families,

we are shaping the future of our industry as well."

The Board of Public Works and MWH, a global wet infrastructure sector and environmental engineering leader, partnered to create the internship program in 2003 and expose high school juniors and graduating seniors to career options in architecture, engineering, construction management and environmental engineering. Since that time, the PWHIP has reached more than 340 students from 50 Los Angeles area schools.

Paid internships include job training, educational workshops, field trips and exposure to the professional work environment. Interns this year will be placed with public-private partners or City of Los Angeles departments.

More than 420 PWHIP applications were received earlier this year. The group was then narrowed to an interview pool of 174 before the final 63 interns were selected. In addition to submitting an online application and recommendation form, applicants attended job skill workshops to refine their interview techniques and learn more about the formal interview process.

For more information, visit the following web-

site: [www.bpw.lacity.org/pwhip](http://www.bpw.lacity.org/pwhip) or contact City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Commissioner Andrea Alarcon at (213) 978-0254.

## PUBLIC WORKS HQ GOES ZERO WASTE:

The Public Works Building in downtown Los Angeles was to become the first municipal facility in the country to go Zero Waste beginning July 1, announced Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar.

The building, at 1149 S. Broadway, houses some 1,500 employees who work for the City of Los Angeles' Bureaus of Sanitation, Contract Administration, Engineering, Street Lighting and Street Services. Bureau of Sanitation staff, who provide recycling programs for all City facilities, have implemented numerous programs in the Public Works Building to reduce the amount of trash that would otherwise reach landfills. These include the Blue Bin recycling program, battery collection, the City's material exchange program called CitiMAX, Clean Your Files Month, Bring

Your Bag Wednesdays, Electronic Waste Recycling, Toner and Inkjet Recycling, Pen Recycling, as well as donation opportunities to reuse and recycle old running shoes, greeting cards, and eyeglasses.

Sanitation staff also worked with the Public Works Building custodial staff to implement a program to further encourage zero waste: any trash cans in offices and cubicles would not be emptied if a significant amount of recyclables were found in them. Instead, custodial staff would leave notices for employees whose cubicle trash cans contained recyclables items.

The City of Los Angeles currently recycles 65 percent of the City's solid waste, the highest among the 10 most populated cities in the United States. The City of Los Angeles has a diversion goal of 70 percent by 2013. Los Angeles' efforts to reduce landfill reliance also helps combat global warming as landfills are the second largest source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, in California.

The City initiated the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP) in spring 2007 to develop a 20-year plan to achieve zero waste in Los Angeles as called for by RENEW LA. The SWIRP plan will provide a road map to increase landfill diversion of the City's municipal solid waste through source reduction, recycling, composting, as well as energy and other resource recovery through the use of alternative technologies.



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