

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:  
September 14, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of General Services

Subject: Report Back - Proposal To Enhance Recycling Efforts In County Owned Buildings

Contact: Michael Morse, Director, Department of General Services, 876-6191

**Overview**

This is a report back on proposed enhancements to the County's internal recycling activities. The enhanced program proposes expanded recycling activities within County owned buildings currently serviced by the Department of General Services (DGS) custodial staff to provide recovery of a broad range of "mixed" office paper products. "Mixed recyclables" include all paper products *except* cardboard, wax, plastic or chemical coated papers such as paper ream wrappers, food wrappings, paper towels, and trash, including food and waste products. Additionally, DGS is proposing a partnership with the Sacramento Local Conservation Corps (SLCC) to collect cans, bottles and plastics.

**Background**

DGS was asked to provide a report to the Board regarding how more types/colors of paper products as well as bottles, cans and newsprint may be incorporated into the existing internal recycle program and thus further reduce flow of material to the County landfill. On April 25, 2006, DGS presented to the Board of Supervisors a "pilot" program to collect data such as the recycle volume, material costs, and labor to better forecast program costs to meet subsequent recovery efforts for a more robust program. Such a pilot program, however, would have only minimal benefit in reducing landfill deposits, and although there may some cost impact, it was agreed that a more immediate and expanded program that will better serve all County facilities would be more appropriate.

**Enhancement Recommendations**

With the BOS approval, the revised program as it is currently envisioned will include all County owned facilities in the Downtown and Bradshaw Districts for expanded recycle collection, including facilities such as the North Transfer Station and those on Broadway/Stockton Blvd.

**Office Paper Recycling**

Blue plastic desk-side recycle containers will replace existing wastebaskets (or boxes) in all work areas to collect both mixed waste paper and newspaper generated during the course of the workday. A smaller hanging "saddlebag" will also be provided which is attached to the blue mixed paper container. The saddlebag will collect the daily 'waste' products such as food, food wrappings, food stained paper & waste products, as well as cardboard, paper ream wrappers and paper towels. DGS custodial staff would service these saddlebags as they now do the desk side wastebasket.

**Cans, Bottles, and Plastics**

DGS is also pleased to announce a partnership with the Sacramento Local Conservation Corps to collect these recyclables. County employees will be encouraged to deposit Cans, Bottles and Plastics (CBN) in easily identifiable containers placed conveniently in public lobbies and elevator alcoves, break rooms, cafeterias, office copier/admin spaces, and general seating areas. These containers will allow broad recycle coverage, minimize the number of containers needed in each building, and minimize staff time to clean, collect and move contents.

**Collection Cycle**

As is the current practice, employees will move their recycle material from their work areas to central collection stations, as in the same manner office waste is currently collected, the accumulated contents of the blue recycled paper bins and CBN containers will be gathered by the DGS custodial staff and brought to central holding points to await contractor pickup. Contracts already exist to accommodate the mixed recycled paper pickup and will not require any modifications, and SLCC will to pick up the CBN material once a week, or more often if the volume dictates.

**Financial Analysis**

Material costs for the blue desk side recycle bins and associated labeling will be approximately \$40,000 for the first year, and less than \$20,000 per year for additional facilities and replacement bins. SLCC agrees to provide the CBN recycle bins as well as the weekly pickup at no cost. All costs will be absorbed within the existing Department of General Services appropriations. No additional staff will be required to implement this program.

Respectfully submitted,

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MICHAEL M. MORSE, Director  
Department of General Services

APPROVED:  
TERRY SCHUTTEN  
County Executive

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK NORRIS, Administrator  
Internal Services Agency