



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGENCY – Cheryl Creson, Administrator

Department of Waste Management & Recycling

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Agenda date: September 9, 2004

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Waste Management & Recycling
Municipal Services Agency

SUBJECT: Report Back From Day 1 Budget Hearing (September 1, 2004) –
Effectiveness of Previous Sheriff's Department Staffing Funded by the Refuse
Enterprise Fund for Curtailment of Illegal Dumping Activities

CONTACT: David A. Pelsler, Director 876-5550

BACKGROUND:

During the budget hearing of September 1, 2004 questions arose concerning the historical use of the Sheriff's Department for enforcement of solid waste codes, particularly related to illegal dumping. This report is for information only.

In 1991 the County implemented a residential curbside recycling program using three stackable bins for collection. This system resulted in widespread theft (scavenging) of the recyclable materials that had a high market value such as aluminum cans. The scavenging resulted in a significant loss of revenue and customer complaints about the nuisances created by scavengers. In order to reduce scavenging, the Refuse Enterprise Fund funded a position in the Sheriff's Department for the purpose of enforcing the anti-scavenging ordinance.

The residential curbside recycling program was changed in 1998 to a single container for mixed recyclables. With this change, the scavenging of recyclable materials ended. The focus of the code enforcement switched to illegal dumping, uncovered loads, and the Regional Solid Waste Authority's (SWA's) commercial waste franchise system.

In FY 03-04 the interdepartmental agreement between the Department of Waste Management & Recycling (DWMR) and the Sheriff's Department was not renewed and solid waste code enforcement responsibility was transferred to the Code Enforcement Division of the Department of Planning and Community Services. The Recommended Final Budget for FY 04-05 continues the Refuse Enterprise Fund support of 1 FTE Code Enforcement Officer II position.



DISCUSSION:

For several years, the DWMR was under pressure to reduce costs and avoid service fee increases in order to have competitive tip fees and to avoid increases in the residential utility bills. In addition, the County was faced with the potential for layoffs in a number of Departments and was looking for ways to place County workers into funded positions that might otherwise be subject to layoff. In FY 03-04 the DWMR was able to save approximately \$55,000 per year and avoid the layoff of a Code Enforcement Officer by transferring the enforcement function from the Sheriff's Department to the Code Enforcement Division of the Department of Planning and Community Services. (At the time, the Sheriff's Department had enough vacancies to handle the funding reduction without a layoff). In addition, the effectiveness of enforcement activities has improved as a result of new approaches to staff assignments in the Code Enforcement Division.

MEASURES/EVALUATION:

The original justification for the Refuse Fund to financially support one FTE for enforcement of solid waste codes was cost effectiveness. Specifically DWMR estimated the lost revenue was \$147,450 in 1996 from scavenging of source separated recycling containers. Thus, it was cost effective for DWMR to support enforcement of anti-scavenging codes. In 1998 the County switched to single stream or mixed recycling collection system. The single stream system virtually eliminated scavenging from collection containers as indicated by the number of citations issued before and after the switch (i.e. from 117 to 2). After 1998 code enforcement supported by DWMR became more land use or nuisance oriented (e.g. illegal dumping, litter, etc.). Support for these nuisance programs have no net cost savings for the Refuse Fund, thus, DWMR needed to eliminate and/or reduce these expenditures. The DWMR has been able to reduce expenditures and increase nuisance enforcement by using the Code Enforcement Division. The attachment summarizes the performance outcomes of solid waste code enforcement for specific years for which this data was readily available (the most recent 2 years, and 1996-97 which was the first year the Sheriff's Department was used for anti-scavenging).

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:

The Recommended Final Budget continues the Refuse Enterprise Fund support of 1 FTE Code Enforcement Officer II in the Code Enforcement Division of the Department of Planning and Community Development at an annual savings of approximately \$55,000 as compared to the previous practice of funding a position in the Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
Terry Schutten
County Executive

David A. Pelsler, Director
Dept of Waste Management & Recycling

By: _____
Administrator
Municipal Services Agency

Attachment

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY FOR SOLID WASTE CODES

FY 96-97 3-Bin Recycling System with Anti-Scavenging Enforcement by Sheriff:

The DWMR was under contract with the Sheriff's Department for enforcement of scavenging and illegal dumping.

The Sheriff's Department reported the following activities when the County was in the 3 Bin Recycling System:

Felony Arrests:	17
Misdemeanor Arrests:	14
Scavenging Citations:	117

The number of felony arrests and misdemeanor arrests were associated more with other activities such as vehicle theft and drug issues. No felony or misdemeanor arrests were directly related to enforcement of the DWMR Solid Waste Ordinance.

FY 02-03 Single Stream Recycling and Enforcement by Sheriff's Department:

When the County adopted the single stream recycling system and adopted the SWA Ordinance, the program emphasis shifted to illegal dumping, the uncovered load program, and enforcement of the SWA Ordinance related to the commercial franchise system.

Felony Arrests Reported:	0
Misdemeanor Arrests:	3
Scavenging Citations:	2

FY 03-04 Enforcement by Code Enforcement Division:

In July of 2003, the DWMR contracted with Code Enforcement to reflect the changing nature of the program with the significant reduction in the amount of scavenging in residential areas and the emphasis on illegal dumping, uncovered loads, and enforcement of the SWA Ordinance.

Felony Arrests Reported:	0
Misdemeanor Arrests:	0
Citations Total:	9
Illegal Dumping	3
Scavenging in NCU	3
SWA related issues	3

The Code Enforcement Division now assigns three Code Enforcement Officers to investigate and enforce the County solid waste ordinances as part of their overall duties. It is expected that the enforcement actions will continue to rise under this arrangement, which still requires funding only 1 FTE.

