

**Staff Jurisdiction Analysis Summary  
City of Laguna Woods, Orange County  
2012-13 CalRecycle Jurisdiction Review Cycle**

Based upon review of diversion program implementation, LAMD staff recommends Laguna Woods (City) is meeting the requirements of AB939. The City has improved residential recycling and worked towards implementing organics recovery. The City also plans to expand programs, such as educational outreach, as part of a RFP. Diversion and recycled content procurement programs have been observed to be effective as summarized below:

- **Residential:** The program is very comprehensive and targets its population of seniors. The City hosts monthly bulky item pick-up events, and allows for several materials, such as batteries and small appliances, to be dropped off at City Hall on an ongoing basis. It continues to explore additional ways to make recycling even easier for its disabled residents. The entire residential sector is signed up for source separated recycling, and additionally receives mixed waste processing of 2/3 of the material residents deposited in the trash carts. The City ensures that all new service requests receive the smallest trash container so as to maximize recycling. The City uses Cable TV, a community newsletter and the [City's website](#) to inform residents about the diversion programs. The City also maintains a hotline to answer waste and recycling questions, as well as to schedule free bulky waste and HHW collections. LAMD staff will assist the City with plans to implement an organics diversion system that can incorporate food waste and to ensure that website updates are made and appropriately linked to the hauler's website. Staff will also assist to determine if PAYT pricing can be implemented.
- **Commercial:** As the City's exclusive commercial hauler uses mixed waste processing primarily, the focus of education and outreach efforts is to promote proper trash bin signage and to promote source separated recycling. Outreach to businesses is done using a combination of electronic, print, and on site methods, and the program overall appears to be effective in getting the word out about commercial recycling program options. The City's consultant visits all 153 businesses every other year to provide assistance in reducing disposal and increasing recycling. Commingled recycling bins are offered at approximately 1/3 the cost of trash and source separated mixed paper or beverage container recycling bins is no additional cost.
- **MCR:** In implementing MCR, during this review cycle the City worked to ensure all commercial accounts have recycling through either source separation or mixed waste processing. With the exceptions of restaurants and a few multi-family locations, all commercial accounts receive mixed waste processing. The City has now implemented source-separated recycling at about half of the City's businesses, with 25 out of 52 commercial accounts participating in this program as well as mixed waste processing of their refuse containers. Though all businesses are recycling, the City wants all businesses to implement source separated recycling and plans to use MCR outreach as an opportunity to increase source separated accounts. The City also continues to actively implement its education, outreach and monitoring programs that include electronic, print and direct contact but does not have MCR information on its website. City staff is working to add MCR information to its website this year. LAMD staff will continue to monitor MCR progress and assist as needed.

- **Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris:** The City has a [C & D Ordinance](#) that requires 50% diversion for all projects that need a building, demolition and/or grading permit and generate three cubic yards or more of materials. The City has also adopted the Green Building Code as an ordinance which can be found in their municipal code section of their [website](#) under Building and Construction Title 10. CalRecycle staff conducted an analysis of the City ordinance in relation to CalGreen, and found that City ordinance could be less stringent than CalGreen in certain areas. The City only issues permits to those projects generating over three cubic yards of waste. CalGreen and California Building Commission standards do not set a threshold on waste production to determine if a permit is necessary. However, these very small projects would be able to use the existing recycling containers on site for recyclable material, or recoverable material could be salvaged at the MRF and thus staff does not see a significant gap.
- **Government:** With a small number of City staff, it has been easy to get the word out about source reduction and recycling programs and it appears that these programs are effectively being implemented. Recycling containers are located and used throughout City facilities. The City also implements source reduction activities. There are several measures to reduce waste, such as double-sided printing/copying and distributing reusable water bottles to City staff to reduce use of disposable bottles. Green material waste is minimized through the use of mulching mowers, and recycling of waste from trees and bushes. The City also has an environmental policy that includes procurement. This policy provides guidance to the City's purchasing agent who is trained to understand the policy. The City purchases recycled content products including printing paper and office products. LAMD staff will assist to see what additional recycled content materials the City can purchase.