

**Staff Jurisdiction Analysis Summary  
City of Firebaugh, Fresno County  
2012-13 CalRecycle Jurisdiction Review Cycle**

On July 19, 2011, CalRecycle determined that the City of Firebaugh (City) had successfully completed all the requirements of Compliance Order IWMA BR08-01 whereby improvements were implemented in the program areas of: residential curbside, commercial, agricultural/industrial, city offices, multi-family and schools diversion in addition to a franchised hauler contract, disposal reporting accuracy, quarterly and annual report improvements. Based upon review of diversion program implementation during this review cycle and the continued implementation of the expanded programs resulting from the previous Compliance Order, LAMD staff recommends that the City is meeting the requirements of AB939. Diversion and recycled content procurement programs have been observed to be effective as summarized below:

- **Residential:** Fully implemented in early 2009, the City changed its residential program over to a three cart (trash, recycling, and greenwaste) mandatory system. All residents received a 96 gallon container (only) for each collection system item. The reason the City provides one size container for trash is that previously the City had problems with contamination and determined that smaller trash containers would lead customers to use their recycling or greenwaste containers for trash disposal. The City has a new franchised hauler and has worked to develop an effective program including ordinances that are structured to increase diversion, and strong/accurate reporting practices. The hauler coordinates with the City to provide comprehensive education and outreach, using bilingual printed materials, direct contact, and public presentations. Regarding quality control, in 2012 the hauler was focusing on MCR and did not provide residential sector waste audits and that resulted in a decrease in diversion. In 2013, the hauler began the audits again and stepped up its education and outreach, which resulted in an increase in diversion in 2013. The hauler has stated it will not let the audits program lapse again upon seeing a direct correlation between the audits, education and outreach and diversion.
- **Commercial:** The City's Solid Waste Ordinance includes a mandatory recycling program established in 2009. There are 170 businesses which include 14 multi-family complexes (at least six are considered commercial), and four schools. All of the commercial customers (except a few multi-family complexes) are recycling. Three complexes do not yet have recycling programs, but are identified by the hauler as complexes to implement in the near future. After these complexes are assessed, it will be clear if they are considered residential (using 96 gallon carts) or commercial (using three yard bins or more). The cost to recycle is less than trash, and this is an economic incentive that is promoted to businesses to encourage them to recycle. The hauler worked with each business to determine the most appropriate container size. The hauler monitors the commercial sector and audits each site at least once a year. For the sites that have had any problems with contamination, illegal dumping or other significant issues, the hauler visits the site again to follow-up with the manager/owner and to offer assistance (i.e. education, locking bins). The hauler provides numerous bilingual educational materials and presentations to businesses, schools and multi-family complexes. Another significant diversion activity is backhauling from processing plants, or use of residuals from those plants in animal feed.

- **MCR:** The City and hauler has fully implemented MCR activities, and has developed a strong education, outreach and monitoring program, that includes bilingual printed materials, the hauler's website, presentations and direct contact with businesses, multi-family complexes and schools. The hauler closely monitors the commercial sector and all but a few multi-family complexes are recycling.
- **Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris:** The City's C&D ordinance, includes requirements related to CALGreen recycling thresholds. The City has a strong education program that includes permit staff explaining the requirements and requiring permittees to complete a C&D application, informative brochures and the hauler working with the project to ensure diversion. The City scans the C&D application and sends it to the hauler. At the completion of the project the hauler tracks the tonnage and annually reports to the City making certain all applications are closed. The City has not had to conduct enforcement in the past two years but does have a policy that the Certificate of Occupancy will be withheld until all requirements are met. C&D projects in 2012 and 2013 diverted over 50% each year.
- **Government:** The City has a strong employee education recycling, source reduction and procurement program in place. The hauler has provided training to staff at city hall, the senior center, police/fire departments and the community center. The four City offices have indoor recycling containers at each desk plus outdoor recycling containers. City staff reuse coffee cups and practice double-sided copying. The City reuses road asphalt, chipping it for dust control, and practices grasscycling in public areas. The City chips and mulches other greenwaste. A procurement policy is implemented for the purchase of recycled content products, such as 30% recycled content paper and the use of recycled oil in fleet vehicles and environmentally preferable janitorial supplies.