

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

To: Howard Levenson, Deputy Director
Materials Management and Local Assistance Division

From: Cara Morgan, Branch Chief
Local Assistance and Market Development

Request Date: July 18, 2012

Decision Subject: 2007/2008/2009 Jurisdiction Review Findings for the Source Reduction and Recycle Element, Household Hazardous Waste Element for the Following Jurisdiction: Fresno County; City of Mendota.

Action By: August 21, 2012

Summary of Request:

A key component in maintaining the success of AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, is CalRecycle's role in overseeing how well cities and counties are implementing the diversion programs that they each have selected as a part of their Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) and Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE).

This Request for Approval addresses the City of Mendota's Jurisdiction Review for 2007/2008/2009. Local Assistance and Market Development (LAMD) staff reviewed the City's programs in 2010, as part of the review of 58 jurisdictions for that cycle, and found that the City was not meeting the diversion requirement and had significant program gaps. The program gaps included improving residential recycling by increasing education, implementing commercial, multifamily, and school recycling, and ensuring government recycling programs were in place.

As a result of LAMD staff's review the City was forwarded to the Jurisdiction and Product Compliance Unit (JPCU) for further investigation. Additionally, LAMD staff informed the City of the program gaps, that it was to be reviewed independently by JPCU, and that the City could avoid a Compliance Order if the program gaps were addressed. During the time of JPCU's review, the City was able to address the program gaps by expanding and implementing new diversion programs.

Recommendation: While the City did not meet its 50 percent equivalent per capita disposal target in 2009 it has since addressed the program gaps. Therefore, LAMD and JPCU have determined that the City of Mendota has made all reasonable and feasible efforts to implement diversion programs, and should be determined as having made a good faith effort to implement its SRRE and HHWE programs, as required by Public Resources Code Sections 41780 and 41825, respectively.

Deputy Director Action:

On the basis of the information and analysis in this Request for Action and the findings set out

Residential Curbside Recycling

The City and its hauler increased residential curbside recycling by increasing public education efforts. The hauler developed and distributed bi-lingual information to residents and attended community events to raise awareness about the City's curbside recycling program. The hauler also addressed contamination by implementing a cart tagging program, where contaminated carts are tagged to inform the resident of what should and should not be placed in the bins.

Commercial Recycling Collection Program

On May 24, 2011, the City Council cited the fact that "few businesses within the City of Mendota have procured recycling containers," and adopted an ordinance requiring businesses to use all-in-one rates to pay for both trash and recycling. In June 2011, the hauler began citywide distribution of commercial recycling containers; the rollout was completed in July 2011. As a result, during staff's most recent site visit, all businesses had or shared recycling bins. Staff observed that the bins generally contained clean recyclables.

Multifamily Recycling Collection Program

In June 2011, the City began distributing containers for a mandatory multifamily recycling program; the roll-out was completed in July 2011. Accordingly, during staff's most recent site visit, all of the City's multifamily locations had recycling containers. The hauler will continue to participate in outreach events to educate tenants.

School Recycling Program

There are five schools within City limits, and one of these schools is a small alternative education program. All of the schools now have recycling service. During the most recent site visit, the schools were using their recycling and garbage bins properly.

City Government Diversion Program

The City has instituted recycling programs at all government locations, including City Hall. The City educates employees with a waste reduction tip sheet and posters. Also, the City has recycling bins at the park.

Findings

Based on its analysis and JPCU's investigation findings, Local Assistance and Market Development staff finds that while the City of Mendota did not meet the 50% equivalent per-capita disposal requirement in 2009, it has made a good faith effort to implement its diversion programs. Staff will continue to monitor the City's progress in implementing its programs as well as reducing contamination in the residential and commercial sectors.

Staff Jurisdiction Analysis Summary
City of Mendota, Fresno County
2007-09 CalRecycle Jurisdiction Review Cycle
July 2012

Based upon the independent review of diversion program implementation conducted by the Jurisdiction and Product Compliance Unit (JPCU), the City is now adequately implementing its SRRE and HHWE diversion program plans.

Having an unemployment rate of approximately 40% has suppressed the economy and resulted in less waste generation in recent years. However, the jurisdiction has moved ahead with improvements to key components of diversion program infrastructure and implementation. The jurisdiction now has a comprehensive education and outreach program. Rates have been set to encourage recycling. Waste assessments are done on an ongoing basis to help businesses keep costs down.

Key activities:

- **Residential:** The City has an all-inclusive mandatory residential program where all residents pay for service and with an approximate average 75% participation rate. The City alternates collection of recyclables and greenwaste weekly (96 gallon containers). This program is enforced by a City ordinance whereby a code enforcement officer provides warning notices for non-compliance.

In July 2011, the City completed the implementation of the mandatory multifamily program. Also, the Housing Authority (HA) now has a 90% participation rate and a new manager who is supportive of the program and has successfully increased resident participation. A City recycling coordinator works with the HA to ensure the continued success of this program.

- **Commercial:** The City has a local ordinance requiring businesses to recycle. In May 2011, City Council adopted an ordinance requiring businesses to use all-in-one rates to pay for both trash and recycling. In July 2011, the hauler completed citywide distribution of commercial recycling containers. There is no exemption to service and all businesses are required to participate in the City's recycling program. The City continues to conduct waste assessments and provide business assistance. Additionally, labor camps have fully implemented recycling programs. Also, all five of the schools have recycling service.
- **C&D:** All C&D projects divert at least 50% of material and the City's Public Works Department continues to reuse asphalt and concrete for alley and in canal construction projects.

- **Events:** The hauler has provided education and outreach at 10 different events in Mendota over the past year. The City requires permits for special events to incorporate recycling requirements. The City also conducts HHW diversion and waste tire collection events to properly manage these waste streams.

Follow-up Assistance: LAMD staff will continue to monitor and work with the City to refine its diversion programs, especially its residential, commercial and multifamily diversion programs. Staff will also work with the City to ensure that all of the Fresno Housing Authority's Mendota residents have opportunities to divert mixed recyclables and greenwaste.

City of Mendota
Jurisdiction Disposal Rate Trend

Attachment 2a

County	Jurisdiction	50% Equivalent Per Capita Disposal Target	2007 Annual Per Capita Rate	2008 Annual Per Capita Rate	2009 Annual Per Capita Rate
Fresno	Mendota	2.4	4.5	3.7	3.3

Jurisdiction Program Summary Report (Detail)

City of Mendota

Programs: All

Years: 2009

Status: Selected and Ongoing, Alternative and Ongoing, Selected and Implemented

Status definitions posted at: www.calrecycle.ca.gov/lgcentral/paris/Codes/Status.htm

Mendota

Component	Alternative and Ongoing	Selected and Ongoing
Composting	Commercial Self-Haul	Commercial On-Site Food Waste Composting
		Residential Curbside Residential Self-haul
Facility Recovery		Composting Facility MRF
HHW	Curbside Collection	Education Programs Mobile or Periodic Collection
		Permanent Facility
Policy Incentives		Economic Incentives Other Policy Incentive Product and Landfill Bans
Public Education		Electronic (radio ,TV, web, Outreach (tech assistance, Print (brochures, flyers, Schools (education and
Recycling	Commercial Self-Haul	Commercial On-Site Pickup Residential Buy-Back
		Residential Curbside Residential Drop-Off School Recycling Programs Special Collection Events Special Collection
Source Reduction	Backyard and On-Site Composting/Mulching	Business Waste Reduction Program Government Source Reduction Programs Material Exchange, Thrift Procurement School Source Reduction Xeriscaping/Grasscycling
Special Waste Materials		Ash Concrete/Asphalt/Rubble Tires White Goods Wood Waste
Transformation		Biomass

