

focus

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING INDUSTRY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISPOSAL ASSOCIATION

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LOS ANGELES STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS PRESENTED MIXED BAG OF FACT/FICTION

Following several months of Stakeholder meetings, the City of Los Angeles asked for comments concerning various proposals to change the commercial-waste collection program in the City. The following is a condensation of the LACDA comments submitted to the City in support of a Non-Exclusive Commercial Franchise System.

The LACDA is strongly supportive of a **Non-Exclusive Commercial Franchise System** for Los Angeles businesses, and **Opposed to a Exclusive Commercial** waste collection program. A **Non-Exclusive** system will retain a competitive waste collection and recycling marketplace whereby L.A. businesses will be able to continue to negotiate for collection and recycling services that best meet their service requirements and afford them a competitive, lower rate. It seemed that many of the "activists" who spoke at the meetings, environmental group representatives etc., didn't seem to understand the issues being presented, examples such as employee working conditions, etc. Many issues are not in the scope of intended City regulation, and other claims that were so far afield that it is a waste of time to rebut them.

We do believe the meetings would have been much more productive if the underlying issues that brought us to these meetings were outlined in more detail and discussed. **It was the LAANE "Don't Waste L.A." proposal that stopped other City programs, and brought the Exclusive Commercial Collection proposal to the table!**

Specific issues discussed at the meetings we would like to comment on.

Accountability— In what appeared to be in almost every one of the LAANE scripted talks was the "need for accountability", and the "fact" that only a exclusive commercial franchise system will give the City the "accountability it needs". Nothing could be further from the truth and easier to show. AB 32 requirements are clear that municipalities like Los Angeles must adopt a franchise system. Waste hauler requirements are mandated in the franchise agreement, be it a non-exclusive agreement or an exclusive agreement.

Whether it is a single hauler or 50 haulers, the collection/operational mandates would be expected to be the same under either system. Reporting requirements would be the same. The same amount of waste would be collected under either system, recycling material types and processing would be the same, and reporting requirements for this waste would also be the same. We are in the computer age, waste collection programs, waste processing reporting, disposal reporting, recycling reports, even waste characterization studies, are all submitted electronically giving the jurisdiction whatever information they need, in any category and format. To claim multiple reporting haulers require additional City staff and resources is not accurate. Also waste haulers now seem to be resigned, under a confidentiality agreement, to pro-

vide their customer lists. This will give the City a better idea of who and where the businesses are and who is servicing them. Complaints directed to the City can be directed to the appropriate waste hauler, and as a condition of their franchise

An Non-Exclusive System Will Increase Recycling And Decrease Landfilling - A Non-Exclusive System will increase recycling and decrease landfilling. Los Angeles has about 40 waste haulers who service commercial accounts and provide recycling programs. Recycling programs continue to expand in terms of quantities taken from the waste stream, either through source separation or MRFing, and new materials continue to be added to the recycling stream. Many of the smaller haulers have become "niche" recyclers, they have found new markets for materials not normally taken from the waste stream. In some cases they have combined these materials with those collected by other companies to reach quantities that can be marketed. **Also, tailored business recycling plans have become a competitive marketing strategy to attract new customers, this competition among haulers is responsible for a lot of the recent growth in recycling/waste diversion.** Take away the competitive incentive and recycling growth will slow. Waste haulers, including small companies, are perhaps the most active participants in the search for new markets for recycled products. Without a market no mandate to recycle a given material will achieve success. Give an ex-

clusive commercial contract to a waste company that owns a nearby landfill and see what happens to the recycling programs.

L.A. Exclusive Franchise(s) Will Drive More Waste To The Valley — Los Angeles has the largest commercial marketplace in the country, with the City covering more than 400-square-miles from the shores of San Pedro to the northern boundaries of the San Fernando Valley. Given the geographical expanse and thousands of businesses that call L.A. "home", the 40 or so waste haulers and recyclers that service these businesses is not a large number - held in check by the competitive system that now exists. **If an exclusive franchise for commercial collection were awarded for the entire City, or even a section of the City, only two or three large companies would be able to undertake the waste collection and recycling demands, and even they would face logistical road blocks.**

A location map of the waste facilities belonging to the three major waste haulers, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, and landfills, shows these companies own a majority of these facilities **and most are located in the San Fernando Valley.** Smaller waste haulers utilize a wide range of public and privately owned facilities dispersed over a much greater geographical area within and outside of the City. For the large waste hauling companies who own Valley area landfills cost is an important consideration that shapes their disposal choices.

The City of Los Angeles has had a long standing goal of reducing waste that goes into landfills. Large company dominance of the waste stream in Los Angeles will greatly increase City waste going into private landfills.

Commercial Waste Collection Rates Are Lower In A Competitive Market - Studies show time and again that commercial waste collection rates are lower in a competitive market -just as service levels are higher. Competition establishes the rate levels and customers are free to seek competitive bids and change waste haulers based on rate. **In an exclusive market none of this is true - and rates are determined.....?**

Waste Collection Truck Traffic In Exclusive Vrs. Non-Exclusive Systems: Unfortunately most of the speakers at the Stakeholders meetings who discussed this topic, and apparently LAANE themselves, do not understand the complexities of commercial waste collection, especially when compared to residential collection.

LACDA HOLIDAY LUNCH SET FOR DEC. 7 AT SWISS PARK BANQUET INN

The annual LACDA membership Holiday Lunch is set for: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11:30 Reception / Noon Lunch Swiss Park Banquet Inn Cost: \$100 Per Person

Make your reservations now for the annual LACDA Holiday Lunch. This year's event has been moved to the Swiss Park Banquet Inn in Whittier. The location has been moved but the tradition continues. Prime Rib is still on the menu, along with the Annual Eagle Award Presentation. Bring a gift for the gift exchange and be prepared to introduce yourself and discuss your firms goods and services.

Reservations: Janet @ 909-592-8621 LACDA2@CS.COM

INDUSTRY NEWS:

LACDA FACILITY MEMBER CHIQUITA CANYON GENERATING "GREEN" POWER

Chiquita Canyon is a 600-acre landfill located in Castaic, California, approximately 3 miles west of the Interstate 5 on State Route 126 in the Santa Clarita Valley. It has been in continuous operation for more than 40 years and is owned and operated by Waste Connections, an Integrated solid waste services company. Chiquita Canyon provides the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding Los Angeles communities with environmentally safe and cost effective waste disposal services.

Chiquita Canyon only accepts non-hazardous solid waste for disposal. The solid waste received at the site consists of municipal solid waste, residential and commercial waste, including yard waste, Green Waste (for composting or for recycling), clean fill soil and construction/demolition debris. The landfill is permitted for 24-hr operation but currently is open for commercial haulers Monday 4:30 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Friday 3 am to 5 pm and Saturday 4:30 am to 3 pm.

Since it began operating in 1972, Chiquita Canyon has been an active member of the Santa Clarita Valley, participating in community events and contributing to local organizations and programs.

Chiquita Canyon, like other solid waste

landfills, over time generates a greenhouse gas, methane, which can be safely converted into a valuable source of clean energy. Chiquita deploys a gas recovery system to collect methane which is then used to generate "Green" electricity for nearly 10,000 homes.

Chiquita is located at 29201 Henry Mayo Dr., Castaic, CA 91384. For more information, please contact Mike Dean (District Manger) or Steve Cassulo (Assistant District Manger) at 661-257-3655.

WELCOME NEW LACDA MEMBERS

Allan Company
Bay West Refuse Removal California
Waste Services Quality
Waste Services

Associates
Rotonics Mfg., Inc.
Schaefer Mfg. Specialized Lubricants

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First it should be noted that as municipalities draft their franchise agreements, in accordance with AB 32 requirements, transition to clean-fuel fleets seem to be the norm. Most of the LACDA members are already integrating alternative-fuel vehicles into their fleets.

While it is obvious that exclusive residential franchises are able to lessen truck traffic, the same does not hold true in the commercial sector, whether semi-exclusive or exclusive. Business requirements vary considerably in terms or frequency of collection, time of collection, and materials to be collected. Certainly as our recycling expands and more materials are separated from the waste stream, these must be containerized and collected either separately or in trucks with separated compartments. Because the current system is so competitive many smaller haulers only service commercial accounts in specific parts of the City, their costs would be high to travel to another area for a few accounts - and they probably would not be able to obtain those accounts under a competitive system.

Negative Economic Impacts With Exclusive System: With about 40 waste haulers serving commercial accounts it is realistic to estimate that more than half of these companies, some in their third generation of operations, would be put out of business should the City go to exclusive franchise(s). The loss of businesses goes far beyond just these companies, it reaches to the hundreds of companies that do business with the hauling companies. From paint, to tires, to replacement parts, local companies do business with local suppliers, unlike many large firms that do their business on a national or regional level. One smaller medium-size company says they spend more than \$1 million locally on fuel and thousands more on tires annually.

The Non-Exclusive Franchise translates into keeping companies in business and translates into more jobs throughout the business sector.

HEFFERNAN INS. OUTLINES COMPANY/EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

Assembly Bill 2774 is a new California law which went into affect January 1, 2011. This law gives Division of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH) new enforcement powers to fine employers who are out of compliance with their Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP). Yes, that's right, your IIPP which was enacted back in 1989 under Senate Bill 198. Time to dust off that old safety manual. Hilda Solis, the U.S. Secretary of Labor says "Well accomplish this (increased worker protection) through tough enforcement, transparency, cooperation and balance."

One of the primary reasons why the DOSH is targeting California is due to California's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's, (Cal/OSHA) citation record here in the golden state. According to DOSH, California employers are only being fined 19% of the time for serious safety infractions, when the rest of the country is averaging 43%. As an insurance broker, I'm not crazy about my clients being fined excessively over safety infractions, however what I've seen in the past 12 months is a softer Cal/OSHA. Many of our Heffeman clients who've experienced industrial accidents where fire or ambulance

have been called to the scene are not being followed up on by Cal/OSHA.

Cal/OSHA has had a reputation of starting out by fining employers the maximum for violations only to have employers appeal those fines, the net result being a reduction in the gross dollar amount of the fine. The maximum penalty by violation under SB 198, our original IIPP safety regulation, was \$7,000. This amount is being increased to \$25,000 under AB2774. The difficult aspect of this new law is that the "Burden of Proof" is going to rest upon the employer to prove their innocence or lack of culpability in the safety violation which resulted in an industrial injury.

As in all new laws no one is certain how this is going to shake out, however from the many seminars I've listened to over the past five months regarding AB2774, it's clear that fines will be adhered to and employers will have a much harder time negotiating out of them. Training and documentation is going to be a key element in fending off Cal/OSHA fines. This will mean that employers have to be pro-actively training their employees and following the guidelines of their IIPP. DOSH is also taking the Appeals Board out of the equation and forcing the employer to prove their innocence of what the DOSH

says is a violation description.

I've heard it said that "cookie cutter" IIPP's which are not customized to the individual employer's company are not going to pass the new DOSH standards. The DOSH is getting back to the basics with AB2774; they are using language like, reasonable and responsible, in determining accountability for the employer. This was the same type of language we saw back in 1989 with SB 198. DOSH is not recreating the wheel, they're just making their lives easier if and when they decide to inspect and fine you.

This is not to be taken lightly, especially now when every dollar counts. The old saying still stands true, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Most consultants can re-make and update an IIPP for under \$5,000.

That includes spending time with your safety coordinator or manager to gather details about your day to day operations and develop a safety and training strategy. Here at Heffeman we've sponsored two webinars regarding SB2774, we also have services to help update and implement IIPP's. If this is something of concern to you and your company, don't wait until it's too late, Worker's Compensation Coverage is only half the picture when taking care of your most valuable assets, your employees.

IMPACT PLASTICS UNVEILS NEW LID FOR ORGANIC FOOD DUMPSTERS

Impact Plastics wants to introduce the LA County Disposal Association to a new part of its business solutions, a specialized lid system for Organic Food Commercial Dumpsters.

Less than 3% of all organic waste in the USA is currently being recycled. Due to local and state laws and pending bills, this percentage will be growing dramatically in the near future (along with fines and warnings). The commercial collection of food waste presents many challenges. In cases where a traditional 3 yard commercial dumpster is used, the typical two container lid system is not the best solution. Even the best fitting lids allow water to get into the container, adding unwanted weight and leachate to the container. Not only does this increase the cost of the trip to process the food waste, and reduce the number of stops the driver can pick up, but it also contributes to the lifespan of the container, resulting in either replacement or repair of the container.

Unwanted liquid can add up to 40% of the total weight of a commercial container during wet weather seasons!

Customers also want to keep odors inside, and vectors, rodents and other pests outside. A current two lid system does not solve these issues. Quite often the lids stay "flipped back" allowing water in and odor out of the container.

Drain plugs can help reduce container weight, but without an adequate location to dump the liquid from the container, the customer chances an environmental issue when releasing the liquid via drain plug into the ground or drain.

One last issue affects the person who disposes of food waste into the commercial container. Opening the lid with one hand, and dumping in the food waste contents of a "slim Jim" or 5 gallon bucket is challenging and potentially a back wrenching exercise.

To provide a solution to these many challenges Impact Plastics is introducing the first of its offerings in its "Organics Lid Series". This vacuum-formed lid fits a 3-yard commercial container and:

- Is designed to cover the entire area of the container with a liquid-proof 74.5"x49" one lid system.
- Incorporates a "lid in a lid" 29.8"x 29.5" trap door lid that is easily lifted to dump in food waste
- Gasketed around both doors perimeters to 100% keep the odor in, and all liquids and pests out.

- Makes it easy for the customer to open the smaller trap door and dump food waste into the container in a simple, ergonomic effort.

- Allows for easy dumping by the driver when it's time to empty the container.

- Has a built-in UVI package to extend the life of the lid.

- Is guaranteed with a five year warranty.

To get all the details and a complete brochure on this Impact Solution, email Gary Cardoza at garyc@impactlids.com, or visit our website at www.impactlids.com

In addition, Impact Plastics provides high quality, longer lasting dumpster lids and parts solutions to the Waste Industry and to 100's of hauler customers in California. Vacuum-formed lids with thick hinge lines that last longer. The cost of a dumpster lid is less than 20% of the total cost of the process to change the lid. "Buying Lids is Cheap, Replacing Lids is Expensive." One look at your heap will back this up. We can make broken lids and their expense a welcomed thing of the past!

In addition to our featured Organics Lid, Impact Plastics also provides lids for solid waste, single stream and cardboard recycling, bear resistant, grease containers, and a full line of accessories for your waste industry needs.

To try any of our solutions, call Gary Cardoza at 847.867.3824 or email him at garyc@impactlids.com. Additionally, all of our lid solutions are available from fellow member, Consolidated Fabricators on their quality containers. Please contact Barbara Ross for further information at 818.901.1005 or email her Bross@confab.com



The Impact Organics Lid shown on a 3 yard container

McNEILUS REFUSE BODIES COVERED BY STRONG SERVICE NETWORK

McNeilus, an Oshkosh Truck Corporation Company, is a leading manufacturer of quality refuse bodies, including front, rear, and automated side loaders. McNeilus products are supported by the strongest service network in the industry, with factory owned branches and service centers located throughout the country and a reputation for innovation and rock solid dependability.

McNeilus Street Smart Parts is also standing by to supply fleets with quality replacement parts for McNeilus and non-McNeilus refuse bodies. For more information please contact Barry Torgerson at the Southern California area parts and service center in Colton, CA. and be sure to ask about our new ZR side loader and Pacific LoPro front loader, both built for CNG and lighter weight West Coast applications.

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SCHAEFER SYSTEMS INT. DOES IT ALL-CART CONSTRUCTION-ASSEMBLY-DISTRIBUTION

Schaefer Systems International, Inc. Is a worldwide manufacturer of residential garbage and recycling carts.

Our products range in size of 20, 32,35,64, 65,95 and 96 gallon containers.

Schaefer uses the injection molding process that follows strict ISSO 9001 quality control specifications. In North America, we manufacture are carts in Lodi, CA and Charlotte, NC.

Our company provides our customers cradle to grave recyclable service. When our carts have reached their useful life, we will recycle them into new carts. We do this by using 100% recyclable High Density Polyethylene (HOPE). We also provide excellent assembly and distribution services for city roll cuts.

Schaefer Systems International, Inc is the US subsidiary of the Schaefer Group of Companies that have been making carts for 50 years and has over 10 million in the USA and more than 35 million carts worldwide.

If you have any further questions, please call Al Spector, our West Coast Manager, at 714-962-8077. Al has been in the recycling business most of his life and has been involved with roll carts since 1978.

LACDA MEMBER PRODUCTS/SERVICES

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