

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: Legislative Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Support of AB 1939 (Vincent and Margetta)

April 24, 2000

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council:

1. Adopt the attached resolution supporting AB 1939 which recommends changes to AB 939; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate officials stating Pasadena's position.

BACKGROUND

The existing California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), which is administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, establishes an integrated waste management program which cities, counties, and regional agencies are required to implement. Under AB 939, local jurisdictions are required to achieve landfill waste diversion goals of 25% by 1995 and 50% by 2000.

Assembly Bill 1939 proposes an approach that would permit individual cities and counties to identify and explain outside factors that may impact the accuracy of the diversion numbers and would restrain the ability of the Waste Management Board to require additional documentation by jurisdictions that provide such information. In addition, the bill recommends that emphasis be placed on whether or not a jurisdiction is making a good faith effort to implement its AB 939 programs as the fundamental way of determining AB 939 compliance.

Passage of AB 1939 would eliminate much of the inaccuracy inherent in the current disposal reporting system. This reporting system is based in part on the estimated number of tons disposed at Scholl Canyon Landfill. Drivers (of private haulers) who use the landfill tend to overstate the amount of their waste coming from Pasadena because 1) trash originating from


outside the Scholl Canyon Wasteshed is not allowed in the landfill and drivers know they would have to travel much farther to the next one, 2) drivers are unfamiliar with the boundaries of the large unincorporated community that borders Pasadena. 3) Altadena is located north of Pasadena and is part of the Pasadena Unified School District but not one of the Scholl Canyon Wasteshed city members, and 4) Pasadena is familiar to the thousands of truck drivers using Scholl Canyon Landfill because of its large population, physical size, and proximity. However, when private haulers with trash originating outside Pasadena state it is Pasadena trash at the landfill entrance, it negatively impacts Pasadena's diversion rate by an overall estimated four percent (4%). Passage of AB 1939 would place more emphasis on each jurisdiction's good faith efforts to implement source reduction, recycling, and household waste elements.

This bill was referred to the State Committee on Natural Resources on February 28, 2000. The next hearing date is scheduled for April 10, 2000.

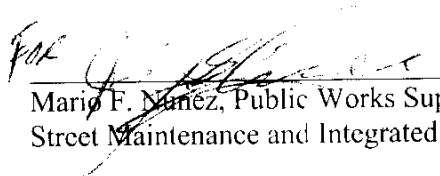
FISCAL IMPACT

Changes to the current methodology of determining if a jurisdiction meets the AB 939 mandate could help the City avoid a potential \$10,000/day fine for non-compliance.

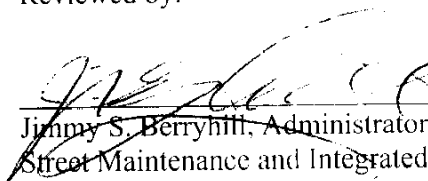
Respectfully submitted,


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