



DATE: April 10, 2013

TO: Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission

FROM: Michael Chandler, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Recycling in City Parks Update

Commissioner Pallotta mentioned at the January 22, 2013 meeting of the PRMCC that more recycling containers were needed in City parks. The City last made a bulk purchase of 32 gallon recycling containers in 2009, at a cost of over \$6,300. City administration and Parks staff have been evaluating the parks, downtown and Marina areas for additional recycling needs. A key component of the project involves evaluating the existing stock in these locations to determine its suitability as recycling-only containers, including how well the cans are marked, and whether or not the lids can be secured to prevent pilfering of the recyclables. Containers that can be appropriately labeled as recycling only and secured against pilfering will be candidates for reuse; otherwise, additional funds will be needed to purchase new recycling containers.

Measure H funding can be used for those parks that will require new containers. Engineering and Parks staff will coordinate to identify the recycling needs for parks already renovated through Measure H that do not have sufficient recycling infrastructure. As new parks are redone through Measure H, the recycling needs of those locations will be built into the project budgets. The City's Beverage Container Recycling Grant – funded through the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery ("CalRecycle"), will be an available source of funding for recycling upgrades at the Rankin Aquatic Center and Marina. The initial focus in the downtown area will be to convert some of the existing infrastructure to recycling-only by purchasing and installing highly visible blue recycling lids marked for bottles and cans. These lids will be secured to prevent pilfering and an assessment of the new recycling system's effectiveness will be made after approximately one month of use. Parks staff ordered two of these lids in early April and installation is expected to occur around the middle of May.

Within the last two months, the City has reached out to the local Sea Scouts organization to broach the possibility of entering into an agreement for recycling collection in the parks, downtown and Marina areas. The Sea Scouts are enthusiastic about taking over this responsibility and have already toured a number of locations with City staff. Once the City has more recycling upgrades in place, the Sea Scouts will take the lead in securing the containers and maintaining full key control. A provision in the agreement will be for the Sea Scouts to sort and weigh the recyclables, and provide monthly reports to the City on the quantities recycled. This information will be useful not only for the City's required annual diversion reports to CalRecycle, but also to gauge the success of the new recycling effort.