

Contact: Jimmy Tokeshi**(213) 978-1699****(213) 978-0333****Email: Jimmy.Tokeshi@lacity.org**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SANITATION OPEN HOUSE IN WEST LOS ANGELES SETS RECORD ATTENDANCE**
Families and Residents Enjoy Weekend Outing to Learn about Recycling and Refuse Collection

Photo on Left – Sanitation characters, Mr. Recycle and Grease Avenger, extend their hands to welcome everyone. **Center Photo** - Residents line up for the collection truck exhibits as Robo Blue, the remote controlled blue bin, entertains the guests. **Photo on Right** – One of many children who learn to operate a compactor on a collection truck.

LOS ANGELES (July 10, 2008)—More than 1,900 residents attended the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation open house in West Los Angeles. Scores of families with children came to take a first hand look at the variety of sanitation collection trucks on display and to learn about city services. Sanitation trucks served as the main attraction as parent after parent stood in line and told myriad stories about their children waiting to watch the collection trucks come by their homes to lift-up and take away the refuse and recyclables in the black, green and blue bins.

“In our sixth year, with more residents attending year after year, our open house program has succeeded in expanding the city’s partnerships with residents to share information, improve recycling practices and environmental protection,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. “The key to our future success is to continually encourage children, families and residents to reduce, reuse and recycle as we move toward the goal of zero waste.”

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Visitors were escorted by Sanitation personnel and youth from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. Equipment demonstrations and hands-on experience with a variety of collection truck autoloaders and the pulling of truck air horns thrilled children and their parents. Information booths on the city's recycling, refuse and green waste programs were provided along with information on the Hyperion Treatment Plant and new Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP). Carnival-like games focused on recycling knowledge and the proper sorting of recyclables, green waste and hazardous waste. Small prizes were given to those who tried the recycling games, and refreshments were provided to all.

The West Los Angeles District Yard was the last of six open house events held throughout the city, which included the East and West San Fernando Valley, North Central, South Los Angeles and Harbor yards. This year, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Richard Alarcon, Tony Cardenas, Tom LaBonge, Jan C. Perry, Ed P. Reyes, Bill Rosendahl, and Dennis P. Zine attended the open houses.

Established in 2003, the annual open house program focuses on recycling to improve and enhance the public's use of its black waste, green yard trimmings and blue recycling bins. For a second year, the program partnered with Million Trees LA and provided tree adoption opportunities with the distribution of free mulch from its green waste program. With public attendance at an all time high, another program record was set with more than 330 city employees who volunteered their time over the weekends to host the open houses for the public. For more information on the Bureau of Sanitation, visit www.lacity.org/SAN/.

About Board of Public Works

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's second largest municipal division focused on the essential needs of residents for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With a \$559 million operating budget, the department awards more than \$500 million in public service contracts annually that provide for the construction, renovation, and operation of public programs and services including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers and storm drains; integrated solid waste management and recycling; graffiti removal and beautification grants. The Board is committed to the delivery of quality customer service, to help neighborhoods thrive and benefit from healthier living and working environments. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw.

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