



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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DECEMBER 28, 2007

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: KRISHNIAH N. MURTHY 
DEPUTY CHIEF CAPITAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS RECYCLING AND REUSE POLICY

ISSUE

On July 27, 2006, the Board of Directors passed a motion, introduced by Director Gloria Molina, that the CEO report back in 60 days with a policy that would require staff to verify that any landfill or recycling facility used by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) or one of its contractors has all necessary and valid permits in place.

Director Molina was concerned that the recycling facility used by the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project appeared to be operating without a permit. In addition, the facility's business practices appeared to impact the surrounding communities.

Staff later determined that this particular recycling facility was not required to have any permits under the definition for such facilities in 14 CCR Chapter 3. Staff also determined that the City of Los Angeles, which oversees the operations of the same facility, was investigating its environmental impacts on the surrounding communities. The City of Los Angeles determined that there is no evidence of wrongdoing.

Director Molina's motion initiated a review of LACMTA's procurement, construction and operations guidelines to determine if a policy is needed to require the verification and maintenance of landfill and recycling facility permits and licenses prior to their use in any given project.

On October 24, 2007, Director Bonnie Lowenthal introduced a motion during the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee meeting to look into the development of a Construction and Demolition Disposal/Recycling Policy for all LACMTA and LACMTA funded construction projects.

Since Directors Molina and Lowenthal's motions are interrelated, the responses to the motions were incorporated into the development of the new policy.

DISCUSSION

Currently, we encourage and implement to the maximum extent possible the recycling of construction materials in our projects. Most recent examples include the recycling of base materials at the Metro Orange Line and the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.

Use of recycled materials in construction is nothing new. The engineering feasibility of using recyclable materials has been demonstrated in research, field studies, experimental projects and long-term performance testing and analysis. Significant advances in technology over the past decade have increased the types of recycled materials in use and the range of their applications. It has been proven time and again that when appropriately used, recycled materials can effectively and safely reduce cost, save time, offer equal or, in some cases, significant improvement to performance qualities, and provide long-term environmental benefits. Most importantly, recycling and reusing construction and demolition debris is essential to further our efforts to comply with the goals of AB 939: The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.

Any unusable construction debris or waste is currently diverted to appropriate recycling or disposal facilities. Staff signs off on bills of lading or waste manifests prior to shipment to such facilities. Most importantly, our construction contracts require that any contractor comply with appropriate regulations including those affecting the diversion or disposal of construction debris and waste.

NEXT STEPS

Staff has developed policy GEN 51: Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Policy, to institutionalize the best management practices that are already in place. This policy is applicable agency-wide to the maximum extent feasible in all phases of design, construction, and procurement of all LACMTA and LACMTA-funded projects.

The Chief Executive Officer signed the policy on December 24, 2007. A copy of the policy has been distributed to staff for implementation in their respective business units.