



June 26, 1995

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

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TO: MTA Board of Directors
THROUGH: Franklin E. White
FROM: *J. Brainerd*
Judith T. Pierce
SUBJECT: **RECYCLED PRODUCTS POLICY**

ISSUE

Staff will continue following the policy of utilizing recycled stock for a portion of its packaged paper requirements. Our current commitment to acquire 30% of requirements from recycled stock can be adjusted based upon changes in the marketplace.

Staff has reviewed the policy adopted by the County of Los Angeles covering recycled products and the Ordinance issued by the City of Los Angeles on the use of recycled materials. The common theme of both programs is the conservation of resources and the diversion of materials from land fills. The County's program can be considered cost neutral since it is contingent upon the acquisition of recycled products which meet County requirements and specifications and the overall costs are less than or equal to those of non-recycled products. The City of Los Angeles is currently considering an amendment to establish a 10% preference for products containing recycled materials.

If the MTA chooses to adopt a more comprehensive program of resource recovery and reuse, the program should include the following elements:

- Training to create general awareness of recycled products and their availability.
- Monitoring for the policy's effectiveness.
- Measuring benefits and savings.
- Identifying problems in the program.

The entire program should be reviewed on a periodic basis.

BACKGROUND

At the Operations Committee meeting on April 12, 1995, it was requested that staff develop a policy on the use of recycled paper based upon an inquiry made by Director Heidt. Subsequent to that meeting, it was found that the MTA had already specified a number of packaged paper items, which were recycled products. Under our current contract, recycled items represent about 30% of the total contract volume.

Based upon this salient fact, the Board, at its April 26, 1995 meeting, approved the contract awards for packaged paper.