

# PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



## LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

### **R.E.N.E.W. LA PASSES UNANIMOUSLY COUNCIL FOLLOWS SMITH'S LEAD ON SUNSHINE DUMP ALTERNATIVES**

Los Angeles - City Councilman Greig Smith's RENEW LA policy was unanimously passed today by the City Council. RENEW LA stands for "Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles," and is a resource management blueprint to guide the City for the next 20 years. It leads Los Angeles out of landfilling and uses the material that has traditionally been disposed of and recovers it for beneficial use in the form of green electricity, alternative fuel sources and manufacturing feedstocks.

The Councilman was also able to persuade his Council colleagues to back his efforts to form a negotiating team to vet out alternate plans for disposal of the City's waste, rather than renew the City's contract with BFI to dump it in Sunshine Canyon Landfill located in the North San Fernando Valley.

The City's Bureau of Sanitation had prepared a report based on the bids submitted by MDSI for disposal in Avenal Landfill and Waste Management for disposal in El Sobrante Landfill. The Bureau's analysis of the alternative disposal options placed the vying bids in the range of \$15 million to \$30 million above the cost of the City's existing contract.

Councilman Smith enlisted the assistance of the Council's Legislative Analyst (CLA) to more accurately assess the bids and to analyze options not considered by the Bureau. The result was three additional viable options that range from \$4 million to \$14.07 million – well below the Bureau's figures. This does not even take into consideration additional revenue that the City would see as a result of capturing franchise fees on non-City-collected waste dumped at Sunshine Canyon.

"Today we took two giant steps toward decreasing our dependence on local landfills. We now realize that we have viable alternatives to Sunshine Canyon Landfill; and the passage of my RENEW LA plan puts Los Angeles ahead of any American city on the path to maximum resource recovery and energy sustainability," Smith said.

The City of Los Angeles currently dumps more than 3,600 tons of trash per day at Sunshine Canyon, in Granada Hills. In August of 2005, the Council passed Smith's motion that reduced the tonnage dumped in

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Sunshine Canyon to less than 500 tons over a five-year period. Under this policy, the City is required to reduce the amount dumped at Sunshine Canyon by a minimum of 600 tons by the end of this calendar year.

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