

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Councilman Smith Hosting First Southern California Emerging Waste Technologies Forum

Los Angeles: Councilman Greig Smith, joined by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, State Senator Richard Alarcón, Assembly Member Cindy Montañez, UCLA's Hydrogen Engineering Research Consortium (HERC), City Bureau of Sanitation and Environmental Affairs Departments and County Department of Public Works, will host the Southern California Emerging Waste Technologies Forum at UCLA on July 27th.

The event, at UCLA's Covel Commons Ballroom, will be the first of its kind in Southern California. It will bring together government officials, academics, environmentalists, regulators and industry professionals to examine the issue of municipal solid waste and the growing field of conversion technologies. These technologies convert waste into renewable energy, clean fuels, chemicals or other useful products.

The City and County of Los Angeles are both pursuing separate tracks for the development of conversion facilities. The County has identified opportunistic sites for collocation with existing transfer stations and/or material recovery facilities to build a demonstration facility. The City Bureau of Sanitation is in the second phase of a contract to locate a conversion facility within the City by 2010 as established by Mayoral directive.

Additionally, the Los Angeles City Council has approved the RENEW LA plan (Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles), written by Councilman Greig Smith, which proposes the creation of an environmental-industrial sector centered around waste resource recovery. The plan calls for conversion facilities in all six City waste sheds in order to reduce dependence on landfills, vehicle emissions, traffic congestion and to contribute up to 1/3 of the City's 20% renewable energy portfolio by 2025.

The forum is modeled after a similar conference held in Sacramento in the spring, hosted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Until now, most of the discussion and debate concerning waste conversion technologies has been held in Northern California.

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The conference will examine the current status of solid waste statewide, regionally and locally. International participants will share their experience as well. Overviews of the various technologies and practical applications will be presented.

The cornerstone of the forum will be a “Los Angeles Stakeholder Roundtable” with participation from waste industry and recycling representatives, economic development experts, environmental justice advocates, regulators, renewable energy advocates, government officials, researchers, labor and community activists. Participants will discuss many of the topics on the forefront of the issue including siting, environmental justice, energy sustainability and waste reduction.

An online registration form, event flyer and draft agenda are available at www.888cleanla.com.

WHO: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilman Greig Smith, State Senator Richard Alarcón, Assembly Member Cindy Montañez, UCLA’s Hydrogen Engineering Consortium, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Environmental Affairs Departments, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

WHAT: Southern California Emerging Waste Technologies Forum

WHERE: UCLA’s Covel Commons Ballroom
315 Charles E. Young Dr., West Los Angeles, CA 90095

WHEN: Thursday, July 27, 2006. 9am- 4:30pm

VISUALS: Elected Officials, Power Point presentations

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