

Contact: Richard E. Lee**(213) 978-0324****(213) 978-0333****Email: Richard.lee@lacity.org****For Immediate Release****CITY SETS NEW GOALS FOR BIOSOLIDS EMS,
PREPARES FOR THIRD PARTY AUDIT**

LOS ANGELES (July 23, 2008) – The City of Los Angeles is preparing for a third party audit of its Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) as it sets new goals and objects for the program, Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar Director said today.

“We are preparing for another third party audit of the program on August 12,” said Environmental Engineering Associate Derrick Lee, of the Bureau of Sanitation. “The audit represents a significant milestone for the program since once accomplished it will enable the City to maintain its national ranking at the highest level for environmental leadership in Biosolids Management.” An email message detailing the scope and specifics of the audit already has been sent to the public and other stakeholders.

An independent outside firm will conduct the third party audit as a requirement of the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) for the Biosolids EMS to obtain NBP certification status. “We will not conduct the usual semi-audit or interim audit, as its is called, because we will undergo this third party review,” said Lee. As in previous years, the same auditor will conduct the audit.

In September 2003, an independent third party auditor verified the City's Biosolids EMS. At the time, the City became the second agency in the nation to be admitted to the NBP EMS program. The audit firm verified that the City's EMS exceeded environmental performance, exceeded regulatory compliance, followed best management practices, and provided meaningful opportunities for the public input.

Certification was retained in 2004 and 2006 after an independent auditor again verified the program. The City achieved the NBP EMS platinum certification status in September 2004, which designates that the City had maintained the highest standards possible for biosolids management and environmental stewardship.

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The NBP developed the Biosolids EMS program to improve the quality of biosolids management programs nationwide and to promote public acceptance of biosolids use and disposal practices. In 2002, the City of Los Angeles implemented a Biosolids EMS to meet a program goal adopted in the Biosolids Policy by the Mayor and City Council in 2000.

Persons interested in participating in the audit or goal setting process, or needing additional information, should call 310-648-5877, send e-mail to san.biosolidsems@lacity.org, or visit the website at www.lacity.org/SAN/biosolidsems/index.htm

About the Department of Public Works

The Public Works Department is the third largest municipal agency in the City, focused on the essential needs for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With 5,700 employees and a \$1 billion annual budget, the department is responsible for construction, renovation and operation of public facilities and infrastructure including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers, catch basins and storm drains; recycling and integrated solid waste management.

For more information about the Department of Public Works call the Public Works Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333, email: PAO@lacity.org, or visit the website: www.lacity.org/bpw.

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