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For Immediate Release

**CITY RETAINS BIOSOLIDS EMS CERTIFICATION
AND PLATINUM STATUS**

LOS ANGELES (November 4, 2008) – An independent firm re-verified the City of Los Angeles Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) following an audit conducted in August, announces Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar. “It allows the City to maintain its National Biosolids Partnership EMS platinum status and confirms that the City’s biosolids management program continues to meet regulatory compliance and exceeds environmental performance standards.”

“The audit represents a significant milestone for the EMS program as it enables the City to maintain national ranking at the highest level for environmental leadership in Biosolids Management,” said Plant Manager Steve Fan, of the Bureau of Sanitation’s Hyperion Treatment Plant. “It also confirms that the program follows best management practices and allows interested party involvement,” adds Zaldivar.

KEMA-Registered Quality, Inc. conducted the audit between August 12 and 15. The review covered the City’s entire biosolids management program including contractors. During the audit, KEMA noted several major strengths in the EMS, including an active public outreach program and improved control methods at Green Acres Farm, such as inspections, continuous surveillance and extensive monitoring of biosolids use. Five minor nonconformances were identified as well as several opportunities for improvement.

“As a result, KEMA verified that the City’s EMS meets the expectations and requirements of the NBP EMS program requirements,” says Zaldivar, “and recommends continued certification of the system within the NBP EMS Program.”

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.

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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.

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.

Audit results and the final report are posted on the City's biosolids website at: <http://www.lacity.org/SAN/biosolidsems/index.htm>. To assist the City in addressing nonconformances or for questions on audit findings, call (310) 648-5877. Send e-mail inquiries to san.biosolidsems@lacity.org.

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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