

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager  
**FROM:** Doug Monn, Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** Report on Diversion of Construction and Demolition Debris  
**DATE:** November 5, 2013

---

**NEEDS:** For the City Council to receive a report of construction and demolition debris diversion, noting compliance with California CalRecycle requirements.

**FACTS:**

1. Senate Bill 1374, adopted in 2002 required the California Waste Management Board to act to would reduce the amount of construction and demolition debris being deposited into California's landfills.
2. In follow up to SB 1374, the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) adopted a model Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance requiring that 50% of construction and demolition debris be recycled.
3. The City Building Division requires builders to prepare a recycling plan and disposal report for construction and demolition debris, including submittal of receipts for tonnage generated.
4. Of the estimated 6,270 tons of construction and demolition debris arriving at the City of Paso Robles' landfill during the 15-month period beginning in January 2012, 65% was diverted, or recycled. This exceeds the minimum required both by CalRecycle and by the 2010 California Green Building Code.
5. The improved sorting facility proposed for start-up at the City landfill by January 2014 is expected to result in a higher percentage of material recovery.

**ANALYSIS AND  
CONCLUSION:**

The City landfill operator, Pacific Waste Services, reports the estimated construction and demolition debris tonnage on a quarterly basis to

CalRecycle. A summary of such reporting for loads identified as within the City limits is:

**Paso Robles Landfill  
Quarterly C&D Recycling Tonnage**

Q1 2012	305	tons
Q2	1,829	
Q3	1,232	
Q4	877	
<u>Q1 2013</u>	<u>2,024</u>	
<b>15 month total =</b>	<b>6,267</b>	<b>tons</b>

Of the tonnage received at the landfill, the operator reported recycling approximately 65% during this same period.<sup>1</sup>

Also during this 15-month period, the City Building Dept. processed this permit volume:

Commercial new construction / remodel	72,300	sq ft
Industrial new construction / remodel	249,000	
Demolition permits	5,650	
<u>Residential new construction / remodel</u>	<u>296,900</u>	
<b>Total square footage =</b>	<b>623,850</b>	

While actual debris tonnage will vary by job, waste generation guides are published as an aide in estimating weight. Per the City of Paso Robles waste generation guideline handout, for example, the construction activity listed above would theoretically result in approximately 3,900 tons of debris. Using the City of San Luis Obispo's adopted Waste Generation Guide, the estimate is 3,300 tons of debris.

This analysis suggests that the construction and demolition debris generated by permitted building, remodeling, and demolition activity is indeed arriving at the City landfill and that the operator is successfully recycling an estimated 65% of that debris.

The 2013 California Green Building Code (Section 4.408 and 5.408) requires recycling of at least 50% of construction waste generated from both residential and non-residential construction. The City will consider adoption of this in January of 2014, thereby requiring local builders to meet the minimum diversion rate.

In conclusion, the City is currently complying with CalRecycle mandated construction and demolition debris diversion (i.e. 50% minimum) and partners with local builders to demonstrate compliance with mandated recycling. Percent diverted could increase even more with:

1. continued alerts to permit holders;
2. adoption of the 2013 Green Building Code, and;
3. the enhanced sorting facility planned at the landfill.

With these steps, the City will move toward diverting 75% of incoming construction and demolition debris and likely achieve that rate in advance of anticipated State mandates.

**POLICY**

**REFERENCE:** Senate Bill 1374, San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Agency, and 2009 Paso Robles Landfill Master Plan.

**FISCAL**

**IMPACT:** No new programs or ordinances are proposed at this time, therefore no fiscal impact is anticipated.

**OPTIONS:**

- a. Receive and file this report of construction and demolition debris diversion; or
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

\* \* \*

---

<sup>i</sup> Recycled tonnage for Q1 2012 exceeded incoming tonnage as a relatively large amount of stockpiled recyclables were used on site. That anomaly was omitted from the estimated % recycled stated herein so as not to overstate that figure.