

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT:** Angela Estell
213-744-9048**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM ENGAGES PUBLIC
ON RECYCLING PRACTICES**

(July 15, 2008)— The Community Development Department, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, today announced the participation of sixty students in a six-week paid internship program. The program goals are to maximize the diversion of recyclables from landfills and to minimize the contamination of collected materials in order to sustain renewable resources of a better quality and to lower disposal costs. The students are hired from three of L.A.'s OneSource Youth Opportunity Centers, a city program that utilizes public-private partnerships, in Boyle Heights, Watts and the San Fernando Valley. The program, which is at 13 centers, prepares and provides young adults with the necessary skills to find employment.

This program is also part of Mayor Villaraigosa and the Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) Hire LA's Youth initiative to place 15,000 youth in summer jobs, internships or entry-level jobs.

"Providing the foundation for young people to gain positive and rewarding work experiences is at the heart of this program and critical to lighting a path to a brighter future," said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works.

"We are extremely proud of our city, business and community partnerships that provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment learn important job skills and strengthen their hope for future success."

The students will undergo a one-week training and orientation program before being placed in the field for five weeks to conduct a public education campaign that supports the efforts of the city's Recycling Ambassadors and conservation efforts. The Recycling Ambassadors Program focuses on improving recycling habits to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills. Through programs like the Summer Youth Internship and Ambassadors Program, the Bureau of Sanitation has been working diligently to achieve the current diversion rate of more than 60 percent of the waste that is generated. The objective is to reach a diversion rate of 70 percent by the year 2015.

"The students will reach out and connect door-to-door with residents to explain the larger context of our recycling and conservation efforts with the importance of separating recyclables from non-recyclables," said Enrique Zaldivar, director of the Bureau of Sanitation.

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Students, instructors, and city officials gathered at the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Youth Center to mark the kick-off of the Public Works Summer Youth Employment Program.

2-2-2-Summer Youth Program Engages Public On Recycling Practices

“Source separation, or each person learning how to separate their household waste, is key particularly with the cost impacts to communities and in managing waste. Not recycling means paying for more disposal, squandering renewable materials by permanently removing viable resources from further use and damaging the environment,” concluded Zaldivar.

The public education campaign will help residents correctly sort household waste, especially in areas of the city with a high rate of contamination. Contamination occurs when non-recyclables such as food waste, green waste (yard clippings) and liquid waste (residual liquids left in a bottle, can or jar) are placed with recyclables in the blue recycling bins. Moisture in the blue bins act like a magnet when it meets paper products and reduces or destroys the value of the recyclable material collected.

The distribution of literature and one-on-one engagements by the students will also provide information on: Multi-Family Building Recycling and Multi-Family Bulky Items Pick-ups for apartment and condo residents; S.A.F.E. (solvents, automotive, flammable, explosives) Centers for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste; and curbside e-waste disposal.

For more information on the Community Development Department and the OneSource Youth Opportunity Program, visit <http://www.lacity.org/CDD/T> or call 311 or 1-800-For-A-Job.

For more information on the Bureau of Sanitation, visit www.lacity.org/BOS/.

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