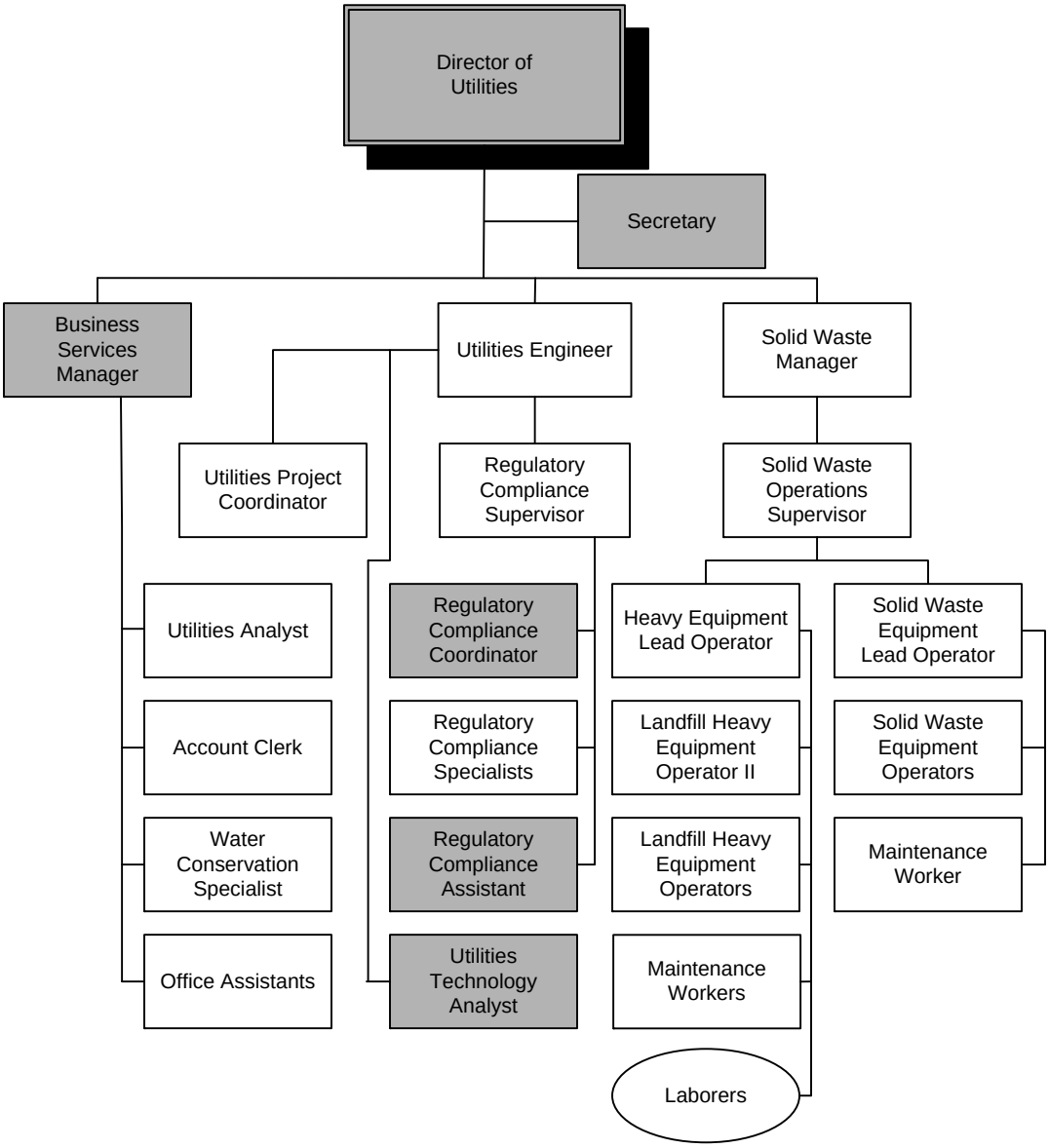
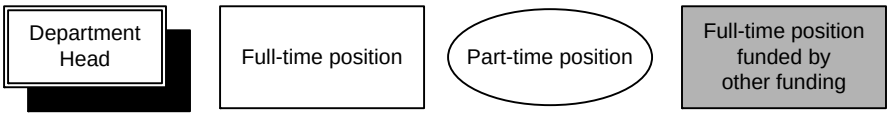
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL



The above organizational chart depicts full-time and part-time employees only

LEGEND:



DEPARTMENT: Utilities **PROGRAM:** Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Services
DIVISION: Refuse & Street Sweeping **FUND:** Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Funds

	Actual 2008-09	Adopted 2009-10	Year-End Estimated 2009-10	Proposed 2010-11	Proposed 2011-12
PROGRAM EXPENSES/REVENUES					
Salaries & Benefits	$ 3,687,410	$ 3,870,790	$ 3,795,450	$ 3,799,180	$ 4,071,820
Services & Supplies	11,264,560	12,193,080	10,211,550	12,544,400	12,858,400
Total Operating Cost	14,951,970	16,063,870	14,007,000	16,343,580	16,930,220
Capital	727,290	7,585,020	6,039,360	2,056,310	1,666,720
Debt Service					
Transfers	456,490	491,900	491,900	515,090	515,090
Total Cost	$16,135,750	$24,140,790	$20,538,260	$18,914,980	$19,112,030
SUMMARY OF SERVICE PROGRAMS					
Refuse Collection - Residential	$ 4,086,050	$ 5,139,890	$ 4,714,430	$ 5,949,590	$ 5,331,800
Refuse Collection – Commercial	3,796,960	4,417,190	3,823,780	3,739,040	3,799,060
Refuse Coll. - Street Sweeping	343,910	363,970	341,880	363,120	363,120
Refuse Collection - Recycling	690,000	592,680	616,610	957,420	863,180
Total Refuse Collection	8,916,920	10,513,730	9,496,700	11,009,170	10,357,160
Refuse Disposal	7,218,830	13,627,060	11,041,560	7,905,810	8,754,870
Total Service Programs	$16,135,750	$24,140,790	$20,538,260	$18,914,980	$19,112,030
SUMMARY OF POSITIONS					
FULL-TIME					
Account Clerk I – Scalehouse	3	3	3	3	3
Landfill Heavy Equip. Lead Oper.	1	1	1	1	1
Landfill Heavy Equip. Operator	4	4	4	4	4
Landfill Heavy Equip. Operator II	1	1	1	1	1
Maintenance Worker I/II	6	6	6	8	8
Office Assistant I/II	1	1	1	1	1
Regulatory Compliance Specialist	1	1	1	1	1
Regulatory Compliance Sup.	1	1	1	1	1
Solid Waste Equip. Lead Operator	1	1	1	1	1
Solid Waste Equipment Operator	16	16	16	17	18
Solid Waste Manager	1	1	1	1	1
Solid Waste Operations Sup.	1	1	1	1	1
Utilities Analyst	1	1	1	1	1
Utilities Engineer	1	1	1	1	1
Utilities Project Coordinator	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	40	40	40	43	44

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	Actual 2008-09	Adopted 2009-10	Year-End Estimated 2009-10	Proposed 2010-11	Proposed 2011-12
SUMMARY OF POSITIONS (continued)					
PART-TIME					
Laborer III	7	6	6	3	3
TOTAL	7	6	6	3	3
GRAND TOTAL	**47**	**46**	**46**	**46**	**47**
TEMPORARY (FTE)					
Assistant Clerk	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Utilities Technician	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
TOTAL TEMPORARY (FTE)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services consist of six distinct areas: Refuse collection/residential; refuse collection/commercial; landfill disposal operations; street sweeping; recycling operations; and regulatory compliance.

Refuse Collection/Residential

The Residential Collection Program provides weekly refuse collection using state-of-the-art, fully automated equipment. Annually, the program services an estimated 17,150 accounts, collecting roughly 29,820 tons of refuse, with approximately 3,470 loads transported to the City's landfill.

Refuse Collection/Commercial

The Commercial Collection Program provides refuse collection, using front-loading trucks, to approximately 1,200 commercial businesses. Customers are serviced one to six times per week using containers ranging from two to four cubic yards. Annually, the program collects roughly 30,445 tons of commercial refuse, with approximately 3,660 loads transported to the City's landfill.

Street Sweeping

Solid Waste is responsible for overseeing, contract street sweeping for approximately 1,735 curb miles of City streets, improved alleys, and 17 acres of City-owned parking facilities per month. This includes emergency street sweeping as a result of known non-hazardous spills due to traffic accidents. The total annual curb miles swept is approximately 20,840 miles. This program ensures the appearance, safety, and health of the City through a high level of street and gutter line sweeping. All streets, within the City limits, are swept on a bi-weekly basis. State routes, in accordance with a Caltrans/City maintenance agreement, are swept twice-weekly. Additional street sweeping is required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirement standards.

Landfill Operations

The Santa Maria Regional Landfill provides solid waste disposal services to northern Santa Barbara County and the Nipomo area of southern San Luis Obispo County. In 2009, disposal tonnage brought to the landfill, decreased approximately 96,190 tons mainly due to lack of construction and increased recycling efforts at the landfill. In addition, landfill operations include: baling of agricultural plastic; post-closure maintenance of the closed area of the landfill; ongoing rolling closure of the unlined area of the landfill with importation of Non-Hazardous Hydrocarbon Impacted Soils (NHIS) as foundation layer; a broken concrete and asphalt recycling program; and a newly opened Recycling Park.

Recycling

Recycling services are available to all residential and commercial accounts within the City. The program consisting of collecting, transporting, and disposing of commingled recyclable materials is a regular utility-type operation that utilizes both the City's fully automated collection equipment and staff. Approximately 14,600 residential customers are served bi-weekly and with weekly service to approximately 840 commercial customers. This recycling effort is in response to Assembly Bill 939 and Senate Bill 1016 requirements to meet certain diversion goals established by the State of California.

Regulatory Compliance

Landfill Gas Extraction System

Regulatory Compliance staff monitors and manages a gas extraction system composed of some 53 gas collection wells at the landfill. Collection wells are analyzed on a monthly basis along with 26 perimeter gas probes on a quarterly basis. These collection wells extract landfill gas (primarily composed of methane) that are produced in the decomposition of refuse while the perimeter gas probes ensure gas is not migrating off-site. The landfill gas quality is monitored daily on the 13.5 MM BTU/hr or 20 MM BTU/hr enclosed flares and the gas delivered to Marian Medical Center. The landfill gas is transported through special gas lines to the flares that burn the methane, to the cogeneration plant at Marian Medical Center to generate electricity. Staff consistently monitors and maintains this system to insure optimal operating performance. Semi-annual and annual reports are submitted to the Air Pollution Control District.

Landfill Groundwater Monitoring

On a quarterly basis, the City is required to monitor and collect samples from 25 groundwater monitoring wells and five piezometers. These wells monitor the condition of the groundwater below the landfill. All operations and analytical results are reported on a semi-annual and annual basis to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Landfill Surface Monitoring

This program ensures that landfill gas is being directed to the flare or cogeneration plant rather than to the atmosphere or under soil structures. Regulatory Compliance staff monitors the landfill surfaces utilizing an Organic Vapor Analyzer/Flame Ionization Detector and the results are submitted to regulatory agencies on a quarterly basis.

Landfill Storm Water Monitoring (National Pollutant Discharge Emissions System [NPDES] - Phase I)

Regulatory Compliance staff maintains several conditions as required under the City's NPDES Phase I permit. Several inspections and sampling events are completed throughout the year to insure compliance. In association with the NPDES Phase I permit, the landfill's Waste Discharge Requirement 01-041 requires wet weather preparedness action be maintained throughout the year. Some operations include maintaining clean drainage

ditches to allow for storm water flow, as well as appropriate sediment and erosion controls to prevent discharge from the current disposal area. In addition to monitoring activities, staff annually collects data accumulated from sampling and routine operations, and submits this information to the RWQCB.

Household Hazardous Waste

Regulatory Compliance staff maintains and operates the City's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at the landfill. Current operations occur Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff collects, categorizes, and safely lab-packs and bulks all chemicals/wastes brought to the facility.

PERFORMANCE/WORKLOAD MEASURES	ACTUAL 2006-08	ESTIMATED 2008-10	PROJECTED 2010-12
REFUSE COLLECTION/RESIDENTIAL			
DEMAND/WORKLOAD			
Accounts Serviced	28,730	34,300	35,000
Tons Collected	56,675	59,640	62,220
Loads Hauled	6,335	6,940	7,000
EFFECTIVENESS/EFFICIENCIES			
Tons Per Account	1.97	1.79	1.78
Waste Disposal Area in Square Miles	12.45	16.45	18.45
REFUSE COLLECTION/COMMERCIAL			
DEMAND/WORKLOAD			
Accounts Serviced	2,035	2,400	2,550
Loads Hauled	7,690	7,320	7,830
Tons Collected	64,200	60,890	65,080
EFFECTIVENESS/EFFICIENCIES			
Tons Per Account	31.55	26.28	25.52
Waste Disposal Area in Square Miles	12.45	16.45	18.45
REFUSE COLLECTION/STREET SWEEPING			
DEMAND/WORKLOAD			
Number of Loads	1,694	1,880	1,950
Street Sweeping Tonnage	7,245	6,920	6,690
EFFECTIVENESS/EFFICIENCIES			
Curb Miles Swept	40,104	41,680	42,515
Operating Cost Per Curb Mile	$15.28	$16.35	$17.42
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION			
DEMAND/WORKLOAD			
Accounts Serviced	28,600	30,880	32,000
Tons Collected	17,244	17,774	18,020
Loads Hauled	4,110	4,335	4,620

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PERFORMANCE/WORKLOAD MEASURES	ACTUAL 2006-08	ESTIMATED 2008-10	PROJECTED 2010-12
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION, continued			
EFFECTIVENESS/EFFICIENCIES			
Tons Per Account	0.60	0.58	0.56
Recycling Area in Square Miles	12.45	16.45	18.45
DISPOSAL			
DEMAND/WORKLOAD			
Buried Tons	224,706	194,690	195,000
Recycled Tons	107,342	120,405	125,000
Beneficial Reuse Tons	1,080,756	1,080,685	1,090,000

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Present to the City Council, for consideration, implementation of a City-wide Yard Material Collections Program, otherwise known as a Greenwaste Recycling Program.
- Submit the Joint Technical Document to the State Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board) and the RWQCB for the Integrated Waste Management Facility at Los Flores Ranch.
- Enhance diversion efforts by implementing a Food Waste Recycling and Collection Pilot Program for large-scale food waste producers in the City.
- Commit to a recycling educational program in the elementary schools to benefit the long-term health of the City's environment through class presentations and field trips to the landfill.

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

- The $5.2 million decrease in overall appropriations, in 2010-11, is primarily due to a decrease in solid waste capital-related projects. In 2009-10, the City budgeted over $5 million in capital appropriations associated with the design and engineering of the Los Flores Ranch property development plan. Since this project was budgeted in 2009-10 and there are not projects of this magnitude being proposed in 2010-11, appropriations are decreased accordingly in the refuse disposal program budget.
- In 2009-10, staff implemented a green waste recycling pilot program, entitled the "Yard Materials Recycling Program," to determine the feasibility of implementing a City-wide green waste collections program. Approximately, 800 residents participated from three separate areas within the City. The program was highly successful with a total of 346,180 pounds of yard waste and materials diverted from the landfill during the six-month program. After the pilot program was completed, staff developed a Solid Waste Pro Forma to analyze the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and to include the anticipated cost of a bi-weekly curbside Yard Materials Recycling Program, as well as the required capital and operating costs of the future landfill located at the Los Flores Ranch Park.

  The analysis of this Pro Forma concluded that the implementation of a City-wide green waste collections program will require a rate increase, and the initiation of Proposition 218 proceedings to determine if a majority protest exists. Contingent upon City Council approval and successful Proposition 218 proceedings,

containers, collection vehicles, and two solid waste equipment operators (one in 2010-11 and one in 2011-12) will be needed for the City-wide implementation of the green waste collection program, which could occur as early as the Summer 2011. If approved, the program would extend the life of the existing landfill and defer capital costs to build the new landfill. Residents would have an opportunity to downsize from a 90-gallon to a 60-gallon refuse container as a result of the customer's recycling efforts and, as a result of participating in the Yard Materials Recycling Program, residents would not incur any additional costs.

- The landfill is open ten hours a day, seven days per week, with the exception of major holidays. With the loss of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program, and coupled with the increased recycling programs at the landfill and customer service demands, a number of part-time staff have been working in-excess of assigned hours. Consequently, staff recommends decreasing the part-time complement by two Laborer III positions and increasing the full-time complement by two Maintenance Worker I positions. This should allow staff the ability to ensure that landfill regulatory compliance is achieved daily, safety issues are minimized, and the demand for customer service is maximized.

- AB 939, known as the Integrated Waste Management Act, mandates the diversion of 50 percent of all disposal items from burial at the landfill. SB 1016 changed the method that AB 939 diversion rates are reported to the State and included a diversion goal, which considered the number of diversion programs a jurisdiction has implemented to achieve the required diversion. Although the City's diversion goals have been met, there are a number of diversion programs the City employs that are below the average when compared to diversion programs of other similar sized cities. A curb-side green waste collections program will address this deficiency as would a Food Waste Recycling Program. Consequently, in 2010-11, staff will be recommending the implementation of a Food Waste Recycling Pilot Program. The proposed program would involve receiving food waste from large scale food waste producers such as restaurants and schools. If the pilot program is successful, a larger scale program could be warranted that would add to the number of diversion programs of the City. Aside from $40,000 composting-related expenses, staff anticipates that all other operational costs associated with this pilot program would be able to be met within the existing budget.

- The Santa Maria Recycling Park, located at the landfill, opened in June 2009. The Recycling Park provides incoming landfill customers an opportunity to recycle various disposable materials. These materials include: wood waste; metals; appliances; green waste; construction and demolition materials; concrete; porcelain; brick; electronic waste; cardboard; textiles; paper; bottles; and cans. The Recycling Park has been very successful in diverting approximately 1,000 tons per month from being buried at the landfill. Due to the success of this program and the increase in recyclables, additional funds were included in the 2010-12 Budget to cover the recycling costs associated with this program. These additional appropriations will be more than off-set by the cost savings associated with saved landfill capacity and extending the life of the existing landfill, thereby, deferring significant capital-related costs.

- The increase in the Service and Supplies program is attributed to the Recycling Park and operating expenses associated with additional expert technical assistance for the landfill gas collection system monitoring, as well as field data review and report preparation – requirements deemed necessary by local regulatory agencies. By working with a consultant on a near term basis, staff is able to ensure that maintenance of the landfill gas collection system is properly performed and is maximized for quality landfill gas for Marian Medical Center and the future on-site landfill co-generation plant. While staff will eventually assume these duties, which should reduce operational costs, the high level of technical expertise needed for field monitoring and compliance reporting requires, before assuming these duties, that staff receive additional training.

The Santa Maria Regional Landfill has successfully operated for more than 50 years. When the landfill reaches full capacity, which will be in a few years, it will be replaced by a new landfill located south of the City.