TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER  DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: JULY 18, 2005  CMR:328:05

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF NEW RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE SERVICES

This is an informational report and no Council action is required.

DISCUSSION
On May 10, 2004 Council approved new recycling services including implementing a single stream recycling program, changing collection of yard trimmings to cart service, supplying optional cart service for garbage and approving compressed natural gas as an alternative fuel for the recycling collection vehicles (CMR:205:04). After further discussion about the merits of single stream recycling, Council reaffirmed its approval on November 22, 2004 (CMR:497:04). On May 9, 2005 (CMR:222:05), Council approved purchasing wheeled carts for both recycling and yard trimmings and optional wheeled carts for garbage with an estimated delivery date to the community of July 1, 2005.

The delivery of wheeled carts has been delayed because the order for the carts had to be re-bid as the original bids were rejected due to excessive costs. Palo Alto Sanitation Company (PASCO) will begin delivery of carts on July 12 to businesses, large multi-family complexes, parks and schools. On July 25, 2005 a subcontractor will begin delivery of carts to residential areas. The initial order of 41,900 carts is being delivered to the landfill in stages. The carts will require some assembly prior to delivery. Delivery of carts will continue through September. As soon as the carts are received, residents can begin to use them.

Information on the new program has been disseminated to the public through the recycling newsletter that is included in the Palo Alto Weekly News, a utility bill insert and newspaper ads. Recycling staff has attended special events, neighborhood association meetings and has met directly with businesses and multi family complex managers to introduce and explain the new program. When the carts are delivered, brochures outlining the new program will be included.

PREPARED BY: ______________________________________
JANET FOREMAN
Executive Assistant

DEPARTMENT HEAD: ______________________________________
GLENN S. ROBERTS
Director of Public Works
CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

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EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager