



**DATE:** January 12, 2017

**TO:** Planning & Organization Committee/Recycling Board

**FROM:** Tom Padia, Deputy Executive Director

**BY:** Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** C&D Recycling Program Activities

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## **SUMMARY**

StopWaste has developed programs and resources for both the Construction and Demolition (C&D) industry as well as member agencies to promote the recycling and reuse of C&D materials generated at building jobsites. Materials generated from C&D projects can contribute as much as 20% of the waste found in our local landfills (depending on the level of construction activity in the economy). At the January 12 committee meeting, staff will present a brief history of the Agency's C&D program as well as new approaches and incentives to assist contractors and member agencies in meeting the newly revised C&D diversion requirements set under the State Green Building Code (CALGreen).

## **DISCUSSION**

C&D materials reuse/recovery activities have been part of the agency's comprehensive approach to increasing sustainability in the local building industry. Our work has included developing model C&D ordinances and specifications, a Builders' Guide to Reuse and Recycling as well as a mixed C&D recycling facility rebate program. To assist member agencies with the development and implementation of C&D ordinances, the agency created and staffed the C&D Working Group, comprised of member agency staff working on C&D issues. These programs were developed as a catalyst to increase the diversion of readily recyclable and reusable C&D materials from landfill.

As sustainability issues became more widespread, many member agencies passed C&D ordinances, and in 2010 CALGreen became the first state building code to require C&D diversion for permitted commercial projects. Around this time, green building rating programs such as the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Build It Green's GreenPoint Rated started to become the standards that builders referenced when looking for green building guidance. Green building rating programs (which incorporated C&D recycling incentives), coupled with CALGreen and municipal C&D ordinances, all lent a hand in moving the building industry towards recycling and reusing C&D materials generated on the job site.

StopWaste developed a partnership with [Green Halo](#), a web-based waste management tracking tool that provides builders with an easy, step-by-step process for electronically submitting required waste management plans to cities and counties. StopWaste and Green Halo worked with member agencies to pilot and refine the tool and as a result at least half of the member agencies currently utilize Green Halo for tracking waste management plans.

CALGreen C&D requirements have recently increased from 50% diversion to 65% diversion, affecting the majority of permitted commercial and residential projects. In addition to diversion requirements, all projects must submit a waste management plan identifying how C&D materials generated on the job site will be recycled and/or reused, including identifying the amounts and processing facilities to be used to divert materials from landfill.

In response to these more stringent diversion requirements, some member agencies have revised their C&D ordinances and are taking new approaches to assess compliance, including requiring contractors to bring C&D materials to facilities that have received a third party certified recycling rate (i.e. a diversion rate reviewed and audited by an independent outside party according to a standard protocol). Currently there are only two facilities located in the Bay Area that have gone through a third party certification process – Davis Street and Zanker Recycling. Recognizing the need for additional certified facilities and the importance of third party verification, staff has developed a financial incentive program to encourage mixed C&D facilities to become certified to increase the pool of third party certified facilities.

Staff will provide a brief presentation on these new approaches to the C&D program to assist member agencies and contractors with meeting new building code and/or C&D ordinance requirements.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.