

Natural Resources and Culture Committee

February 2, 2011

Environmental Services Department: Transition from ISO
14001 to Environmental Management Program



Overview

- In 2002, ESD obtained ISO 14001 certification for Miramar Landfill
- Purpose of the ISO 14001
 - Minimize negative impact on the environment
 - Comply with applicable laws and regulations
 - Continually improve
- Savings Introduced FY02-FY05 (ongoing):
 - \$3M by reducing idling time on the heavy equipment
 - \$2M by using re-usable tarpaulins instead of dirt to cover the trash
 - Changes resulted in significant reductions to vehicle emissions and preservation of landfill capacity
- 2009
 - Discussion begins to look at internalizing program

Transition to Environmental Management Program

- Since 2005, no new major initiatives as a direct result of the ISO 14001 program
- Environmental ethic embedded in all ESD landfill operations
- Operational changes initiated outside ISO 14001 at Miramar Greenery
 - Increased food waste composting
 - Conducting pilot studies evaluating future mixed organic diversion technology
 - Colorizing wood chips to boost revenues for the sale of these commodities

Transition to Environmental Management Program

- January 2010, completed evaluation of overall costs/benefits associated with the external ISO 14001 program
 - Cost \$80,000/year
 - No new significant initiatives since FY2005
- March 2010, ESD staff presented findings to departmental management team with a proposal to internalize ISO 14001
- May 21, 2010, ESD notified auditing firm that we were ending the ISO 14001
- Late May, 2010, ESD removed specific references to the ISO 14001 program from ESD website
- ESD supervisors were briefed on these developments throughout April and May 2010

Previous Public Discussion of Transition to Environmental Management Program

- May 25, 2010 - City Council meeting
 - Public comment – questions regarding connection between Miramar Landfill RFQ and decision to end outside certification
 - Staff explained that there was no connection - the two decisions were made independently

- July 13, 2010 City Council meeting
 - Decision to end the ISO 14001 certification again raised by public testimony
 - Staff explained that internalizing the ISO 14001 program resulted from a long term review
 - Staff stated we expected to have the new Environmental Management Program on the City's website by the end of 2010

Environmental Management Program

- ESD commitment to the environment includes:
 - Receipt of the first U.S. EPA Energy Star issued for a Green Building in 1999
 - Implemented innovative ordinances which have dramatically increase recycling – the City now has a 66% recycling rate
 - Committed to tracking and measuring progress in many aspects of environmental quality
- ESD website updated to include Environmental Management Program (<http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/miramar/index.shtml>)
- New logo to enhance recognition of Environmental Management Program.
- ESD commitment to the environment has not changed

Environmental Management Program

