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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM ENGAGES PUBLIC ON RECYCLING PRACTICES**  
**Education Targets Source Separation to Improve Diversion Rates of Household Waste**

**LOS ANGELES, CA (July 15, 2008)**—The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, in partnership with the Community Development Department, 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 the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement, a city program that utilizes public-private partnerships in Boyle Heights, Watts and San Fernando Valley to prepare and provide young adults with the necessary skills to find employment.

“Providing a 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.”



2008 Public Works Summer Youth Employment Program students, instructors and city officials gathered at the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center.

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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. "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."

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.

The 2008 Public Works Summer Youth Employment Program is funded by the Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation through the Citywide Recycling Bottle Fund and co-directed by the Community Development Department, which is the oversight agency for the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement Program.

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For more information on the Community Development Department and the Youth Opportunity Movement, visit <http://www.lacity.org/CDD/>.

For more information on the Bureau of Sanitation, visit [www.lacity.org/BOS/](http://www.lacity.org/BOS/).

About Board of Public Works

*The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's second largest municipal division focused on the essential needs of residents for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With a \$559 million operating budget, the department awards more than \$500 million in public service contracts annually that provide for the construction, renovation, and operation of public programs and services including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers and storm drains; integrated solid waste management and recycling; graffiti removal and beautification grants. The Board is committed to the delivery of quality customer service, to help neighborhoods thrive and benefit from healthier living and working environments. For more information, visit [www.lacity.org/bpw](http://www.lacity.org/bpw).*

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