



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

**Board of Supervisors**

**DATE:** July 12, 2004

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** July 27, 2004

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Supervisor Mark Church, Board President *mc*

**SUBJECT:** **Waste Reduction and Recycling at San Francisco International Airport**

**Recommendation**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the President of the Board to send a letter to the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, and to the President of the San Francisco Airport Commission requesting specific waste reduction and recycling actions to be included in the Airport's proposed bid for waste and recycling services for the next five years.

**Key Facts**

1. The County is working to comply with the provision of the AB939, which requires the diversion of fifty percent (50%) of the waste stream by the year 2000. As of 2002, the unincorporated area had a diversion rate of 47 percent (47%).
2. A waste generation study conducted in 1999 found that the businesses and construction at San Francisco International Airport generated 42.5 percent (42.5%) of all of the waste generated in the unincorporated area of the County.
3. The San Francisco International Airport is currently preparing to call for bids for a five-year waste and recycling services contract.
4. County Public Work's staff has developed a set of recommendations that will have a significant positive impact on the diversion rate for the unincorporated area if the recommendations are included in the Airport's bid specifications.
5. The recommendations are also beneficial to the Airport

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### **Discussion**

County staff has been working with Airport staff over the past few years to improve the waste diversion at the Airport, and the Airport has implemented programs that have reduced waste and increased recycling for their operations. However, businesses on the Airport property continue to generate a significant amount of the waste stream that is attributed to San Mateo County, since the Airport is located within the unincorporated area. The Airport is proposing to call for bids for waste management services that will cover the tenants on their property, and I believe that it is an opportune time to include requirements in the contract that would help maximize their waste diversion efforts. The recommendations target the general waste stream and specific areas such as the composting of food waste and construction & demolition waste, in order to provide the greatest positive impact on the overall diversion rate.

The recommendations for inclusion in the new bid process is as follows:

#### **General Waste**

- Expand San Francisco's current fifty percent (50%) diversion requirement for the Airport Commission to include airport tenant waste.
- Include requirements that the waste collection contractor provide proper handling for all electronic scrap (not limited to CRT monitors), at a cost to be defined in the initial bid.
- Provide for the availability of recycling service and support for tenants, including technical assistance and recycling education.

#### **Food Waste**

- Implement a food-composting program for the largest generators of organic waste. Gate Gourmet, which provides prepared meals to the airlines, produces over 600 tons of food waste per month. This represents twelve percent (12%) of the total waste disposal for all unincorporated areas.

#### **Construction and Demolition Waste**

- Require that contractors take all demolition and construction debris to a C&D sorting facility or recycling facility or comply with the recycling requirements in San Mateo County Ordinance 04099.
- Provide support for recycling during tenant move ins/outs and tenant improvements, including additional recycling collection and facilitation of reuse opportunities for used equipment.

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It is my expectation that the Airport Commission will support these actions to improve the diversion rate at the Airport and set a high standard for continued improvement over the course of the contract.

**Vision Alignment**

I believe the recommendation is consistent with the Shared Commitment to be a “responsive, effective and collaborative government” and Goal 22, “County and local governments effectively communicate and develop strategic approaches to issue affecting the entire County,” as implementing the recommended programs as part of the waste collection contract can aid the Airport in reducing its waste stream and therefore costs, while increasing the County’s overall waste diversion rate.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no direct impact to the County by authorizing the President of the Board to send a letter. There are some staff costs associated with County staff working with the Airport to implement some of the proposed programs. However, there are also anticipated savings as the cost of implementing other programs to increase our diversion rate may be avoided if the overall diversion goals are attained by the reduction or diversion of the waste stream from the Airport.

Staff costs associated with cooperating with the Airport are included in the appropriation for solid waste activities that are financed by the Solid Waste Fund.

There is no impact to the General Fund.

A form of resolution has been approved by County Counsel.