



**November 2006**

**Dear Solana Beach Resident,**

Welcome to the City of Solana Beach's and Waste Management's automated residential collection program! We are excited to be able to provide our customers, the residents of Solana Beach, the same service you expect in a new, more efficient manner.

Along with this welcome letter you will find a separate listing of Frequently Asked Questions, which we hope will help answer questions you may have about this new program. Also enclosed are additional stickers to place on your greenwaste cans – there are no changes in the greenwaste collection program.

You also should have recently received in the mail a new City of Solana Beach Environmental Programs brochure with information about this new program.

### **What is Automated Residential Collection?**

Automated service utilizes a truck equipped with a mechanical arm that lifts your trash and recycling containers from the street and empties the containers' contents into the truck – without the driver ever leaving the cab. This type of service is successfully used in more than 2,800 communities in the United States.

#### ***Automated trash service offers many benefits:***

It provides greater flexibility to our customers. You may select the size of trash and recycling containers that best fit your needs, whether 64 gallons or 96 gallons. Separate containers are utilized for trash and mixed recyclables (greenwaste service will still be provided with your own cans).

It is also more convenient. You will no longer have to sort your paper from your other recyclables – all of this will be collected from one container. Also, one 96-gallon cart replaces up to three standard trash cans! This means you will have fewer items to bring to the curb – simply wheel the containers to the curb on your service day and the truck's mechanical arm will do the rest.

The automated containers are more durable, and reduce the likelihood of tipping or spilling. Because they are uniform in appearance, they also help neighborhoods look neater and cleaner.

Many cities experience significant improvement in their recycling and diversion percentages (the amount of trash that is kept out of landfills) after cart systems have been implemented.

### **Program Essentials**

The gray cart will “replace” the trash can or cans you currently put out on the curb line on collection day. Similarly, the blue cart will replace the old recycling crates and will eliminate—the current requirement to segregate paper and cardboard from the glass, aluminum and plastic streams. These materials will now be fully commingled. For greenwaste, continue using 35-gallon cans with the stickers provided affixed.

On your scheduled collection day, simply place your carts in the street at the curb line spaced at least two feet apart with the handles facing the curb. Refer to the FAQ listing for questions concerning what to do with old cans or crates, how to arrange for cart switch-outs for different sizes or extra carts, what materials can or should go into each cart, and how to contact Waste Management.

### **Background Information**

This program was approved by the city this summer after a successful pilot project in Solana Beach. The carts are supplied at no incremental cost to you.

We look forward to having all of our residential customers in Solana Beach participate in this program! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Waste Management customer service at 1-800-386-7783. The call center is open Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.