

Subject: Resolution No. 311-18A5

In Support of Board of Education Commitment for Achieving Maximum Resource Conservation and Waste Diversion in the San Francisco Unified School District

- Commissioner Emilio B. Cruz

WHEREAS: The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Public Resources Code B 40000 et seq.) requires all cities and counties to reduce, reuse, recycle (including composting) their solid waste to the maximum extent feasible to conserve water, energy, and other natural resources, and to protect the environment; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 373 (Torlakson, Chapter 373, Statutes of 2001) encourages school districts to work with local agencies to meet the State's recycling goals and requires that the California Integrated Waste Management Board evaluate the extent of school waste reduction and recycling programs statewide. If less than 75% of schools in California have implemented waste reduction programs by 2004, the CIWMB will recommend statutory changes to require schools to put such programs in place; and

WHEREAS: On September 30, 2002, the San Francisco Board of Supervisor adopted a landfill diversion goal of 75% by the year 2010 and authorized the Commission on the Environment to set a zero waste goal. The Commission set a goal of 2020 (Resolution 0679-02); and

WHEREAS: While the City achieved 52% city-wide waste diversion in 2001, the San Francisco Unified School District only diverted approximately 19% of its waste (Norcal audit completed in May 2003); and

WHEREAS: On average, a school's waste stream is comprised of 41% paper, 2% glass, 4% metal, 12% plastic, and 32% organic matter such as food scraps, yard trimmings, and soiled paper, which means schools with comprehensive recycling and composting programs could potentially divert up to 97% of their waste (CIWMB Waste Characterization Study, 1995); and

WHEREAS: Recycling collection of paper, bottles, and cans is free to the District, and collection of food scraps, yard trimmings, and soiled paper for composting is discounted by 25%, while garbage costs have increased over 50% since June 2001, and thus the District may realize significant savings by implementing comprehensive recycling and composting programs, based on the experience of the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS: Schools have found resource conservation and waste diversion programs serve as valuable tools for learning and creating environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS: For twelve years, many of San Francisco's public and private schools have sought the assistance of the Department of the Environment to teach environmental concepts, implement successful resource conservation and waste diversion programs, and create positive behavior changes towards the environment; and

WHEREAS: This Board recognizes that the School District needs to provide policy and staff support to coordinate waste diversion among District facility operations, individual schools, and janitorial services, in order to achieve maximum diversion and cost savings.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Board of Education adopts landfill diversion goals of 50% by 2006, 75% by 2015 and 85% by 2025, and requests the Superintendent of Schools to develop by September 2004 and implement, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, a comprehensive program for achieving maximum resource conservation, waste diversion, and cost savings for the District.

11/18/03
12/9/03

Please Note:

- Referred to the Budget and Business Services and the Buildings, Grounds, and Services Committees by order of the Chair on 11/18/03.
- Taken up by the Buildings, Grounds, and Services Committee on 11/25/03. Forwarded to the Board of Education with a positive recommendation, as amended, by consensus of the Committee. New language in ***bold, italics, and underscored***.
- Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 12/4/03. Forwarded to the Board of Education with a positive recommendation for adoption, as previously amended.
- Adopted on 12/9/03.