SECTION 6 Other CEQA Concerns

6.1 Growth-inducing Impacts

Section 15126.2(e) of the CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to include a detailed statement of a proposed Project's anticipated growth-inducing impacts. A project would directly induce growth if it involves the construction of new housing and would indirectly induce growth if it results in substantial increases in short-term employment, which stimulates the need for additional housing and services; substantial new permanent employment opportunities; or removal of an obstacle to growth and development, such as removing a constraint on a public service. Increased growth may lead to other impacts including increased demand for utilities and public services, increased traffic and noise, air or water quality degradation, and habitat loss or degradation.

The proposed Program would not involve new development that could directly induce population growth, nor would it involve the extension of infrastructure that could indirectly induce population growth. The proposed Program would not involve construction of new housing or create a demand for additional housing. No additional staff or workers are expected to be required beyond those that would be needed to meet the City's waste handling demands based on normal increased population growth. The proposed Program would not displace any existing housing units or people. Therefore, the proposed Program is not anticipated to induce growth, nor is it anticipated to remove obstacles to growth. Thus, the proposed Program would have no impact on growth, either positively or negatively.

6.2 Energy

Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines requires that energy implications of a project be considered in an EIR, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. As such, this discussion considers the proposed Program's consumption of energy resources, particularly transportation fuels, during the project's implementation.

As discussed in Section 3.7, the Program's upstream elements would either have less than significant or no impact on energy resources. The proposed Program would consume energy primarily through the use of gasoline- and/or diesel-powered vehicles and equipment. As noted in Section 3.4, Air Quality, Program vehicles would be powered, to the extent feasible, using renewable diesel fuel that meets California's Low Carbon Fuel Standards. As described in Section 3.7, Energy, during construction, mobile and stationary construction equipment be turned off when not in operation. Reducing idling of diesel-fueled vehicles reduces the amount of diesel used by the vehicle. Adherence to local, state, and federal regulations would reduce short-term fuel demand caused by Program vehicles.

The Program would represent only a small fraction of the fuel consumption in California. In addition, several downstream facility types have the potential to produce renewable energy. Specifically, the Anaerobic Digestion Facility would convert organic waste to energy using bacteria to break down waste to produce biogas, which consists primarily of methane and carbon dioxide. With a proper feedstock, these reactions can reduce the volume of waste by 70% and provide energy. Non-Combustion Thermal Technologies (including plasma arc gasification, gasification, and pyrolysis) treat waste producing a

synthesis gas that can be used to produce electricity or can be converted into a transportation fuel. With a proper feedstock, this process produces more energy than is required for processing the materials. Therefore, the proposed Program would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources and would not place a substantial demand on regional fuel or energy supplies. Further, the proposed Program would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

6.3 Significant Unavoidable Impacts

Section 3 provides a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed Program as well as proposed mitigation measures. The analysis contained herein has not identified any impacts that cannot feasibly be mitigated to a less than significant level for any of the upstream elements of the Program. The analysis also determined that, under most circumstances, there are no impacts due to downstream elements that cannot feasibly be mitigated to a less than significant level. However, for the following resource categories there are specific elements related to facility siting that could lead to Significant and Unavoidable Impacts:

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Wildfire