Photo Report
Commercial Diversion Program, City of Santa Paula
10/1/08 & 10/23/08

Annual Report—Quantified Diversion Reported

Board staff, in conjunction with the City, determined that the City has under-reported its organics diversion as well as other forms of diversion.

Commercial Outreach

Although haulers appear to be engaging in some outreach activities (primarily newsletters and fliers), the frequency of 1) greenwaste disposed in the trash, 2) contamination of recyclables, and 3) disposal of recyclables in the trash, suggest that existing efforts are ineffective.

Commercial Outreach (continued)

Board staff observed few trash bins with conspicuous "trash only" or recycling labels.

Commercial Collection

One of the franchise haulers that services the City's commercial sector operates a program called "Unicycle" in which customers deposit both their trash and recyclables into the same bin. Although customers are required to bag their trash they do not necessarily tie the bags shut. Board staff observed food waste contamination of recyclables at the processing facility.

Commercial Collection (continued)

The hauler stated that they are striving for a 25% recovery rate from the Unicycle program. The photo to the right is a typical Santa Paula Unicycle load.

Board staff observed commercial trash loads. Note the high concentration of recyclables disposed in the City's trash.

Commercial Greenwaste Collection

Board staff observed green-waste disposed in commercial trash bins throughout the City. During site visits, Board staff did not see dedicated green-waste bins provided, even though commercial onsite greenwaste collection is a program identified by the City.