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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**EXCITEMENT AND EDUCATION GREETES CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT WEST L.A. YARD  
Bureau of Sanitation “Discover Recycling” Open House Attended by 1,500 Residents**



Photo 1 – Rita Robinson Director Bureau of Sanitation, Christine Flowers-Ewing Director Keep California Beautiful, “Octoclean” Keep Los Angeles Beautiful mascot, Cynthia M. Ruiz President Board of Public Works, “Mr. Recycle” and “Robo Blue” the blue bin robots, Lisa Sarno Director Million Trees L.A., Paul Racs Director Office of Community Beautification, and “The Grease Avenger” fighter against fats, oils and grease. Photo 2 – Council Member Tom LaBonge District 4 and Council Member Bill Rosendahl District 11. Photo 3 – Children and parents gather around “Robo Blue” the blue bin robot as it cruises the yard.

**LOS ANGELES (July 2, 2007)** – A hot and sunny weekend day was no match for the 1,500 residents attending the Bureau of Sanitation “Discover Recycling” open house in West Los Angeles. Children and their families came from miles around with anticipation and wide eyes to see the sanitation trucks that travel through their neighborhoods every week picking up their black, green and blue bins.

“The City’s goal with the open houses is to increase conservation knowledge to protect our environment, encourage recycling behaviors and have a trash diversion rate of 70% from landfills by the year 2015,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. “The key to a cleaner and

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greener Los Angeles is the participation of children and their families to reduce, reuse and recycle more and more of their household refuse and green waste.”

With the Bureau of Sanitation committed to developing community-based solutions that benefit the environment and improve the quality of life, visitors were treated to a tour of the yard with volunteer escorts from the city’s sanitation personnel and youth from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. Equipment demonstrations and hands on experience with a truck autoloader thrilled the young children and parents. Information booths on the city’s recycling, refuse and green waste programs were provided along with information on the Hyperion Treatment Plant and new Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP). The carnival like games focused on recycling knowledge and proper sorting skills between the black, green and blue bins. Small prizes were given to those that tried the games and refreshments were provided to all.

The West Los Angeles District Yard was the last of six open house events held throughout the city, which included the East and West San Fernando Valley, North Central, South Los Angeles and Harbor yards. Established in 2003, the fifth annual open houses focused on recycling to improve and enhance the public’s use of its black waste, green yard trimmings and blue recycling bins. This year as an added bonus to the public, the Bureau of Sanitation partnered with Million Trees L.A. and provided tree adoption opportunities with the distribution of free mulch from its green waste program. For more information on the Bureau of Sanitation, visit [www.lacity.org/bos/](http://www.lacity.org/bos/).

About Board of Public Works

*The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City’s third largest municipal division with a \$559 million operating budget. The department awards more than \$500 million in construction and personal service contracts annually, and oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management. For more information, visit [www.lacity.org/bpw/](http://www.lacity.org/bpw/).*

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