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**CITY OF MISSION VIEJO APPROVES LAUNCH OF COUNTYWIDE
FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM**

*Waste Management to Begin Roll-Out of New Program in the Cities of Mission Viejo, Irvine,
Laguna Beach, and unincorporated areas of Las Flores and Ladera Ranch*

(MISSION VIEJO) April, 2010 – The [City of Mission Viejo](#) recently approved the final plans for a countywide food waste recycling program with official partner [Waste Management of Orange County](#) (WMOC). In the coming weeks, WMOC will begin the new pilot program, which is expected to divert some 420 tons of food waste from local landfills, monthly.

Last year, the City of Mission Viejo submitted the food waste recycling proposal to the [OC Waste & Recycling](#) department of the County of Orange, which approved the \$400,000 grant pilot program. WMOC will install high-tech eCorect recycling machines at select businesses in the cities of Mission Viejo, Laguna Beach and Irvine, as well as the unincorporated areas of Las Flores and Ladera Ranch.

“Food waste is a major contributor to landfill deposits so we’re excited to be part of this pilot program that will really help our cities meet their sustainability goals,” said David Ross of WMOC. “What makes food waste recycling so appealing is its wide-reaching positive impact. The diversion rate is 100 percent and the waste can be transformed into a valuable resource such as compost for farmers and landscapers. It also cuts collection frequency, which ultimately reduces fuel use and green house emissions.”

According to a study performed by the [California Integrated Waste Management Board](#) (CIWMB), food waste in Orange County alone accounts for more than 50 percent of waste disposed for restaurants, hotels and banquet facilities, and other food-related businesses.

Numerous businesses have already confirmed their participation in the food waste recycling program, including:

- The Shops at Mission Viejo
- Atria Del Sol
- Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course
- Oggi’s Restaurant
- Mission Hospital
- Hyatt Hotel in Irvine
- Olive Garden Restaurant
- The Montage Hotel
- Infusion Restaurant
- Coto de Caza Golf Course

“Unlike conventional food waste processing that may require weeks or even months to achieve a reusable end-product, the technology we will supply our cities requires only a day of processing from start to finish,” continued Ross.

WMOC will provide the advanced eCorect machine to businesses for on-site processing. Through a dehydration process, the food waste will be reduced to 90 percent of its original volume leaving a small amount of nutrient-rich material. This material will be collected by WMOC to be shipped to an end user for reuse such as compost, soil amendment or high British thermal unit (BTU) fuel for waste-to-energy application.

“We are proud to partner with Waste Management to get this innovative program off the ground to help expand our recycling and waste diversion programs,” said Denise Matson, Environmental Program Administrator, City of Mission Viejo. “We are constantly seeking new ways to exceed our state’s mandated 50 percent diversion rate. In Mission Viejo alone, we anticipate that 25 tons of food waste will be diverted from landfills each month with the new program.”

About Waste Management

As North America’s largest provider of waste and environmental services, Waste Management is on a quest for environmental performance, to maximize resource value and minimize environmental impact. Waste is a valuable resource. Waste Management takes innovative steps to maximize and recover the resource that is in waste. To learn more visit www.wmorangecounty.com and www.thinkgreen.com.

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