



News Release

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State Department of Conservation director delivers first Emerald City designation

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Praising Riverside as one of the greenest cities in the state, California Department of Conservation Director Bridgett Luther officially designated Riverside as the first “Emerald City” Tuesday night.

The director came from Sacramento to a Riverside City Council evening session to extend the invitation to become an Emerald City directly to the council.

The invitation was unanimously accepted by all seven councilmembers.

The designation clears the way for the city to become part of a groundbreaking two-city, 18-month pilot project in which the state will lend resources, grants and expertise to the citys’ sustainable green initiatives. In return, the state will gauge the progress of the programs to compile a guide to aid other California cities in their efforts to attain their sustainable resource and conservation goals.

The City of Tracy will soon receive the second designation.

“We will partner together [in the pilot project] to bring you additional resources... to build a best practices handbook, Web site and toolbox for other communities,” Luther said. “We will be identifying barriers, such as cost and regulatory conflicts. With your commitment and leadership, we’re going to some great places together. Communities that embrace sustainability will be communities people want to live in.”

Ward 4 Councilmember Frank Schiavone noted that the recognition showcases the city’s efforts in recycling and sustainability.

“This recognition shows we’re a cut above,” he said. “We’re doing more than just talking about it –we’re walking the walk.”

Wally Longshore, a senior resident of Riverside, expressed his approval during public comment to the council.

“It affirms that we have a moral imperative to take the lead in greening America,” he said. “This city has a great destiny to fulfill, my friends. This is Riverside’s finest hour.”

According to state officials, the pilot project criterion include: sustainable land uses and development principles; energy conservation and efficiency; water conservation and quality; environmental health of citizens; air quality; and waste reduction and recycling rates.

For Riverside’s Green Action Plan, go to:

<http://www.riversideca.gov/utilities/pdf/gp/actionplan-aug.pdf>

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a Board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and 63,400 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California. For more information on our green events, go to:

www.greenriverside.com.