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**OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY
PICKS UP OVERFLOW GARBAGE
DURING WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCKOUT**
OHA Assigns Grounds Crew, Trucks to Make Daily Garbage Hauls

OAKLAND, Calif., July 17, 2007 – In response to the mounting trash problem created by the lockout of Waste Management workers, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has assigned a team of maintenance workers and grounds crew members to visit its public housing sites to pick up and dispose of the accumulating overflow garbage.

Twenty-five trucks (including one large truck) and 25 OHA staff members are making daily trips to the four large family properties, and to the four senior sites, and hauling the overflow garbage to the Berkeley dump. Special pickups are also being carried out more frequently at OHA's 254 scattered sites.

"We reassigned staff to tackle the trash issue, and although this reassignment delays landscaping upkeep and other work, it is vital to the health and safety of our residents, and for the health and safety of Oakland's neighborhoods," said Executive Director Jon Gresley.

Once news of the lockout broke and garbage pick-ups became sporadic, OHA responded by forming a provisional garbage team, and crafted and circulated a flyer to all residents with tips on managing trash disposal.

"We find that outsiders are dumping their trash onto our properties," said Patricia Ison, director of OHA's Property Operations. "This is particularly problematic at our scattered sites, requiring OHA to significantly increase its garbage runs to these properties."

"We are on the lookout for large overflow problems in these areas, and we respond straight away with a pick up," she added.

OHA plans to continue its efforts to haul away trash as long as the lockout continues.

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) is the City of Oakland's state-chartered and federally funded agency to promote the availability of quality housing for low-income persons. OHA works to promote the civic involvement and economic self-sufficiency of its residents and to further the expansion of affordable housing within Oakland. The Authority is currently helping to house 14,000 of the city's lowest income families. (www.oakha.org)

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