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WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ALAMEDA COUNTY WELCOMES LOCAL 70 DECISION TO RESUME CONTRACT TALKS

OAKLAND, June 25, 2007—Waste Management of Alameda County said that it welcomed Teamsters Local 70's decision to resume negotiations for a new contract. The current contract will expire on June 30.

"While we are pleased that Local 70 has agreed to our request to resume contract talks, we wish the union had offered to meet before Thursday, June 28—just two days before the expiration of the current agreement," said James Devlin, area vice president.

"Waste Management is ready to meet today, tomorrow and Wednesday—at any time—and for as long as it takes to reach a modern agreement that is fair, balanced and good for our employees, their families, and the residents and communities we serve," he said.

Devlin said that the company was eager to work with the union to improve safety standards for its employees and the communities in which they operate. He also noted that the next agreement should be the foundation of a stronger working relationship between the company and the union. An important factor in this new relationship would be development of a no-strike/no lockout clause that ensured the employees that they would not miss a day of work due to contract disputes that arise while the agreement is in place. This clause also would assure residents that their service would not be interrupted during the life of the contract. Modern labor agreements submit unresolved disputes to an impartial third party arbitrator. The parties agree to abide by the arbitrator's decision rather than calling strikes or locking out employees.

"Companies and unions that have bargained in good faith should have the integrity and confidence to abide by the terms of their agreement," said Devlin.

Waste Management said that it is committed to reaching a new agreement with Local 70 before the expiration of the current agreement.

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