

# **CORRESPONDENCE**



August 12, 2019

Dear Mr. Silva, Mr. Maloyan, Mayor, Council Members, and EAC,

Thank you for the summary of the proposed contract with American Reclamation. We appreciate being involved in the process and appreciate your attention to the importance of effectively managing our waste stream. It is alarming that Per Capita waste generation in Pasadena has increased 50% over the last several years and as such we feel that the City should focus on plans that mitigate this increase as swiftly and significantly as possible. We have researched successful waste management programs in use in other municipalities. Based on this review, we ask that the City delay signing a new contract in order to consider "Pay As You Throw" options.

In the Municipal Services status update, the City stated that the export of recycling material is a key component of our recycling infrastructure. We feel that this is not an acceptable strategy. Our waste is our responsibility to manage. We shouldn't support a waste export strategy as a management strategy. We would like to:

1. Remove this language from any City Statement, Strategy or Policy.
2. Add a clause to contracts with any City waste vendor disallowing export of any of our waste.

We would like the journey that our waste takes to be documented to allow the public to know how their waste is treated. This transparency will allow residents and businesses to make better purchasing decisions. We would like to:

3. Add language to any City waste vendor contracts, that there be full transparency regarding the final destination of our waste.
4. Have the City and the EAC receive transcripts that certify how our waste has been transferred.
5. Add language that requires any City waste vendor contracts to only transfer Pasadena's waste to facilities certified by the City of Pasadena.
6. Add language that allows the City the right to audit the facility at any time.

Eliminating Plastics 3 through 7 should be an immediate part of the City's plan to manage waste that is challenging or impossible to recycle. Social awareness and education programs have been proposed but many single use plastic products are not adequately marked, so consumers don't understand how they should be disposed. We would like to:

6. Add language to any City waste vendor contract that they will notify the City when plastics 3-7 are received, including where they are received from, types of plastic, and volume of plastics and have these shipped to our landfill.

7. Provide a monthly report providing a rolling annual total of waste generated by percentage of waste type and post on the City's web site so residents can review progress on our reduction goals.
8. Provide a "Pay as You Throw" service to help reduce waste volumes.

Thank you in advance,

Cheryl Auger Co-Lead, BAN -SUP



August 13, 2019

Dear Mr. Silva, Mr. Maloyan, Mayor, Council Members, and EA Commissioners,

Thank you for the status on the Zero Waste Plan 2040 and for your efforts to manage our waste stream. The information provided is quite startling, especially the fact that we have increased our waste generation 50% since 2012 to 8.4 pounds per person. This is 2.4 pounds per day higher than the State average and sadly this only represents the amount of residential waste received at the landfill. It is also sobering to receive confirmation that there is no market for plastics 3 through 7.

While seemingly we achieved environmental benefits by diverting material from landfills, our current practices not only increased waste but also increased greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, poor air quality and health issues. We can't afford to wait for SB 54 and AB 1080 to do something. We need to make sure no market materials are banned from the entire City as soon as possible

It seems like the City has a short-term plan that manages plastics 1&2, cardboard, aluminum and maybe glass. I have questions about what waste stream are to be recycled and how the City is communicating to consumers and enforcing disposal so the waste doesn't get contaminated. And if commodity prices have been dropping for valuable material including aluminum, plastics 1&2 beverage containers, and cardboard, what is the City's plan to manage these and how are we going to manage the other waste? We need to go on an immediate and large scale waste diet. We need immediate significant waste reduction targets for every resident and business.

But besides that we would like to understand the City's entire waste stream. We need to know the problem. How much green waste? How much organic waste? How much plastic waste? How much of each type of plastic waste? And we need to have a full understanding of our waste including multi-family dwellings and businesses.

**Waste Break-out 2010**

- Paper 14%
- Glass 1%
- Metals 4%
- Plastics 8%

- Organics 26%
- inert & building materials 39%
- special waste 6%

We need a consultant to assess our total waste stream, develop the right plans, and manage and oversee the progress of our Zero Waste Plan so we can ensure that all of the plans are in place and no opportunities are not missed and to help train people to assess and manage their waste streams. This consultant could also help people make better purchasing choices.

We should work with neighboring cities to get a grant from **CalRecycle (\$1,250,000) Community Composting Grant Program** and create a holistic plan for our organic waste and we should try to use as much of our waste as possible, not export it to other cities. The plan should be diverse and offer:

- Home composting bins and lessons on composting and permaculture.
- Home biodigesting and lessons on cooking with methane from biodigesters.
- Commercial biodigesters.
- Capturing the methane from the landfill as Renewable Natural Gas.
- Mulch in place services and city wide mulch programs

Maybe a grant can help fund these and the pilot that was discussed at the MSC meeting.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XY0ANQliAtmOIGdbHKIKP-O24emXJhVF3czcDveyQkU/edit?usp=sharing>

Instead of share table programs we should increase awareness of all businesses, residents and students on the facts of organic waste. Share table programs have been demonstrated not to that successful.

There should also be incentives and programs for restaurants, groceries and food producers to provide food with limited remaining shelf life to our under-served community members.

Thank you in advance,

Cheryl Auger Co-Lead, BAN -SUP