

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 1999

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AMEND SECTION 8.60 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCORPORATE AUTOMATION PROGRAM AND PAY-AS-YOU-THROW RECYCLING PROGRAM

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Attorney to amend Section 8.60 of the Pasadena Municipal Code to reflect current procedures and policies for refuse collection.

## **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the 1989 Integrated Waste Management Act (AB939) that issued a mandate requiring an increase in landfill diversion, the City has improved policies and procedures for refuse collection and recycling. In 1991, the City ended back yard collection and began an automated collection system, and in May, 1999, adopted the Pay-As-You-Throw program. As a result, the Pasadena Municipal Code should be updated to incorporate these operational practices.

The proposed changes fall into two categories: 1) automation and 2) regulation.

1. **Automation** – The current Pasadena Municipal Code was developed to describe “backyard collection”, refuse collection from customer-owned containers from driveways and backyards. This process does not describe the present system of curbside, City-owned container collection. The recommended Code revisions pertaining to automation are as follows:

- Expanding the definition of “refuse” to encompass household waste, recyclable materials, yard waste, hazardous materials etc.
- Changing all references to “backyard” service to “curbside” service
- Defining automated refuse collection
- Stating that loose trash at curbside is forbidden and create ability to enforce

- Changing all references to refuse containers to mean those issued by the City of Pasadena and include that they will remain property of the City
  - Stating that residents shall use reasonable care in the handling of the containers supplied and shall be responsible for repair or replacement of containers they damage or destroy through their own negligence and the City of Pasadena shall be responsible for ordinary wear and tear
  - Stating that the acceptable refuse container sizes are 32, 60 and 100 gallon and their weight limits
1. **Regulations** – In May of 1999 Council adopted the Pay-As-You-Throw program, a volume-based incentive program with a strong recycling initiative for refuse collection in Pasadena. There are not provisions in the current Code that outline the residential compliance necessary for this program, as well as automated collection, to meet the City's goals environmentally and operationally. The recommended Code revisions pertaining to regulation are as follows:
- Creating a penalty for stealing of containers
  - Creating a penalty for interfering with neighbor's cans/scavenging
  - Creating a penalty for dumping debris in alleys
  - Creating a penalty for illegal disposal of hazardous waste
  - Establishing that 7 a.m. is the time citywide that containers need to be placed by the curb
  - Establishing the ability to charge for returning to pick up containers put out later than 7:00 a.m.
  - Creating an enforcement measure to address contamination of recycling and yard waste containers stating that after three notifications within a six month period, either container can be removed and the mixed waste container may be automatically adjusted to accommodate the additional material
  - Establishing that the standard for overfilling is if the lid does not lay flat on the container and that the amount of refuse placed for collection at a residence must not exceed the container capacity
  - Creating an enforcement measure to address overfilling that states that the City may automatically adjust containers at a residence after three notifications of excessive refuse for collection within a six month period - Example: All owners and occupants of residences and other dwellings shall have and use a sufficient number of refuse containers to hold all of their refuse.

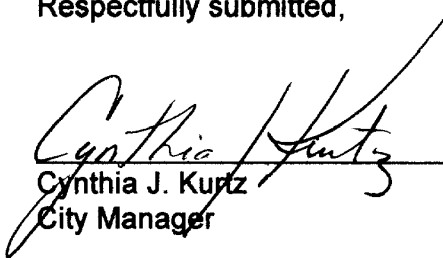
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The proposed changes fall under the general rule 15061 (b) (3) that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Since there is no possibility that the changes in question may have a significant effect on the environment, they are not subject to CEQA.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

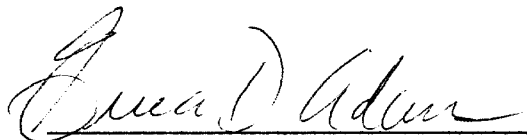
The proposed code changes facilitate improved refuse collection and recycling, thereby eliminating potential costs for non-compliance with state and federal regulations.

Respectfully submitted,



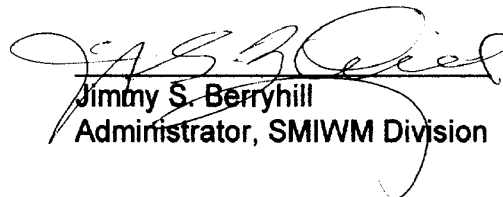
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