



*Memorandum*

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Kerrie Romanow  
Angel Rios, Jr.

**SUBJECT: ILLEGAL DUMPING AND  
LITTER INITIATIVE UPDATE**

**DATE:** May 25, 2017

Approved

Date

5-25-17

**BACKGROUND**

This Manager's Budget Addendum responds to recommendations approved by the City Council on February 14, 2017 from a supplemental memorandum related to item 7.1 on the City Council agenda from Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Carrasco, and Councilmembers Khamis, Peralez and Nguyen, as part of a discussion on the City's illegal dumping initiatives. These recommendations are related to the City's illegal dumping/litter, junk pickup, and public litter can services. A summary of these services is provided below.

The Environmental Services Department's (ESD) Illegal Dumping Rapid Response Team (IDRRT) responds to all illegal dumping service requests on public property and also does proactive sweeps of illegal dumping hot spots to clean up incidents which have not been reported. The Department of Transportation (DOT) responds to immediate roadway hazards.

ESD and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) address litter throughout the City. ESD focuses on managing the removal of litter along creeks and waterways. The PRNS Anti-Litter Program focuses on educating the public about the impact of litter through neighborhood associations and resource fairs, recruiting and managing litter volunteers, and coordinating large city-wide litter pickup events. The PRNS Parks Division manages the removal of litter located in public litter cans (PLCs) at City parks, in addition to removing litter located within the parks on park grounds.

PLCs are located throughout the City and are managed by different City departments and external agencies. ESD currently administers the PLC program that includes approximately 900 receptacles for pedestrian use throughout the City. These PLCs are placed on or near sidewalks along City thoroughfares in heavily trafficked areas such as downtown, neighborhood business districts, and some outlying areas that includes limited Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) bus stops (over 100) and residential areas. ESD staff perform the installations, replacement, and general maintenance of these PLCs and manage the contractual waste collecting service. PRNS currently manages over 2,000 public litter cans located at neighborhood and regional parks, trails, community centers, and libraries. PRNS utilizes staff and contractors to maintain and

service the litter cans at these locations. VTA currently maintains over 500 public litter cans located at bus stop and light rail stations throughout the City.

ESD also administers a residential junk pickup service provided by the residential haulers on an appointment basis. Residents in single-family homes can have large items (such as mattresses, sofas, refrigerators, tires, and more) picked up curbside by their recycling collection company. Each junk pickup includes up to three large items, and in 2016-2017 the first two pickups are free from additional charges. Included in the 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget is a recommended budget action that provides for unlimited three-item collections beginning January 1, 2018. (As described in a separate Integrated Waste Management Fund Update Manager's Budget Addendum, the start date is now proposed to be changed to July 1, 2017.) Apartment and condominium residents with communal garbage dumpster service can contact their property managers or Green Team of San José directly to arrange for free unlimited junk pickup.

## ANALYSIS

The italicized text in this section are the recommendations from the supplemental memorandum as approved by the City Council on February 14, 2017. Staff's response to each recommendation immediately follows.

- 1. As described in staff's Supplemental Memorandum, pursue the option of a cost-neutral shifting of staff that will allow for unlimited free large-item pickups that more effectively address illegal dumping.*

This recommendation is included in the 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget released on May 5, 2017 (Pages 472 and 649).

- 2. Return during budget discussions to inform the Council why all illegal dumping and servicing of public litter cans cannot be responded to by a single City department, such that one agency will have responsibility for collecting discarded items and servicing public litter cans regardless of where the material or public litter cans are located. Absent a compelling reason, prepare to make a transition of staff and resources for single-Department response in the next fiscal year.*

ESD and PRNS staff are evaluating options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PLC services city-wide, including consolidating services under one department. This effort could not be completed in time for inclusion in the 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget. Staff will return to the Transportation and Environment Committee meeting in fall 2017 with findings and recommendations that incorporate the related initiatives listed below:

- Currently, ESD-managed PLCs are situated on sidewalks directly adjacent to roads, so the City and contractor crews and service vehicles can easily access the containers. PRNS PLCs are hand-serviced by PRNS staff and contractors (contracts expire December 31, 2017) already performing other park and library maintenance functions at

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these locations; servicing these containers is an acillary activity for PRNS. Staff is developing a GIS map to identify all locations of all City PLCs and will use the information to determine the most efficient servicing options, including the distances from the streets, location, and other related considerations. This project will conclude at the end of summer 2017.

- PRNS and ESD staff are field-testing alternative approaches to maintain PRNS PLCs. This evaluation will explore the effectiveness of replacing barrels at parks with carts to reduce litter, increase operational efficiency, and improve safety. These tests will conclude in late summer 2017.
- ESD staff is currently in negotiations with the hauler that provides PLC collection services; this process will be completed in early fall 2017.

The Illegal Dumping response program was consolidated under ESD in 2016-2017.

3. *Explore whether notification to residents about free large-item junk pickup could occur more cost-effectively through the distribution of stickers that would be applied to multi-family dwelling dumpsters and to single-family residential garbage bins featuring a telephone number, website, and information in multiple languages.*

In March 2017, the City Council directed ESD to initiate negotiations for new solid waste agreements that would replace the existing agreements. Notification to residents about junk pickup services via stickers applied on collection containers will be explored as a service enhancement during the negotiations. ESD will present the results of these negotiations to the City Council by September 2017.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Staff will return to City Council and the Transportation and Environment Committee in fall 2017, as described above.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department, Transportation Department, City Attorney's Office, and City Manager's Budget Office.

/s/  
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/s/  
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