

Council Meeting of
March 20, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Public Works – Presentation on implementation of pilot program for curbside residential green waste collection.
Expenditure: None at this time.**

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works Director recommends that City Council review information regarding the implementation of a pilot program for the curbside collection of residential green waste.

Funding

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) created mandatory waste reduction goals of 50% for every city in the State, with the penalty of substantial fines for noncompliance. In 1991, Your Honorable Body adopted the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) as required for compliance with AB 939 and it is this document that serves as the guideline for the programs the City has currently implemented. One of the main criteria for evaluating a city's compliance with AB 939 is the implementation of the programs described in the SRRE.

The SRRE is divided into several main categories for waste reduction programs, including recycling, source reduction, green waste and household hazardous waste. The Sanitation and Waste Management Divisions of the Public Works Department oversee compliance with the requirements of AB 939 and have implemented a variety of programs based on the guidelines of the SRRE including the residential curbside recycling program, composting workshops, construction and demolition materials recycling, parks and special event recycling and used oil recycling drop-off centers as well as education programs and materials.

Within the green waste category, there is one major program called for in the SRRE that has not yet been implemented, and that is for a residential green waste collection program. According to the original waste characterization study in the SRRE, green waste makes up nearly one-third of the residential waste stream in Torrance, and is therefore an important component in the City's efforts to reach diversion compliance as mandated by AB 939.

A recent survey showed that 76 of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County have some form of residential green waste collection. The collection of separated green waste from residents will assist the City in reaching the State mandated waste reduction goals and will provide an increased service level to residents similar to surrounding cities.

On November 21, 2006 Your Honorable Body approved the concept of a curbside green waste collection pilot program and authorized the appropriation of funds for the purchase of a vehicle and automated green waste containers. Both purchases have been completed.

The trial green waste program is scheduled to begin in May 2007 and will include two routes that will be collected on the same day as the customer's refuse pick-up. The information gathered during the pilot program should provide information for developing a full-scale program including service fees, equipment and vehicles needs, route configuration and other related costs.

Staff will provide a presentation of the logistics of the pilot program, including:

- The participating areas
- Outreach efforts
- Areas of concern
- Program definitions
- Program benefits

Staff anticipates the pilot program will run at least one year to determine any seasonal variations and provide adequate time for accumulating information. Following the one year program, or sooner if possible, staff will return to Council with recommendations to implement the program on a City-wide basis.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director

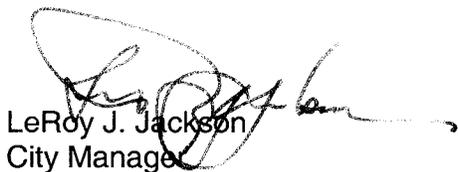
CONCUR:



Matthew Knapp
Sanitation Services Manager



Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

By Alison Sherman
Waste Management Coordinator

Attachment A: Green Waste Pilot Program Presentation Slides

Green Waste



Proposed Pilot Program
for Residential Curbside Collection

Green Waste is:



leaves, grass,
green plants, weeds,
bush and garden trimmings,
tree branches (limited to 4" diameter and 4' length),
wood chips and sawdust.

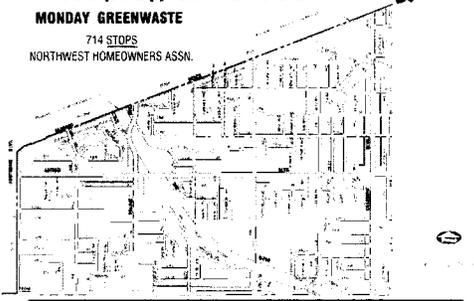
Does not include palm fronds/branches, large ice plant/succulent clusters, dirt or rocks.

30% of Torrance residential waste is green waste

Green Waste: Pilot program areas



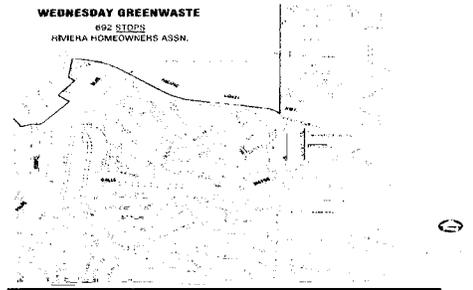
MONDAY GREENWASTE
714 STOPS
NORTHWEST HOMEOWNERS ASSN.



Green Waste: Pilot program areas



WEDNESDAY GREENWASTE
692 STOPS
HIWENA HOMEOWNERS ASSN.



Green Waste: Outreach



- Notices to residents in pilot areas, HOA, local gardeners and letter to give to gardeners
 - Attend meetings with both HOA's to discuss program
 - Door hangers and brochures when containers delivered
 - Surveys, website information
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Green Waste: Benefits



- Part of State mandate for waste reduction
 - Environmental benefits
 - Lower tipping fees
 - Increase recycling participation
 - Public support for program
 - Parity with other cities' service levels
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Green Waste: Concerns



- Costs for additional staff, vehicles and related costs like fuel
 - Wear and tear on streets from additional vehicles
 - Storage space concerns for residents
 - No plastic bags allowed
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