



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**STUDY SESSION UPDATES ON SENATE BILL 1383, RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING CONTAMINATION, AND RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE AND RECYCLING RATES**

**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

**MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

*Consistent with the California Governor’s Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer’s March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council meeting was not physically open to the public. Public comments were accepted via eComment, email, by phone/Webinar or online.*

The Council meeting was teleconferenced from remote locations and convened the Listening Session at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members - Liccardo, Jones, Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen, Davis, Esparza, Arenas, Foley, Mahan.

Absent: Council Members - All Present.

Staff: City Manager, David Sykes; Office of the City Manager, Chief of Staff, Lee Wilcox; City Attorney, Nora Frimann; City Clerk, Toni Taber; Deputy City Manager, Kim Walesh; Assistant to the City Manager, Zulma Maciel; and City Clerk’s Office, Yasmin Johnson.

**INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Sam Liccardo gave an overview of the study session and opened the floor.

Director, Department of Environmental Services, Kerrie Romanow began the study session presentation.

Purpose of today’s study session: To provide a status report on Senate Bill 1383 Implementation, to provide a status report on Single-Family Dwelling Residential Recycling Contamination, and to provide a status report on 2021-2022 Residential Garbage and Recycling Rates.

Outcome of study session: The Mayor, City Council, and the community will: Understand the requirements of Senate Bill 1383, the City of San José’s position for compliance, be given an opportunity to hear from California’s Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the responsible party for implementation and enforcement, understand the issue of single-family dwelling residential recycling contamination, the results of a recent characterization study, and current approaches to reduce contamination; and understand the planned 2021-2022 residential garbage and recycling rates and options to reduce rate increases.

## **1. San José's Solid Waste Program Overview**

Deputy Director, Integrated Waste Management, Valerie Osmond; Senior Services Program Manager, Shikha Gupta; and Senior Environmental Services Program Manager, Jeff Anderson offered the presentation.

The presentation included the history of San José's Solid Waste Program, the major solid waste regulations, the previous and current Single-Family Collection Setout, curbside recycling collection, the CalRecycle Disposal Targets, and Major Solid Waste Regulations.

## **2. Senate Bill 1383 Overview, San José's Program Alignment, and Next Steps**

CalRecycle, Materials Management, Local Assistance Division, Brianna Lara; and Senior Environmental Program Manager, Shikha Gupta offered the presentation.

The presentation involved California's Super-Pollutant Reduction Strategy, pandemic lessons for the Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), the climate crisis costing California Billions, organic waste being the largest waste stream in California, SB 1383 requirements, Jurisdiction responsibilities, Local Government roles and responsibilities regarding SB 1383, new statewide programs to reduce super pollutants, the inspection and enforcement requirements, state enforcements, San José leading the nation in diversion from landfills, San José recycling infrastructures, the zero waste plan, residential composts, residential organic composts, commercial compost, and commercial organic composts, collection and processing services, procurement, recordkeeping and reporting, edible food recovery, and different department responsibilities and coordination.

## **3. Residential Recycling Contamination and Next Steps**

Deputy Director, Integrated Waste Management, Valerie Osmond and SCS Engineers, Sustainable Materials Management, Technical Division, Stacey Demers offered the presentation.

Director of Operations, California Waste Solutions, Glen Holsenburg and District Manager, Green Team of San José, Brett Falkner were available for staff questions.

The presentation included residential garbage and recycling services, residential material flow, the most common single-family cart sizes, COVID-19 impacts on solid waste and public outreach, the increased tons of garbage and recycling during the COVID-19 pandemic, single-family dwelling recycling contamination, materials that are not accepted in recycling carts, the measuring of cart contents, the three recycling collection districts, the fieldwork schedule, different material classifications, the summary of the citywide results, the major material classification collections by district, recycling routes, recycling composition changes and structures, the increase of contractor compensation, and the cart lid replacement pilot program,

#### **4. Updates on Senate Bill 1383, Residential Recycling Contamination, and Residential Garbage and Recycling Rates.**

Environmental Services Director, Kerrie Romanow and Deputy Director, Integrated Waste Management, Valerie Osmond, offered the presentation.

The presentation included the forecasted rate increases presented to Council in February, the reason for rate increases, the rate increases compared by single-family and multi-families, local rate comparisons, the exploration of reductions such as: freezing staff positions, using fund reserves, the reduction to current services, and federal relief funds.

Recommended strategies: to use the fund balance by leveraging the available savings after updating the budget projections and the use of Bottle Bill funds or to use the fund reserve with the partial use of Operations and Maintenance Reserve (O&M Reserve).

Strategies not recommended: to continue to freeze staff vacancies, limit SFD junk pickups to two or three item collections per year, and to use federal relief funds from the American Rescue Plan for a one-time reduction to the SFD rate increases focused on recycling contamination costs.

Mayor Sam Liccardo opened the floor for public comment.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Roland spoke to an aircraft prototype that uses methane and oxygen for proper propulsion instead of kerosene.
2. Blair Beekman addressed improvements on the use of subsidies, recycling, water rate increases, and open community discussions.

#### **COUNCIL QUESTIONS**

Mayor Sam Liccardo opened the floor for Council questions.

Director, Department of Environmental Services, Kerrie Romanow; Director of Operations, California Waste Solutions, Glen Holsenburg; City Manager's Budget Director, Jim Shannon responded to questions from Council.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Sam Liccardo adjourned the Study Session at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared and Respectfully Submitted by,

Toni J. Taber,  
CMC City Clerk

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