

Date: June 18, 2021

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject: SB 1383: Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions Requirements**

In September 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions bill, SB 1383, into law. SB 1383 targets a 75 percent reduction by 2025 of California's methane emissions generated by the disposal of organic materials, including green (yard) waste, wood waste, food waste, and waste from fibers such as paper and cardboard. This is the most significant waste reduction mandate to be adopted in California in over 30 years as it requires local jurisdictions to implement organics waste collection and edible food recovery programs, as well as develop enforcement mechanisms to ensure that businesses and residents comply with the law.

While the State has mandated these programs, it has not allocated any funds to local jurisdictions for compliance. The State has suggested that each jurisdiction apply collection rate adjustments on their residential and commercial service accounts to recoup costs associated with SB 1383 requirements. The Public Works Environmental Services Bureau (ESB) is currently working with a consultant to develop a cost of service study and establish organics collection rates for residential and commercial customers.

Organics collection is required to be implemented by January 1, 2022. Long Beach, like many Southern California cities, will not be prepared to begin a program by that date. There are several reasons contributing to the City's inability to meet this timeline.

- A lack of organics processing facilities to receive organic waste in Southern California. The Department of Public Works is working with the Department of Energy Resources to identify and potentially site a local facility to receive and process organics generated by Long Beach residents and businesses. Two different technologies are currently being reviewed by staff.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed implementation of organics programs as local jurisdictions have had to reallocate resources to respond to public needs during the pandemic. Additionally, many organics generators, such as restaurants, were at least partially shut down on occasions during the pandemic.
- The demand for vehicles and other equipment needed to implement organics collection throughout California has created a shortage, potentially delaying acquisition of equipment.

Public Works ESB continues to make progress toward compliance with organics collection requirements. In 2019, ESB completed a waste characterization study to identify the amount and type of organics material in Long Beach's residential and commercial waste streams. Afterward, residential and commercial organics collection studies were completed to identify organics collection options. Currently, staff are in the process of identifying costs and developing a rate structure for providing collection services. Finally, ESB will initiate the City's first pilot commercial organics collection route in June 2021 with about 150 participating Long Beach businesses.

It is important to note that while organics collection and edible food recovery programs will make the most significant impact on Long Beach residents and businesses, SB 1383 goes well beyond these requirements and will affect the way different City departments conduct business. The City Manager's Office, with assistance from ESB, has developed an interdepartmental task force with representatives from different City departments to create an SB 1383 workplan. The City has also retained SCS Engineers to assist in these efforts. Staff will provide greater detail on SB 1383 at a study session scheduled on August 3, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding SB 1383 prior to the August study session, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at (562) 570-5715 or Diko Melkonian, Deputy Director of Public Works, at (562) 570-2856.

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