

From: [Marsha Rood](#)
To: [Hudgins, Ariel](#)
Subject: EAC Meeting of 6-14-2022: Item 5: Solid Waste Reaction Update
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 2:11:56 PM
Attachments: [CORTA BELLA ORGANIC WASTE BIN MG_3312\[1\].pdf](#)
Importance: High

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Dear Members of the Commission:

I am President of the Corta Bella Homeowners' Association which has nineteen units. We have an Organic Waste Bin in the garage and have installed a metal sign over the Bin describing what goes in and what does not go into it (please see attached photo).

We are finding that some of our residents are placing recyclable items (e.g. cardboard, coat hangers, soda cans, shrink wrap, newspapers, etc.) into the bin. The City confiscated our bin because it was contaminated with this type of waste. Our HOA Board does not know who is/are putting the recyclables into the Bin; finding out is next to impossible. Our HOA Board wants to comply with the City's new organic waste program, but needs some help from the City to do so.

Issues:

1. The sign on the top of the Organic Bin refers to "**YARD WASTE**" - not "**ORGANIC WASTE**".
2. The **Recycling Bins** and the **Organic Waste Bin** are the **same color**, possibly leading to confusion.
3. We do not have a **best practices guide** on how to implement the Organic Waste rules in **multifamily housing complexes**. *[NOTE: I believe that about 50% of the 62,000+ dwelling units in Pasadena are multifamily.]*

Recommendations:

1. Place an "**ORGANIC WASTE**" sign on the Organic Bin - **remove the "YARD WASTE"** sign.
2. Provide a **different color bin** for the **ORGANIC WASTE** bins in order to **differentiate it from the recycling bins**.
3. Provide/develop a **BEST PRACTICES ORGANIC WASTE PROGRAM GUIDE FOR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING COMPLEXES**.

Thank you for your consideration of our HOA's issues and recommendations.

Marsha Rood
President, Corta Bella Homeowners Association




ORGANIC COMPOSTING BIN

City of Pasadena Food Waste Recycling Rules

Organic waste must be placed in a plastic or cardboard bag when placing it into the bin.

Food Scraps: Cooked meat, fish, shell, vegetables and fruits, bones.

Yard Waste: Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, twigs, flowers, soil, dry sticks, pine needles.

Please do not place any other trash into this bin as it will not be recycled. Compostable and biodegradable items such as paper plates, cups, and paper towels are not allowed.

S0807182

Environmental Advisory Commission 14 June 2022 Meeting
Remarks Submitted by Joan Aarestad, District 1, to Public Works Presentation

First, a huge “thank you” to the people in the Public Works Department for the work they do to keep our City operational in so many important areas. We all need to work together in these challenging times to ensure that the City is forward looking in the face of the environmental calamities facing us.

I have reviewed the City’s memorandum and have the following questions and suggestions for Public Works. The first group relate to suggested compost operations:

How many households currently compost on site? (Backyard Composting)

How many households plan to compost offsite? (Neighborhood Hubs)

Based on that research, are there enough Hubs planned since each one would be designed to serve only 70 households?

How many households would like to engage a composting service to deliver their eligible organics to a local composting system? (Compost Guy service similar to a Pool Guy service)

The second issue relates to the administration/implementation of the projects.

The City plans to rely on “volunteers” to manage 1200 pounds of “rotten food” in the 3 bin system as described in the memo. It is unrealistic to task volunteers with this much heavy lifting without compensation.

Suggestion: A system of professional local compost management services should be implemented to ensure the successful operation of the Neighborhood Hubs. We pay professionals to haul our other waste streams many miles each week. The City should find money in the budget to create more environmentally significant jobs to ensure the success of Neighborhood Hubs and other local food waste management projects.

My next question relates to the Self-Hauler definition. How can people continue to engage in compost operations that deliver to offsite facilities and not run the risk of fines and penalties?

Suggestion: I invite the City to work with me to craft revisions to the existing ordinance or create an exemption for people who see the organics recycling stream as a way to support biodiversity within our City and help Mother Nature do what she does best. Renew and recycle.

In that regard, I also suggest the City substitute the graphic from EPA regarding the Hierarchy for Reducing & Recycling Food/Organics for the one I have attached. It more accurately depicts the hierarchy for those of us who understand the larger environmental setting of our interactions with Mother Nature and the need to respect more deeply the environmental imperatives we currently face.

Last, I would like Public Works to acknowledge the viability of “Small-Scale Decentralized Composting” options. These systems offer benefits beyond those available at a local Community Hub because those hubs are not designed to process meat, dairy, and paper products waste that are also defined as organics. The City’s plan appears to relegate those waste streams to the landfills. Please clarify.

Suggestion: Study existing emerging technology to determine cost and scaling up of similar full service composting systems in other parts of the city.

My next issue is with the lack of transparency in the actual cost to the taxpayer of the City’s current recommendations. For example, the chart shows that organics will be hauled only 5 miles to a transfer facility but there is no detail on what happens after the organics leave that facility and wend their way to the next processing facility. And then the next one. What is the true cost and effect on the environment? How does that assessment compare to the cost of local organics processing and effect on the environment?

Public Works deserves credit for coming up with some proposals on a complex topic. And so does District 1. As a result of many years of support and encouragement, District 1 is way out front in experimenting with Small-Scale Decentralized Composting as demonstrated by the program at the Rose Bowl. Surprisingly, there is no mention of the program by Public Works. Please update the information which will eventually be provided to the City Council. Our Councilmembers cannot make informed decisions unless all the data is available to them.

There is no “one size fits all” solution. The Citizens of Pasadena and the City can all work together to do what is best for our unique community.

