Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
October 15, 2013
(Continued from October 1, 2013)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works

Subject: Alameda County Mandatory Recycling Ordinance and Cost Impacts and New Household Hazardous Waste Fees

INTRODUCTION

In January 2012 the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) Board approved the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance requiring certain mandatory recycling efforts in member cities, which includes Berkeley. This Ordinance has 2 phases, and Phase 1 became effective July 1, 2012 while Phase 2 becomes effective July 1, 2014.

- Phase 1 requires businesses *with 4 cubic yards or more* of refuse collection and multi-family buildings of *5 units or more* to have recycling services for paper and containers. The Zero Waste Division was able to incorporate Phase 1 services into its current fleet operations by implementing routing efficiencies, and which resulted in minimum cost impacts on routes that had the additional capacity.
- Phase 2 of the Ordinance expands the mandatory recycling of papers and containers to *all* businesses. In addition, Phase 2 requires *all* businesses and multi-family buildings of 5 units or more to have organics collection services.

The impact on collection services from incorporating both the additional business and multi-family customers, and the increased recycling and organics tonnage, will be assessed by a consultant provided by ACWMA, and is included in our rate study that is already underway. Once this information is available, the City will be able to calculate the cost adjustments required for Zero Waste Division collection operations.

In addition to the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance, ACWMA is proposing a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) fee for every residential unit within the Authority's jurisdiction. This fee would support the retention of existing HHW facilities in Oakland, Hayward and Livermore, and provide for 12 annual drop-off events to assist cities that do not have their own HHW facility. The annual fee is about $9 per occupied unit, and would be collected through property tax bills. If the ACWMA Board approves the fee, they will begin the Proposition 218 noticing process in January 2014, with fee implementation expected in August 2014. Unfortunately, the ACWMA Proposition 218 noticing will coincide with the Zero Waste Division Proposition 218 rate increase mailing to City of

Berkeley property owners. The concern with the timing of the notifications is that it may confuse property owners on the different fee proposals. The ACWMA will conduct a Stakeholder Meeting on their proposed HHW Fee in Berkeley on October 15, 2013 at the North Berkeley Senior Center from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. For additional information, see the attached StopWaste.org (ACWMA) Stakeholder Meetings notice.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED CONDITIONS

Public Works Zero Waste currently provides recycling collection for 1,100 businesses and 750 multi-family properties, and collects organics from 250 businesses and 300 multi-family properties. To comply with Phase 2 of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance, the City's Zero Waste Division will need to hire 3 new personnel (2 drivers and 1 Solid Waste worker), and purchase 2 additional collection vehicles.

Along with Phase 2 collection requirements, there are also processing costs for the additional tons of recyclables and organics. The projected amount of additional materials for collection and processing will be determined by the ACWMA consultant's study of Berkeley accounts. The additional tons will be processed through the contract services with the Community Conservation Center and Recology Grover Environmental Products.

Public Works has contracted with a consultant that is currently conducting a Sustainable Rate Study, which includes costs for Phase 2. A report on the outcome of this study and a proposed rate structure are expected to be delivered to Council by the end of this calendar year.

BACKGROUND

The Public Works Zero Waste Division manages a contract with the Ecology Center for recycling collection for residential properties up to 9 units, while the City collects all residential and commercial organics (food waste and yard debris) and some commercial recycling. Businesses that use a franchised hauler will be required to comply with Mandatory Recycling requirements, as well.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF MANDATORY RECYCLING, PHASE 2

Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Phase 2 recycling requirements will add additional collection costs to City of Berkeley customers. These include annual personnel expenses of about $391,988; and the purchase of 2 new collection vehicles for an estimated $776,000 (not including operating costs). In addition to the collection costs, there will be processing expenses for recyclables and organics. These costs will not be known until the ACWMA consultant completes their study.

The Alameda County Household Hazard Waste program is currently funded by a landfill disposal fee. The ACWMA is proposing a new funding source for this program, where the estimated $9 fee will be included on customer's property tax bill.

CONTACT PERSONS

Ken Etherington, Manager, Zero Waste Division, Public Works, 981-6359
Andy Schneider, Recycling Program Manager, Public Works, 981-6357

Attachments:
1: StopWaste.org Stakeholder Meetings Notice for Proposed Household Hazardous Waste Program Improvements and Fee

Attachment 1

STOPWASTE.ORG
Reducing the Waste Stream for Alameda County

Stakeholder Meetings
For Residential and Multifamily Property Owners in Alameda County
Proposed Household Hazardous Waste Program Improvements and Fee

Dates & Time: October 8th, 10th, 15th & 17th From 7 pm – 9 pm

Locations

Livermore Public Library (October 8th)
1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore
Castro Valley Public Library, (October 10th)
3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley CA
North Berkeley Senior Center, (October 15th)
1901 Hearst Ave, 2nd Floor, Classroom A&B, Berkeley, CA
Fremont Public Library, (October 17th)
2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fukaya Rm, Fremont, CA

Join us to hear more about the countywide residential household hazardous waste program and its future. The program provides safe, legal, environmentally sound disposal options for residential household hazardous waste such as paint, solvents, and pesticides. Without these options, most household hazardous waste will be illegally and improperly disposed of (e.g., abandoned on streets, poured down drains, placed in garbage or recycling carts). Improper disposal often pollutes our waterways, detracts from property values, or forces the community or others to pay for cleanup (e.g., through street maintenance, wastewater, or stormwater budgets; or expenses to private property owners).

The countywide household hazardous waste collection program is currently paid for through a per ton fee on municipal solid waste disposed in landfills. However, the fee has not *changed since 2000 and the program either needs to be cut back dramatically or provided with additional funding.* These stakeholder meetings seek to gather feedback from single family and multi-family property owners regarding a proposed fee of less than $10 per year per dwelling unit to be paid with property tax bills each year.

More information about the current program can be found at http://www.Household-Hazwaste.org. Additional information about the proposed program improvements and fee will be posted to the HHW website no later than 5 p.m., October 4th, 2013. If you are unable to attend any of the meetings above but would like to make comments or ask questions, please send them to hhwproject@stopwaste.org or call Wes Sullens at 510-891-6500.