

CONSENT CALENDAR

12/16/03

Date:

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Dona Spring

Subject: RECYCLING CENTER AT DWIGHT AND MLK

RECOMMENDATION: Request that the City Manager come back with options for acquiring the property that currently sites the recycling center at Dwight and MLK streets.

BACKGROUND: The City of Berkeley recently celebrated the 30th anniversary curbside recycling. Before curbside was instituted, Berkeley residents and others could bring their recyclables to the recycling center at Dwight and MLK. This site has been an integral location for many people wishing to recycle. Many residents still prefer to use the recycling center than to put their recyclables on the curb because of theft and other scheduling difficulties. It is often difficult or impossible for tenants to recycle at their apartment buildings and the recycling center may be the only option for them to recycle. If this center closes, many people will not choose to recycle as much or as conveniently. Could the City Manager please contact the Ecology Center to provide figures as to how many people use the recycling center during the day and over the course of the year and how much materials are recycled at that location. Why do they choose to this option for recycling rather than curbside if this information is available. In addition, what are the costs and income regarding operation of this recycling center. Among the options explored would be estimates as to how much solid waste fees would have to increase in order to fund such an acquisition. When this center closes, there will be many complaints from the public.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Dona Spring 981-7140