



Public Works Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

September 19, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: Public Works Commission

Submitted by: Jeff Egeberg, Secretary, Public Works Commission

Subject: Street Sweeping Program

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendations are made in response to Council's request for advice on an implementation program for citywide residential street sweeping:

- a) The regular residential citywide street sweeping policy adopted a decade ago be implemented in several stages.
- b) The first phase to be reintegration of exempted or opt-out blocks into existing routes where possible.
- c) This first phase be preceded by a press release stressing the necessity for expanding sweeping of streets and by written notification to residents of blocks affected.
- d) The City begins to look for funds to achieve further expansion which will require additional employees and equipment.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There would be minimal cost impacts of the first phase for installing signs and for a public notification process. While estimates of these costs are not available to the Public Works Commission (PWC) at this time, costs could range as high as \$50,000 to \$100,000 to pay for new signs and public outreach. These funds are not currently in the Public Works budget.

Subsequent expansion of the program would require additional resources and equipment.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Neighborhoods were allowed to opt out of the program for several years after 1991. The process involved submitting a petition to the PWC. The main rationale for the residents was that their neighborhood was not in need of sweeping as much as other areas and did not justify the effort to move parked cars. Approval of the opting out was based on the residents' commitment to keep the street clean themselves.

The time has come when the PWC now recommends that the additional environmental and storm drainage benefits of sweeping the opted-out areas exceeds the burden of moving the parked cars. The City's Storm Water NPDES Permit encourages expansion of the program and discourages the practice of opting out.

The PWC has worked with Public Works staff to identify the specific streets that would be added back in. These are listed in Attachment 1. They are grouped into four categories that can be phased in to the Public Works Department's work program at a rate of one group per month. The categories are in order of ease of implementation, from an operations standpoint.

Finally, there are some stretches where effective street sweeping, along the gutter, cannot be performed. The commission will continue to discuss this issue.

### BACKGROUND

In 1987, in response to new regional water quality requirements, the City began street sweeping. The goal was to remove debris from washing into the Bay. The program is also important in that it reduces blockage of our storm drains. Some streets were excluded because they are narrow, or windy, or lack curbs, or primarily contain leaves which are better swept manually (which does not require removal of vehicles) or vacuumed. Additional leaf pick up and even manual raking has been done in the hills areas.

In 1991 the city expanded the leaf removal program and authorized opt-out. Some streets or blocks were allowed to opt out for four years primarily because they did not want to move their vehicles once a month. Although there is some manual leaf raking, these "opt-out" streets cannot be included in the City's mileage of street sweeping reported annually under the clean water program.

Shortly thereafter, the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) recommended more sweeping. In 1993 Council created a moratorium on opt-out and asked for further study of environmental issues. The PWC was to respond to CEAC and began working with staff on trying to obtain data on the amounts and types of pollutants that are picked up during street sweeping. It was discovered that there was very little of this type of data available.

During the upcoming years there was quite an effort to move forward, to be more environmentally conscious, and to prove sweeping was an effective measure. A report was produced that showed cubic yards of debris swept varied between 540 in 1992, 390 in 1993, and 420 cubic yards in 1994 (all during the month of April). In 1994 it was reported that about 1,000 curb miles of residential sweeping, 700 miles of commercial and 400 of industrial zones was done.

In May 1994 Council asked for a report on copper retrieved. A report was produced that annual sweeping and inlet cleaning showed 758.8 lbs copper removed annually. Residential street sweeping accounted for 266.4 lbs of the total. Staff indicated that the data is very rough, and it was still difficult to obtain solid data.

Finally, in 1997 Council concluded that it was necessary to implement street sweeping citywide, but "where feasible" was added at the last minute to the resolution. Some Councilmembers wanted a public hearing first. None of the members living in the north or east voted for the motion. Although initially the program was to be phased in over six months, Council instead requested that the PWC provide advice on how to implement a program.

The PWC began hearings in 1999, and an enormous amount of time was devoted to trying to develop an acceptable and functional program. However, both staff and some commission members were reluctant to proceed, reflecting the resistance of some members of the public. In the end, lack of resources was an overriding impediment to expansion of the program and ultimately to achieving the City-wide program approved by the City Council in 1997. The commission will continue to consider incorporating blocks that are adjacent to current residential routes.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

There are many important reasons for sweeping streets and for expanding the program:

- Efficiency: reduce storm drain debris and improve efficiency of the system
- Flooding: improve flood control by eliminating large blockages
- Toxics: reduce pollutants going into the bay (objects, leaves and chemicals)
- Federal/State Laws: the necessity of complying with regional plans and federal guidelines, annual reports must be filed on miles of streets swept
- Financial: avoid potentially large fines from regulatory agencies
- Aesthetics: maintain a clean appearance of public areas
- Health: removal of any substances that might present a health risk
- Clean Water: increasing the cleanliness of runoff to creeks and the Bay
- Equity: Only a portion of the City is bearing the total obligation to meet regulatory requirements.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If the Street Sweeping Program is not expanded as recommended, the City will fall behind in environmental compliance by not removing additional pollutants from untreated storm water discharges. Citizens will also not be able to benefit from increased general cleanliness of City streets and avoiding clogging and blockages of storm drain inlets.

#### CITY MANAGER

See companion report.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Jeffrey L. Egeberg, Secretary

981-6400



ATTACHMENT 1

Public Works Commission

Streets & Utilities Division  
1326 Allston Way  
Berkeley Ca. 94710  
(510) 644-6620

June 21, 2006

To: Jeffrey Egeberg, Manager City of Berkeley Engineering  
Undra Brown, Senior Public Works Supervisor

From: Kem Loong Jr. Public Works Supervisor

RE: Addition of street sweeping opt-out streets into enforced streets list.

**The following opt-out streets can be added into the regular street sweeping route in numerical order, starting with category one and at the rate of one category per month.**

**Category 1**

Allston Wy. 1700 block.  
Berkeley Wy. 1600 and 1700 blocks.  
Blake St. 1300 block.  
Carlotta St. 1200 block.  
Colusa Ave. 1000, 110 and 1200 blocks.  
Derby St. 2400 block.  
Henry St. 1400 block.  
North Valley St. 2100 block.  
Posen Ave. 1600 block.  
Tyler St. 1600 block.

**Category 2**

Acton St. 1500 block.  
Ada St. 1300 block.  
Catherine Dr. 1400 block.  
Curtis St. 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks.  
Hillcrest Rd. 200 block.  
Keoncrest Dr. 1400 block.  
Oakvale Ave.  
Ordway St. 1400 block.  
Parkside Dr. 100 block.  
Regent St. 2900 block.  
Tom Lee Dr. 1300 block.  
**Virginia Gardens .**

**Category 3**

Edith St. 1400 block.  
Holly St. 1400 and 1500 block.  
Jaynes St. 1600 and 1700 block.  
Jaunita Wy. 1500 block.  
Lassen St. 1000 block.  
Linden St. 2900 block.  
Magnolia St. 2900 block.  
North St. 1500 block.  
Robel Rd.  
Yolo Ave. 1900 and 2000 block.

**Category 4**

Acton St. 1300 block.  
Arlington St. 700 block.  
Ensenada St. 600 and 800 blocks.  
Grizzly Peak. Blvd. 600 block.  
Lincoln St. 1500 and 1600 blocks.  
Peralta Ave. 600, 700 and 800 blocks.  
San Lorenzo Ave. 1600, 1700 and 1800 blocks.  
San Juan Ave. 1800 block.  
San Antonio Ave. 1800 block.  
Santa Rosa Ave. 500 and 600 blocks.  
Thousand Oaks Blvd. 1500, 1600 and 1800 blocks.  
Vincente St. 600 and 700 blocks.  
Vine St. 1700 block.  
Virginia St. 1600 block.