



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

January 28, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Rene Guerrero, Interim Public Works Director

Subject: **Adopt a Resolution in Support of Zero Waste**

OVERVIEW

Recommendation – That the City Council adopt a Resolution in support of Zero Waste.

Fiscal Impact – None at this time.

Previous Related Action – On November 19, 2018, City Council received a presentation on how the City is moving towards Zero Waste and approved the pilot organics program to begin January 1, 2019. Additionally, direction was given for Staff to work with interested community partners to enhance the language of the draft Zero Waste Resolution that was presented at that meeting.

On February 26, 2018, City Council received a presentation on moving towards Zero Waste, discussed concepts, and provided Staff with feedback.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of the attached Resolution in support of Zero Waste sends a signal to Pomona residents, businesses, and organizations, of the City's commitment to sustainability initiatives. The Resolution language for City Council consideration is a collaboration of representatives from United Voices of Pomona and the City. The Resolution language has been enhanced to include a broader community focus and a provision for monitoring and evaluating organic pilot programs.

DISCUSSION

Zero Waste Resolution

What is Zero Waste? Zero Waste is defined by CalRecycle as “a process and a philosophy that involves a redesign of products and consumption, so that all material goods can be reused or recycled—or not needed at all.” Zero Waste encourages less consumerism, production of goods utilizing sustainable materials and processes, and recycling or reusing materials that formerly

would have been landfilled. The City has the ability, through operational programs and with further education, to partner with the community and work towards Zero Waste. With an understanding that support of all residents and businesses will be needed to achieve Zero Waste goals, adoption of a Zero Waste Resolution is a symbol of the City's commitment to doing just that.

On November 19, 2018, the City Council received a presentation on Zero Waste and reviewed draft Zero Waste Resolution language. At that meeting, a representative from United Voices of Pomona requested additional collaboration with Staff to modify language. While the original language was focused on action steps the City would take for its operation to move towards Zero Waste, the collaboration with UVP results in a broader context. The changes made on the resolution included describing the Zero Waste Plan as environmentally and community oriented. The language also includes a reference to organic pilot programs – which include urban garden/compost operations – in addition to the City's pilot organic program which is described later in this report. Additionally, the language now includes a provision to use environmental and community factors - as well as economic and tonnage factors – when evaluating the successes of these types of pilot projects.

Zero Waste and City Operations

The following information was included in the November 19, 2018 Staff Report and provides information on City Operations related to Zero Waste.

Solid Waste Operations – Multi-Family and Residential

With a series of State, County, and City waste reduction mandates, as well as health/environmental sustainability legislative and policy initiatives, the framework for Pomona to pursue Zero Waste has been established. Zero Waste is supported by State requirements to implement mandatory commercial recycling (AB341), mandatory organic recycling (AB1826) and organic waste methane emission reduction (SB1383) short-lived climate pollutants. The targets to reduce landfill disposal of organics state-wide, a 50% reduction goal from 2014 levels by 2020 and a 75% reduction goal by 2025, will further Pomona's movement towards Zero Waste.

There is a need to increase recycling by commercial and multi-family generators, who produce over seventy percent of solid waste in California. In Pomona, commercial and multi-family generators are currently serviced by one of four authorized non-exclusive franchise haulers. The City oversees the agreements that require the haulers to provide trash removal and offer recycling services. Each hauler has implemented California's reduction mandates and is providing site visits and educational material to further compliance.

The City will be working to improve the adoption of Zero Waste strategies by commercial and multi-family customers through its franchisees. The next franchise award process will provide increasing requirements for the collection and recycling of materials as well as outreach. It will also address collection and processing of organic materials generated from commercial facilities, multi-family dwelling and large events and venues. Through this process, City ordinances may need to be revised, along with consideration of fee structures, to aid in the adoption of these programs by the City's array of waste producers.

Residential customers are served by the City's Public Works-Solid Waste Division with curbside collection for trash, recyclables and green waste. This service includes curbside pickup and proper disposal of bulky items, white goods or metals, and e-waste. The residential three-barrel curbside system has provided a substantial reduction in the amount of tons landfilled, but there is more work to be done. Recyclable organic waste accounts for a large portion of the material Californians dispose in landfills annually. Recycling of organic waste can improve the environment, save funding by reducing disposal costs, and support green jobs in our region.

To further Zero Waste efforts for residential operations, Staff implemented a Residential Organic Pilot Program on January 1, 2019. This program allows residents to discard much of their food waste directly into their green waste container with this material recycled and made into compost. This program was developed in conjunction with Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station (Contractor). As a note, there is an existing agreement between the City of Pomona and the Contractor that requires the City to deliver its residential solid and green waste to the Transfer Station. The Contractor is then required to properly dispose of the delivered material. The Organic Pilot Program allows Pomona to move towards Zero Waste without changes to City infrastructure or additional truck trips while abiding by the terms of an existing contract. In order to advertise the program, the City has begun placing stickers on the green waste container identifying items that are acceptable. Additionally, Staff has performed direct outreach to the residents on the two pilot routes. The routes were selected due to anticipated participation and the ability to measure the waste stream. Waste audits will be performed and an ongoing review of landfilled and recycled materials will be conducted to evaluate the program's effectiveness. As part of the Zero Waste initiatives, Staff will also be measuring items such as environmental and community impacts as well as economic and tonnage factors. Should the program be successful, it will be expanded.

Other City Opportunities for Zero Waste

There are other opportunities for the City to move towards Zero Waste. Since personal behaviors will need to dramatically change to achieve Zero Waste, Staff will continue outreach efforts and work to develop a more robust website and social media education campaign related to the initiatives. Staff will be looking to our Community Partners to help create a Zero Waste Speakers Bureau. The list would be made available on our website and advertised through social media for any group interested in learning more about this important sustainability topic. The City will continue to implement paperless business processes and green purchasing practices where feasible. Additionally, the City will develop Zero Waste best practices to be provided to those holding special events.

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt a Resolution in support of Zero Waste.

Attachment: Resolution

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