



Date: November 15, 2018

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*

From: *CB* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Street Sweeping – Leaf Season**

Public Works (PW) street sweeping operations cover up to 14 street routes per day, plus bike lanes, beach parking lots, and contracted sweeping services (e.g., SERRF, Caltrans). Each route is comprised of multiple time zones ranging from 5:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Street sweepers collect 10,000 to 12,000 tons of debris per year, ensuring clean waterways and maintaining compliance with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

EQUIPMENT

The street sweeping fleet is comprised mostly of ten-year old mechanical broom sweepers that are well beyond their expected five- to seven-year lifespan. One challenge with vehicle replacements is a California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirement that sweepers have natural gas engines. Several years ago, the City purchased six regenerative air sweepers as a pilot to reduce maintenance costs. Unfortunately, those sweepers have proven not to be as effective as the traditional mechanical broom sweepers. The City has recently purchased 3 new CARB-certified mechanical broom sweepers (see attachment) and is working to replace the 11 remaining mechanical broom sweepers in 2019.

PUBLIC MESSAGING

Fall and winter, or what staff refers to as "leaf season," are the most challenging for street sweeping as the increased amount of leaves and other organic debris require multiple stops to empty the street sweeper.

Many residents sweep or blow leaf debris into the street for the street sweeper to collect. Contrary to popular belief, street sweepers are not built for this purpose. Oftentimes, the street sweeper simply moves and spreads the leaf debris along its path, resulting in the operator needing to make multiple passes to collect as much debris as possible. This leads to complaints as the street sweeper is often unable to do a clean sweep and/or other time zones and routes are not completed because the operator takes longer to sweep under these conditions.

To gain the public's assistance in keeping our streets clean, PW is focusing on public outreach via door hangers, community events, and social media. We also ask that you share the following information with your constituents through your various outreach materials:

- Avoid piling leaves or other debris in the street, alley, or gutter. Street sweepers have difficulty removing piles of debris;
- Do not rake, blow or sweep leaves or other debris into the street, alley, or gutter. This is a violation of Long Beach Municipal Code 8.60.111;
- Dispose of litter properly, keeping it out of gutters and alleys;
- Keep the street in front of your home dry on street sweeping days. While sweepers do spray a fine mist to minimize airborne dust, street sweepers are not as effective when the street is overly wet; and,
- Never pour oil, antifreeze or any other hazardous materials in the street, gutter, alley, or on the ground. Residents can call (562) 570-2876 for information related to the proper disposal of these materials.

If you have any questions regarding street sweeping services, please contact Diko Melkonian, Environmental Services Bureau Manager, at (562) 570-2856.

ATTACHMENT: NEW MECHANICAL BROOM SWEEPER PHOTO

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
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TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA GARNER, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER



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