



Date: August 14, 2019

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

From: Craig Beck, Director of Public Works *CB*
John Gross, Director of Financial Management *J.G.*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Citywide Street Sweeping Operations**

Recent challenges with the City's street sweepers have impacted the ability to provide street sweeping service on some City streets. Fortunately, new sweepers are on order to solve this problem.

The Fleet Services Bureau of the Financial Management Department has been working for several years on replacing the City's aging broom sweepers. On March 5, 2019, the City Council approved the purchase of 11 new sweepers, contingent upon engine certification. This had been delayed by concerns from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding the emissions controls of the new engine that would be used in the 11 new sweepers. Since then, Fleet Services has been working closely with the manufacturer to accelerate approvals. On July 31, 2019, CARB gave its final approval and delivery of the new sweepers is projected for January 2020, considering there is a five-month to six-month build time.

The Street Sweeping Division of the Public Works Department utilizes a fleet of 20 street sweepers consisting of 6 regenerative air sweepers and 14 three-wheeled broom sweepers. The broom sweepers, serving as the primary front-line units, are the most efficient on our residential streets. These units have a normal expected lifecycle of five years, but 11 of the 14 units are now 11 years old. The age of the majority of the fleet has resulted in excessive downtime and has affected the daily operations of the Street Sweeping Division and its service to the residents of Long Beach.

The Street Sweeping Division provides weekly services to Long Beach residents, including sweeping of streets, beach lots, bike lanes, special events, emergency response cleanups, state-owned roadways throughout the City, and additional services upon request. The operation has as many as 14 routes to service per day, sweeps approximately 140,000 miles of streets, and collects approximately 11,000 tons of debris each year.

The City's broom sweepers have proven to be more effective at meeting the City's operational needs than the air sweepers, which have had limited success due to the high volume of debris collected during normal sweeping conditions. When the broom sweepers are out of service for maintenance or repair, staff either utilize an air sweeper or try to complete routes more quickly in an attempt to cover as much of the routes affected by the inoperable street sweepers. These are known as "open" routes.

While every effort is made to complete open routes, this is not always possible due to the combination of equipment challenges and posted time constraints. Each week, staff evaluate open routes from the previous week and make operational route adjustments when possible so that no street is missed two or more weeks in a row.

Open routes are more common during "leaf season," which typically extends from October through February. During leaf season, trees shed their leaves and create an unusual amount of debris in the streets, especially along streets lined with canopy trees. To compound the service challenge this creates, residents often blow their leaf debris into the street, adding to the piles of leaves that street sweeping vehicles are not designed to collect. These piles are especially problematic for air sweepers. Staff has conducted an educational campaign for residents about this issue before and intend to conduct another educational outreach effort reminding residents not to sweep or blow their debris into the street, because in addition to creating challenges for street sweepers this behavior also constitutes a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program violation.

Until the new sweepers arrive, Fleet Services will continue to redirect resources to manage the additional workload of the older sweepers and ensure maximum possible availability. It should be noted, however, that until these sweepers can be replaced, impact to daily operations is likely to continue to be an issue.

JG:DSB
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