



Date: September 14, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From:  Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject: Updates to Residential Curbside Recycling Materials Collection**

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The Public Works Department, Environmental Services Bureau (ESB) just announced updates to the City's curbside recycling program. The updates to the types of materials that can be recycled are necessary due to global changes within the recycling processing industry, largely in response to the implementation of China's National Sword Policy. This policy has resulted in a significant decline in the export of previously recyclable materials and continues to drastically impact the global recycling market.

ESB along with its recycling partners, Potential Industries and Waste Management, conducted a thorough evaluation to determine the most efficient and sustainable way to adapt to these market changes. This evaluation resulted in the modification of collected recyclable materials to reduce contaminants and facilitate recovery of all eligible recyclable goods. This change will also make recycling overall easier for all Long Beach residents.

Effective immediately, the City will only accept the materials outlined in the attached flyer as part of the residential and City-serviced commercial/multi-family recycling program.

Educational outreach efforts and additional information regarding these new recycling program updates will be provided to all Long Beach residents and City-serviced customers immediately. Multilingual information is available at <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbrecycles>. Information will be disseminated through direct mailers, monthly virtual workshops, social media, and the ESB's monthly EcoGuide electronic newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Diko Melkonian, Environmental Services Bureau Manager/Deputy Director of Public Works, at (562) 570-2856.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
REBECCA G. GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT HEADS