

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, global leadership continues to falter in meeting emissions reductions goals necessary to keep the climate system stable, and therefore actions by Cities and States remain vital to reducing GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, through bold climate efforts over the past decade, the City of Los Angeles positioned itself as a global leader and has prioritized actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, as a necessary response to scientific studies that greenhouse gasses released by landfilling food and yard waste is a major contributor to pollutants and climate change, in 2016, under SB 1383, the State of California adopted methane emissions targets to reduce such short-lived climate pollutants by requiring all jurisdictions to reduce organic waste disposal by 75% by 2025; and

WHEREAS, under SB 1383, all jurisdictions need to provide organic waste collection services and utilize recycling facilities, procure products made from recycled organic material, as well as redirect 20 percent of edible food currently thrown away to those going hungry by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, under SB 1383, each jurisdiction is accountable for compliance by its source-generators, and CalRecycle, the State's recycling and waste regulatory agency, is authorized to issue escalating penalties for non-compliance; and

WHEREAS, Cities and Counties throughout the State have developed robust climate action plans including requirements for the implementation of SB 1383; and

WHEREAS, several methods of implementing SB 1383 require the creation of compost which, when applied to working lands and managed public lands such as medians, parks, and parkways, can sequester and thereby effectively drawdown greenhouse gas emissions, the only currently-existing – and inexpensive – method by which to do so, remediate soil contamination, reduce erosion and increase water retention; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles adopted aggressive Zero Waste goals and has been at the forefront of implementing waste collection programs and recycling to address operational efficiencies and climate change. In January 2017, the City approved seven RecycLA contracts for the collection of solid waste, recycling and organics from large multifamily properties and businesses. These contracts contained specific landfill reduction targets that must be contractually met or exceeded. The City has since also expanded its residential food collection and composting program; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the creation of Regenerate LA, an innovative effort aiming to turn food and green waste into compost, create community compost sites, spread compost on City-managed lands, and thereby create career pathways; and

WHEREAS, community compost sites can help keep soil local, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and provide compost for local uses, including brownfield remediation; and

WHEREAS, the climate change-exacerbated Palisades and Eaton Fires left behind massive amounts of biomass that could be useful in rebuilding healthy, carbon-sequestering soils, if composted and spread correctly; and

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WHEREAS, Senator McNerney has introduced State Bill 279, which will benefit community composting programs, urban farms, and school farms by allowing them to compost larger amounts of green waste onsite; and

WHEREAS, SB 279 will provide California farms and vineyards with an eco-friendly alternative — the ability to compost large amounts of green waste onsite rather than having to ship it to another composting facility hundreds of miles away; and

WHEREAS, given the dangers of climate breakdown and the increasing and unsustainable cost of addressing climate disasters, it is in the fiduciary best long-term interest of the City of Los Angeles to support the ongoing robust and rapid implementation of SB 1383, including ways to improve composting efforts in agricultural areas throughout the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 279 (McNerney), which will allow:

- Farmers and winegrape growers to compost onsite when they have large amounts of agricultural waste, such as when they remove an old orchard or vineyard, and combine their compost with agriculture waste from offsite;
- Community composting, urban farms, and school farms to compost up to 500 cubic yards of green waste (currently capped at 100 cubic yards.);
- Incentivize the blending of food scraps into medium-sized green waste processing facilities operated by the City of Los Angeles, and other entities;
- Composting operations to sell or give away up to 5,000 cubic yards of compost a year (farms and vineyards are currently capped at 1,000 cubic yards).

Presented By:



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

Seconded By:



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