

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** August 29, 2017

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Robert A. Clarke, Public Works Director  
Stan Gryczko, Assistant Public Works Director  
Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager

**SUBJECT:** Organics Collection Program and Yard Material Pile Collection Update

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### **Recommendation**

None. This item is informational only.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no direct fiscal impact as this item is informational. However, input tonight will influence the scope of the analyses of the Organics Processing and Solid Waste Services items which will impact the cost of service and ultimately be reflected in the new rates that will be presented to the Council later this fiscal year.

### **Background and Analysis**

In July 2016, Davis Waste Removal (DWR) began collecting food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard materials placed in the organic cart. Most customers receive once-a-week cart pick-up during their regularly scheduled trash pick-up day and food service commercial customers receive twice-a-week pick-up. Bulky yard materials (large branches, etc.) and yard materials that do not fit inside the cart are collected loose-on-the-street in piles during the week beginning with the first Monday of each month. During peak leaf drop season (mid-October through mid-December), yard material piles are collected once-a-week. Street sweeping is performed once-a-week in the downtown core area and once-a-month in the rest of the City (during the second full week of every month). The core downtown area and the Cannery sub-division do not have loose-on-the-street service.

<b>Tonnage Organics Collected (carts and piles)</b>		
<b>July 2015 - June 2016</b>	10,245.17	
<b>July 2016 - June 2017</b>	11,587.51	
<b>Difference</b>	+1,342.34	13.10%

<b>Total Yard Material Collected (in piles)</b>		
<b>July 2015 - June 2016</b>	9,987.58	
<b>July 2016 - June 2017</b>	4,342.60	
<b>Difference</b>	-5,644.98	-56.52%

<b>Total MSW Collected</b>		
<b>July 2015 - June 2016</b>	22,312.51	
<b>July 2016 - June 2017</b>	21,154.32	
<b>Difference</b>	-1,158.19	-5.19%

Davis has a goal of diverting 75% of its waste from the landfill by 2020. In 2015, CalRecycle concluded that Davis diverted 62% of its waste from the landfill. The City is looking to the organics program as a way to boost waste diversion and get closer to the 75% goal. So far, the results are promising.

One full year of collection data from Davis Waste Removal shows that from July 2016 – June 2017, DWR collected 1,342 tons more organics for composting (yard waste and food scraps) compared to the same time period the previous year. July 2016 – June 2017 also saw a 5,645-ton decrease in material collected in yard piles and a 1,158-ton decrease in MSW (Municipal Solid Waste—the amount of garbage collected from residents and businesses weekly that goes to the landfill) compared to the previous year.

The decrease in yard material pile collection tonnage and decrease in MSW is encouraging. This data shows that even with the reduction of on-street pile collection, customers are not placing excess yard material in the trash. If that were the case, an increase in MSW tonnage would be seen. Instead, it appears customers are finding alternative methods of managing yard materials. This may include utilizing the organics carts, having landscape maintenance companies haul the materials off site, backyard composting, grasscycling, mulching and a variety of other methods.

Month	# of Piles Collected	% of Customers Using On-Street Pile Service**
Aug. 2016	1527	10%
Sept. 2016	2568	16%
Oct. 2016	2109	13%
Jan. 2017	2344	15%
Jan. 2017*	2482	16%
Feb. 2017	786	5%
Mar. 2017	1744	11%
Apr. 2017	1949	12%
May 2017	1759	11%
Jun. 2017	1802	11%
Jul. 2017	1608	10%

\*This was a special pick-up that was done the week of January 30 following the severe storms.

\*\*Assumes approximately 16,000 customers

Davis Waste Removal has also been keeping track of the number of yard material piles they collect during the once-a-month pile pick-up week—see the chart above. These numbers show that out of the approximately 16,000 customers (single-family, commercial and multi-family), on average only 12% of customers are using the on-street pile pick-up service each month. In addition to this, many of the piles placed on the street for pick-up are small and could have been placed in the organics cart.

Staff are optimistic about the results of the organics collection program thus far. The results are all positive—more material being composted, less materials being landfilled and people slowly transitioning to using their organics carts for yard materials instead of the on-street piles. In July, staff observed loads of organics from Davis when they were dumped at the landfill transfer area. Staff was impressed to see very low contamination in every truckload. It was clear from observations and hauling data that most of the materials collected from organics carts is still yard materials. Staff believes that increasing the amount of food scraps and food-soiled paper that are collected is possible and are currently devising a plan for surveying, data collection and outreach to this effect.

### **Organics Processing Feasibility Study**

The City is currently working with Clements Environmental Corporation to assess options for processing organic materials. Various options will be considered such as a potential partnership with UCD, construction of a new organics facility owned by the City or continued disposal at Yolo County Central Landfill. Clements will provide a table of different options available and provide recommendations for City Council consideration based on environmental and economic impacts. This information will provide input to the solid waste rate study to capture anticipated future costs for organic materials handling and processing.

### **Solid Waste Rate Study**

The City is also currently working with R3 Consulting on a solid waste rate study to set customer rates to match program design, handle customer demand, and provide program contingency funding. The study will look at a variety of solid waste handling options and associated rate implications for Council to consider.

Some of the alternative services that will be considered (including costs) include:

- Bi-weekly trash collection
- Weekly Street Sweeping year round
- Weekly Street Sweeping during the fall
- Bi-weekly street sweeping
- Street sweeping the day after pile pick-up
- Elimination of on-street yard material piles
- On-demand yard material pile-pick-up
- Additional seasonal yard material pick-up
- Bi-weekly loose organic pile pick-up

### **Timeline**

Staff will continue to work with both Clements and R3 Consulting on these two studies and will present the findings to City Council. Based on the findings, staff will prepare a Proposition 218 rate adjustment notice for consideration and approval by City Council. If approved, new solid waste rates are anticipated to become effective as early as July 2018.

<b>City Council Action Items</b>	<b>Date</b>
City Council approved contract with Clements and R3 Consulting	June 20, 2017
Draft reports presented to the Natural Resources and Utility Rate Advisory Commissions	October and November, 2017
Clements Organics Feasibility Study Final Report Presented to City Council	December, 2017
R3 Consulting Solid Waste Rate Study Final Report Presented to City Council	January, 2017
Proposition 218 Notice and Solid Waste Rates to City Council	February, 2018
New Solid Waste Rates in Effect	July, 2018

**Attachment**

1. Davis Waste Removal Hauling Data July 2015 – June 2017

## DWR Hauling Data

July 2015 - June 2016 compared to July 2016 - June 2017

Month	Yard Material Piles	Food Scraps / Organics	MSW*	Total DWR Hauled	change in tons of overall organics	% change of total organics hauled	% change in yard clippings	change in tons of yard piles	% change in MSW	change in tons of MSW	% change in total hauled
Jul-15	576.80	20.03	1874.29	2471.12							
Aug-15	538.22	15.57	1891.69	2445.48							
Sep-15	663.90	23.16	1852.40	2539.46							
Oct-15	678.02	27.23	1750.93	2456.18							
Nov-15	881.07	21.23	1758.68	2660.98							
Dec-15	1936.99	18.04	1805.18	3760.21							
Jan-16	812.97	19.84	1914.14	2746.95							
Feb-16	746.06	20.36	1817.68	2584.10							
Mar-16	992.81	19.70	1961.96	2974.47							
Apr-16	793.70	25.45	1886.83	2705.98							
May-16	768.99	26.78	1866.36	2662.13							
Jun-16	598.05	20.20	1932.37	2550.62							
Jul-16	86.29	443.23	1610.65	2140.17	-67.31	-11%	-85.0%	-490.51	-14.1%	-263.64	-13.4%
Aug-16	136.00	548.45	1906.90	2591.35	130.66	24%	-74.7%	-402.22	0.8%	15.21	6.0%
Sep-16	185.38	558.18	1779.16	2522.72	56.50	8%	-72.1%	-478.52	-4.0%	-73.24	-0.7%
Oct-16	472.82	515.30	1660.19	2648.31	282.87	40%	-30.3%	-205.20	-5.2%	-90.74	7.8%
Nov-16	924.75	558.56	1699.01	3182.32	581.01	64%	5.0%	43.68	-3.4%	-59.67	19.6%
Dec-16	624.56	569.67	1704.36	2898.59	-760.80	-39%	-67.8%	-1312.43	-5.6%	-100.82	-22.9%
Jan-17	684.53	625.04	1952.61	3262.18	476.76	57%	-15.8%	-128.44	2.0%	38.47	18.8%
Feb-17	336.85	527.86	1720.48	2585.19	98.29	13%	-54.8%	-409.21	-5.3%	-97.20	0.0%
Mar-17	230.12	762.09	1814.64	2806.85	-20.30	-2%	-76.8%	-762.69	-7.5%	-147.32	-5.6%
Apr-17	237.19	791.81	1689.83	2718.83	209.85	26%	-70.1%	-556.51	-10.4%	-197.00	0.5%
May-17	202.05	745.2	1790.3	2737.55	151.48	19%	-73.7%	-566.94	-4.1%	-76.06	2.8%
Jun-17	222.06	599.52	1826.19	2647.77	203.33	33%	-62.9%	-375.99	-5.5%	-106.18	3.8%
				<b>AVERAGE</b>	111.86	19.3%	-56.6%	-470.42	-5.2%	-96.52	1.4%
				<b>TOTAL</b>	1342.34			-5644.98		-1158.19	

\* Municipal Solid Waste-- garbage that is hauled from businesses and residents