



Memorandum

Date: May 16, 2018
To: Utility Rate Advisory Commission
From: Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager
Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator
Subject: Preliminary Survey Results - 2018 Yard Material Survey

The preliminary summary results of the 2018 Yard Material Survey are briefly summarized below. The full results, including comments, will be incorporated into the Solid Waste Rate Study and provided with the draft of that study.

From April 4, 2018 through May 4, 2018, a community survey was conducted to collect feedback on the city's Yard Material Collection program, specifically focused on the use of the loose in the street (LITS) portion of the Yard Material Collection service. In the month the survey was open, the City received 1,134 responses.

Davis Waste Removal (DWR) data presented at the URAC meeting in December 2017 showed that LITS participation during peak leaf drop season (mid-October through mid-December) is under 20% across the city. This data was included as part of the Review of Service Collection Options developed by the city's Solid Waste Cost of Service consultant. Based partially on this data, the consultant presented a series of conclusions related to the LITS program:

Given the Assessment of the Current LITS Yard Material Pile Collection Program discussed above, with particular note that:

- *LITS yard material pile collection is a duplicative service to residential organic cart collection, which costs each residential account approximately \$5 per month;*
- *The relatively low participation rates in the LITS program;*
- *The finding that many of the LITS piles are small and could be placed in organics carts; and*
- *The relatively inexpensive cost of additional organic cart capacity.*

We suggest that the City's goal should be to reduce or eliminate LITS yard material pile collection. As such, in considering the various options, it may be useful to start by determining if the City wishes to continue any form of regular LITS program during the non-leaf season.

With this recommendation, the city received a list of three proposed options for the LITS program:

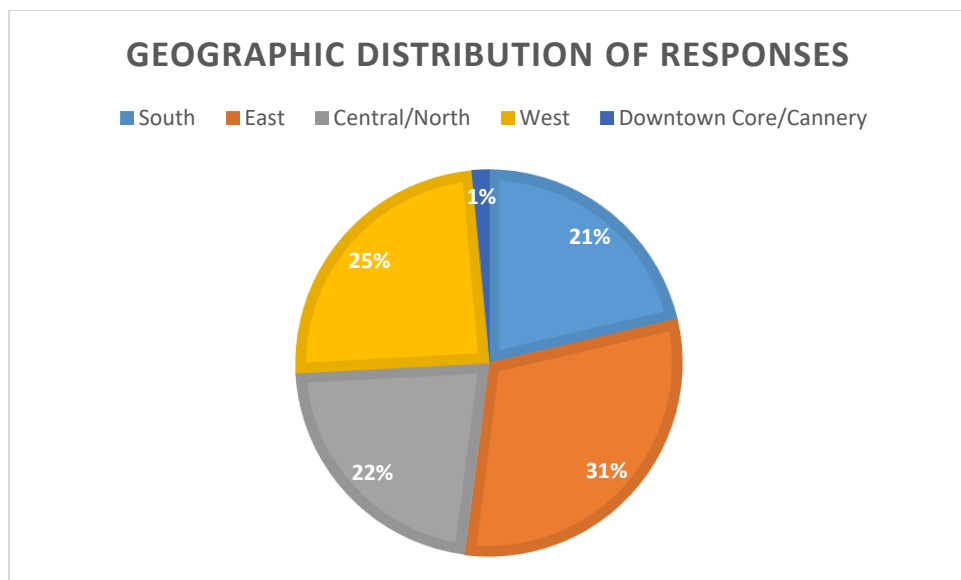
1. Keep LITS Program As Is – Do Not Change
2. Eliminate LITS Collections Entirely
3. Modify Current LITS Program (By)
 - A. Eliminate LITS Yard Material Collection During Non-Leaf Season - Maintain Current Leaf Season Weekly Schedule
 - B. Eliminate LITS Collection During Non-Leaf Season - Extended Leaf Season Weekly Collection 4 Weeks

- C. Eliminate LITS Collection During Non-Leaf Season - Biweekly Collection During Leaf Season
- D. Eliminate LITS Collection During Non-Leaf Season – Monthly Pile Collections During Leaf Season
- E. Keep Non-Leaf Season Collection - Extended Leaf Season Weekly Collection Schedule 4 Weeks
- F. Biweekly Collection Year-Round
- G. Monthly Collection Year-Round
- H. On Demand Pile Pick-Up
- I. Neighborhood-Based LITS Collection
- J. Opt-In LITS Collection

The survey, to receive feedback from the community on yard material piles, was developed by the URAC and city staff to help focus the efforts of the consultant. The survey presented the first two options suggested by the consultant (Nos. 1 & 2), as well as the top six modifications within No. 3, as selected by the URAC, and included additional questions on Organics cart use.

Location of Respondent

The responses came from all areas of the city (based on reported day of service), with the highest percentage (roughly 30%) coming from the eastern side of Davis, which includes Wildhorse, Mace Ranch and Alhambra.



Organics Cart Use

More than half of the respondents (nearly 64%) reported using their carts every week for yard materials, while the majority (80%) reported use at least every other week. Overall, the cart will accommodate the materials the majority of the time, with 68% reporting they have enough space in the cart at least most of the time, versus 32% reporting only half or less of the materials fit. Based on the survey, yard materials would not fit in the cart only 3-4 times per year, and generally this time is Fall (September-November). Close runners up are Winter (December-February) or Spring (March-May).

For those times that the cart was full, respondents most often used the on-street pile collection (12%) than other methods, such as hiring a private hauler or composting.

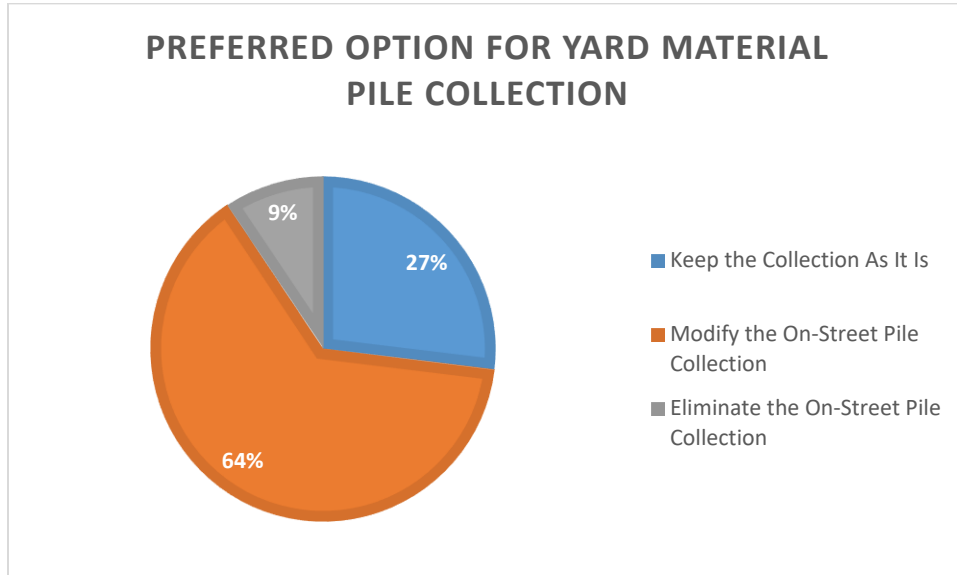
On-street Yard Material Collection Piles

During non-leaf season (mid-December through mid-October), 64% of respondents reported using the monthly collection almost every month, or every month. During leaf season, 68% of respondents reported

using the weekly collection service (mid-October through mid-December) almost every week or every week. Those who did not use the on-street collection service used their carts (40%) or other options (55%).

Options for Yard Material Pile Collection

Of the three options presented to the community for Yard Material Collection, the majority (64%) chose the option B, to modify the existing program. A smaller percentage (27%) requested to maintain status quo (keep collection as-is), and only 9% expressed the preference to eliminate the service.



Those looking to modify the schedule, however, are not looking to change much. The option with the highest responses (57%) was:

Keep the Current Collection Schedule, But Extend the Leaf-Season Weekly Collection Schedule 4 Weeks

On-street yard materials piles would be collected once a month from February to October, and once a week from mid-October to Mid-January.

The second-highest set of responses was “Other” which included 155 comments. Quick overviews of these comments find multiple requests for the return of weekly service (an option that was not offered in the survey) and requests for bi-weekly service year-round.

Next Steps

Over the next few weeks, staff will be going through the thousands of comments received on the survey and working with the consultant on the Solid Waste Rate study to incorporate the information into the study.