

All Receive - Agenda Item # 10
For the Information of the:
CITY COUNCIL
Date 6/9 CA CC
CM ACM DCM (3)

Mayor, city council members,

Tonight you're hearing about the start of the proposal process for solid and organic waste collection, processing and disposal services. It is my understanding that previous agreements have precluded the diversion of waste from the contracted stream. You will be soon deciding upon agreements with companies to collect and process organic wastes not just from commercial enterprises but also from residences.

As you consider the next set of proposals I would suggest that any agreements include the ability for neighborhoods to process their own organic wastes. Why do this? I can think of a number of reasons. First, it reduces transportation costs and, thereby, greenhouse gas emissions. Second, the benefits, mature compost, is available for neighbors. This better connects our residents with nutrient cycles and their connection to the natural world. And third, it builds a better sense of community. It's a great model for sustainability, one of Carlsbad's core values.

A year ago when the Sustainable Materials Management Plan was brought before you for approval, I suggested you institute a pilot neighbor composting program similar to what the Solana Center in Encinitas does to engage its residents and divert organic waste. Not wanting to wait years for the city to act, a few of my neighbors and I in the last few months have set up our own program. We will shortly be harvesting our first compost. The city needs to be aspirational and consider ways of engaging our residents in solving some of our problems allowing the city to become a better leader in sustainability.

Thank you.

Paige DeCino

Carlsbad