



CITY of CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2020

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: ROBERT YALDA, PE. T.E., PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
ALEX FARASSATI, PH.D., ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

SUBJECT: ISSUES RELATED TO CITY-SPONSORED ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 26, 2020

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive and file this informational report and provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The City of Calabasas has been sponsoring electronic waste (e-waste) collection events since 2005. The events have been held on the first Saturday of each month in the Albertsons shopping center parking lot on Agoura Road and on the third Saturday of each month in the El Camino shopping center parking lot on Mulholland Drive. Even though the latter event is held outside of the City boundaries, the City has been promoting and sponsoring it due to the close proximity of the event site to City residents living on the east side of Calabasas.

A contractor called California Recycles, Inc. has been under contract with the City since 2005 to accept e-waste free of charge from local residents and businesses. E-waste recycling is a business like any business that needs to make a profit to survive. For the first few years, the City's contractor accepted all legitimate

electronic wastes. Later, it stopped accepting fluorescent light bulbs, batteries and a few other items due to high cost of recycling those items.

In recent years, the recycling business has gone through major changes after China stopped accepting most recycled products from the United States. Therefore, most electronic wastes with high plastic content became economically unfeasible to accept by the City contractor. Recently, after several rounds of negotiations, the City's contractor narrowed down the list of accepted items to the following: televisions, cell phones, personal computers (CPU, Monitors, Keyboards, Mouse, and Peripherals), cables and wires, digital cameras, duplicators, electric typewriters, laptops, mainframe computers, printed circuit boards, telephones and telephone equipment, tape players, testing equipment, uninterruptible power supplies.

In reality, the monthly events operated by California Recycles, Inc. can no longer be characterized as "*e-waste collection events*" because the majority of traditional e-waste materials are excluded from the list of accepted items. Unfortunately, this situation has prompted many complaints from the residents who are disappointed after going to the event and returning home with many of their e-wastes rejected.

City staff has done some research and knows of no other companies that provide a more comprehensive e-waste recycling program akin to what California Recycles, Inc. used to do. However, the City's current franchise agreement with Waste Management, Inc. allows e-waste recycling similar to other household hazardous waste collection events. The City's current franchise agreement with the company allows residents to contact Waste Management's Customer Service office to schedule a curbside pickup which is free of charge. The attachment to this report provides detailed information on collection of e-waste and other household items by Waste Management, Inc.

At this time, the City's contract with California Recycles, Inc. has expired. Staff is hesitant to recommend a new agreement and sponsor collection events that do not meet the expectations of City residents. Therefore, staff suggests that the City cease sponsoring and promoting the e-waste collection events and direct residents to contact Waste Management, Inc. for disposal of any electronics in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

It is expected that the City will save some funds due to not publishing newspaper ads announcing the collection events throughout the year.

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the City Council receive and file this informational report and provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT:

Waste Management Residential Flyer