



# LONG BEACH ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

March 1, 2022

Mayor Robert Garcia and City Councilmembers of Long Beach  
411 West Ocean Blvd  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Sent Via Electronic Mail

**Re: Agenda Item No. 20 (22-0231) “Recommendation to adopt resolution to authorize City Manager to submit a Notice of Intent to Comply with the regulations of Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) per the Senate Bill 619 (SB 619) Statute. (Citywide)”**

Dear Mayor and City Council of Long Beach,

As you are all aware, under SB 1383, jurisdictions across the entire state of California need to develop and implement city-wide programs to collect and process organic waste, and are required to purchase the finished processed product, as well as roll-out programs to recover edible food. There are different ways in which organic waste can be processed - some of which are more harmful than others when considering the processing methods, and end-use applications of the finished product.

Currently, the City of Long Beach released an RFP to look into processing organic waste at SERRF, and there are conversations at the city level that are looking towards anaerobic digestion. Both are false solutions that keep us locked into relying on combustion and fossil fuels that will continue to harm our communities and contribute to climate change. Further, we should not be relying on outdated, unreliable technology like SERRF which has been polluting our air, land, and water for almost thirty-five years with numerous toxic pollutants and compounds that pose grave threats to public health.

The City of Long Beach could be doing more to comply with SB 1383. Several cities around us already provided green bins to their residents prior to the enactment of SB 1383, but our city is severely behind because for decades it has opted towards burning waste of various types in exchange for miniscule amounts of electricity generated from the dirtiest energy possible.

Last summer, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice hosted Zero Waste visioning sessions in which residents and groups across Long Beach named they want to see Long Beach adopt a zero waste goal and plan, and in regards to organic waste, would like to see local, decentralized composting systems. There are several examples and models of community



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composting across the country, Los Angeles County, and an amazing group in our very own city named Long Beach Community Compost, that are processing food scraps into beneficial compost that remains local. Composting not only nourishes the soil, but also has several additional benefits like water retention properties, reduced use of chemical fertilizers, and carbon sequestration properties. Community composting is supported under SB 1383, can easily be scaled with raised bed gardening, and our city needs to start investing now in neighborhood compost hubs that are accessible to everyone and simplify the process of organics collection rather than relying on costly polluting technologies at the primary level, with added entailed Vehicle Miles Traveled at the secondary level.

Our city has expressed interest in Zero Waste goals, but has failed to develop a city-wide goal or plan or policies to affect these goals, and has repeatedly contradicted that interest by its continued use of SERRF – failing to maximize the highest and best use of wasted resources. The City of Long Beach has the opportunity to create a path forward towards Zero Waste in how it chooses to prevent and manage and recover its own organic waste. Please direct City Staff to research community composting and soil quality monitoring programs, engage with groups that are operating community composting hubs, engage residents in creating and implementing accessible community composting systems, and develop a Zero Waste policy for all City of Long Beach governmental accounts.

Thank you,

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East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Dave Shukla  
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy