

Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

RECEIVED AT
COUNCIL MEETING OF:

NOV 19 2019

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

URGENT AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: November 19, 2019

Item Description: Addressing the Trash Crisis in Berkeley

Supplemental/Revision Submitted By: Kate Harrison and Jesse Arreguin

“Good of the City” Analysis:

The analysis below must demonstrate how accepting this supplement/revision is for the “good of the City” and outweighs the lack of time for citizen review or evaluation by the Council.

The City was informed in October that Caltrans would not pick up trash on these parcels. There was a meeting last week with Caltrans and the issue of trash pickup has not been resolved. While we are exploring long-term solutions, the trash is creating concerns in the meantime about health, safety, and disease.

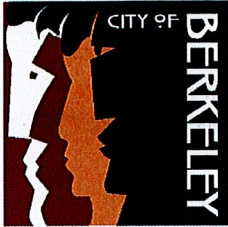
It is essential that this crisis is resolved before the first major winter storm arrives. If trash continues to persist, rains will wash the trash into the Bay, exacerbating the health and environmental hazards. There is a 40% chance of rain on Tuesday, November 26th.

Consideration of urgent agenda material is subject to approval by a two-thirds vote of the City Council. (BMC 2.06.070)

A minimum of **42 copies** must be submitted to the City Clerk for distribution at the Council meeting. This completed cover page must accompany every copy.

Copies of the supplemental/revised agenda material may be delivered to the City Clerk Department by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Copies that are ready after 12:00 p.m. must be delivered directly to the City Clerk at Council Chambers prior to the start of the meeting.

Supplements or Revisions submitted pursuant to BMC § 2.06.070 may only be revisions of the original report included in the Agenda Packet.



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

URGENCY ITEM
ACTION CALENDAR
November 19, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Harrison and Mayor Arreguin
Subject: Addressing the Trash Crisis in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to arrange regular weekly trash pickup near Caltrans property at University Avenue and Highway 80.

Consider installing cameras to capture images of illegal dumping in the same area for the purpose of ticketing offenders.

BACKGROUND

Since the summer, there have been over 80 people living on Caltrans property on Frontage Road between University and Gilman. Residents of these lots and community volunteers regularly bag all of their trash, but when those bags are not picked up, rats tear into them and the garbage is strewn again.

The existing trash creates the illusion that the property is a trash free-for-all and encourages more illegal dumping. This is evident by the piles of furniture, construction debris and other miscellaneous large objects that could not have been carried to this location on foot.

The trash on this land is creating a public health crisis and a blight. The trash attracts rodents and disease and the build-up of garbage is creating a blight for people from across the East Bay that use Berkeley's highways and Marina. As we enter the rainy season, it is essential that this is resolved before the first major storm system arrives. If trash continues to persist, rains will wash the trash into the Bay, exacerbating the health and environmental hazards.

On October 10th, Caltrans officials declared that they will “refrain from any cleaning... actions on Berkeley properties”.¹ This is causing increased trash accumulation, which in turn is leading to increased sanitary and health hazards. If Caltrans abdicates their responsibilities of keeping their parcels clean, the City of Berkeley has a responsibility to do so instead.

Residents of the Caltrans property have agreed that the trash can be located on City of Berkeley property or make other adjustments to ease pickup. Under this direction, we encourage the Public Works Department to work with the encampment residents in developing a regularly scheduled garbage collection plan.

The City has an obligation to collect garbage in the interest of public health. Specifically, BMC Section 12.32.050A states:

It is found and determined that the periodic collection of garbage from all premises and places in the City in or from which garbage is created, accumulated or produced is essential for the maintenance of the public health and welfare of the City and that the provision by the City of such garbage collection service is a direct benefit to all premises and places in or from which garbage is created, accumulated or produced to the owners thereof.

In recent years, the City has placed additional investment in trash pickup. In the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget approved in June 2018, an additional \$100,000 was allocated for the purposes of addressing trash dumping. More recently, under Resolution No. 68,779–N.S., \$729,847 will be used over the next two years for encampment servicing/trash removal. These funds are coming from the City’s allocation of Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds, totaling over \$4 million.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for trash pickup services, which has already been allocated.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Encampment trash and debris removal will positively impact the environment by removing many tons of debris, including hazardous and human waste. This reduces the likelihood such waste will wind up in the city’s creeks, wetlands, or other environmentally sensitive areas.

CONTACT PERSON

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Mayor Jesse Arreguin (510) 981-7100

¹ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Caltrans-grapples-with-spread-of-homeless-camps-14821667.php>

