

# A Greener El Cerrito

COMMERCIAL EDITION

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

November 2020 | Volume 9

[www.ecenvironment.org](http://www.ecenvironment.org) | 510-215-4350

**Happy Holidays** from the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center! Our upcoming holiday hours: The Recycling Center will be closed on Nov. 11, 26, 27, and Dec. 24, 25, 31 (beginning at noon), and January 1. Curbside collection will not occur on December 25 and January 1. It will instead occur one day later than usual for the remainder of that week.



## El Cerrito Recycling Center Hours

Tuesday - Friday:  
8:30am to 4:00pm

Saturday:  
9:00am to 4:45pm

## El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center

7501 Schmidt Lane  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
[green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

## INDOOR ORGANICS AND RECYCLING BINS REQUIRED

On October 2, 2019, the Governor signed AB 827 into law. The law requires businesses that are subject to AB 1826 (Mandatory Organics Recycling) and AB 341 (Mandatory Recycling) to provide indoor containers for recycling and green waste alongside their normal refuse containers for customers to use.

**In short, businesses that generate 2 cubic yards or more of solid waste per week are now required to provide customer access to a three-stream indoor waste system (including organics, recycling, and trash) if customers purchase goods on the premises for immediate consumption.**

The containers must be fully visible and accessible, adjacent to the other containers, and clearly marked with educational signage that indicates what is appropriate to place in each container. The requirement does not apply to full-service restaurants, if the restaurant provides its employees with containers for all three streams (organics, recycling, trash) to collect materials purchased on the premises for immediate consumption and implements a program to collect recyclables and organic waste. This law is intended to increase the amount of waste that is recycled statewide. For more info., please review the City's latest Commercial Brochure at [el-cerrito.org/CurbsideProgram](http://el-cerrito.org/CurbsideProgram).

If you have questions or would like technical assistance, please contact City Staff at [lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 510.559.7686.



## Mandatory Recycling and Green Waste Collection

Over the past decade, the State of California has passed multiple pieces of legislation requiring most businesses, institutions, and multi-family complexes to provide recycling and organics (green waste and food scraps) collection services. Legislation includes:

- AB 341 (2012): Mandatory recycling services for businesses and multi-family dwelling units generating 4 or more cubic yards (cy) of solid waste per week.
- AB 1826 (2018): Mandatory green waste composting for specified multi-family complexes and commercial accounts.
- SB 1383 (effective 2022): Mandatory recycling, green waste and food scraps collection services for **all commercial and residential properties** and required edible food recovery for businesses (e.g. grocery stores) meeting specific thresholds.

Over the next two years, in addition to tracking compliance with AB 827, AB 341, and AB 1826, the City will be drafting new ordinances and implementing new programs to ensure compliance with SB 1383.

## Permit Requirements for Pruning Public Trees



The City of El Cerrito is committed to maintaining, sustaining, and improving its urban forest, in part by educating the public about trees and how Public Trees are maintained. Public Trees are trees that are located in any area owned or controlled by the City, including parks, open space, easements, public streets, public rights-of-way, City owned property, and Planting Strips. In order to support the long-term health of these trees, no resident, business owner, or contractor is allowed to perform work on or remove Public Trees without an Encroachment Permit. This ensures they are maintained in a way that meets the City's tree care maintenance standards and supports their long-term health.

In addition, a business or person that performs tree work or hires contractors to perform work on Public Trees is liable for damages associated with the work. (One exception is that property owners may prune a street tree limb that is less than one inch in diameter, adjacent to their property, if necessary for purposes of egress clearance, as long as such action complies with all requirements of the [El Cerrito Public Tree and Shrub Ordinance \(Chapter 13.28\)](#).)

In situations when a Public Tree has been removed without a Permit, a tree replacement mitigation fee of \$800 per tree will be applied to pay for planting, watering, and weeding of a new tree during a 3-year establishment period. **Depending on the circumstances, the City may also seek damages for up to twice the cost of replacement for trees that have been damaged or removed without approval.** These penalties and the mitigation fee provide funding for the City to add new trees in nearby locations if necessary.

To find out more, please contact the City's Environmental Programs Manager, Stephen Prée, by email at [spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or at (510) 559-7685.

## Help the City Prepare for the Rainy Season



Creeks and culverts can overflow during periods of heavy rains and the city needs your cooperation to assure that the storm drain system functions properly.

Here are some tips on how you can help:

- If you have a creek on your property, make sure that debris and vegetation don't block the flow of water.
- Make sure to not allow soil, trash or other materials in the curb or gutter area and never put or pour anything other than storm water in the drain inlet.
- If you have a storm drain grate in the street near your property or business, check it frequently during heavy rains. Make sure no trash or leaves block the grate. If you observe a catch basin that is not draining or needs to be cleaned, contact the City at (510) 215-4369.
- If your property is flooded by water from the street, report the problem to the City at (510) 215-4369.
- To prevent flooding from the street, the City provides up to ten (10) sandbags per household/business before a storm hits or after it has arrived. The sand pile and bags are available for El Cerrito Residents and Businesses only and are available at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (7501 Schmidt Lane). Please bring proof of address and check in with Recycling Staff.
- If the flooding on your property is not caused by high flows in the public right-of-way, residents and businesses should obtain sandbags from their local building supply yard, landscape supply company, or hardware store.

If you have any questions about storm drain system maintenance or need additional assistance, contact Public Works at [Maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:Maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or by phone at (510) 215-4369.