

# A Greener El Cerrito

COMMERCIAL EDITION

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

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## Greetings from the City of El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center!

"A Greener El Cerrito, Commercial Edition" is the City's newsletter and bill-insert, sent twice a year to all business accounts and apartment complexes. It provides information on how to properly sort materials, local environmental efforts, and alerts about upcoming regulations. For more info, please contact our staff at [greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or (510) 215-4350.



### 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)

## Mandatory Composting Coming Soon!

The Public Works Department is continuing to conduct outreach and provide training to businesses and residents to help them comply with multiple new legislative requirements. As a whole, the laws are intended to reduce the volume of recycling and organics sent to the landfill, and ultimately to reduce the greenhouse gas impacts associated with the solid waste produced throughout the State. Below is a summary of four key laws, their requirements, and effective dates.



- **AB 341** (effective 2012) Requires recycling services for businesses and multi-family dwelling units generating 4 or more cubic yards (CY) of solid waste per week.
  - **AB 1826** (effective 2018) Requires green waste services for multi-family complexes and commercial accounts generating more than 2 CY of solid waste per week.
  - **AB 827** (effective 2020) Requires accounts subject to mandatory recycling and organics requirements provide recycling and organics receptacles for customers.
  - **SB 1383** (effective 2022) Requires recycling, green waste, and food scraps collection services for all commercial and residential properties and requires edible food recovery for certain businesses.
- Over the next year, 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. For more info, contact City Staff at [lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

## Recycling & Composting During the Pandemic

Since last March, many businesses have had to adjust to ensure customers can be served safely and to survive the economic impacts associated with the pandemic. Even during this time, the importance of diverting materials from the landfill continues. Here are a few tips to recycle and compost with contamination minimized and/or eliminated.

- **Recycling:** All recycling must be empty, clean, and dry. Materials can be loose in your carts or dumpsters; plastic bags are not accepted in the curbside program.
- **Composting:** All food scraps and food soiled paper products can be composted as organics in your green waste cart. If bags must be used, a paper bag is appreciated, though loose materials are also accepted.
- **Enclosures:** Keep a clean and fully accessible enclosure. Drivers must be able to enter and empty containers easily on your scheduled pick-up day.

For questions or technical assistance, please contact City Staff at (510) 559-7686



## New Statewide Rodenticide Prohibition



“The California Ecosystems Protection Act of 2020” ([AB 1788](#)), took effect January 1, 2021, and prohibits certain types of rat and mouse bait from use in most applications. These products are known as second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides (SGARs) and have been found in non-target wildlife including birds of prey, foxes, bobcats, mountain lions and protected Pacific fishers. SGARs are especially potent, persistent, and dangerous. This legislation follows action taken almost a decade ago by the City of El Cerrito.

In 2012, the El Cerrito City Council passed a Resolution (2012-72) that urged local businesses to stop selling SGARs, discouraged the use of SGARs by City staff and contractors, and sent a letter to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) requesting their refusal to renew the registration of twenty (20) SGARs products because of the risk to public and environmental health. In 2014, the DPR banned consumer sales and use of SGARs, restricting their use to certified pesticide applicators only. The new restriction extends the 2014 statewide SGARs ban to include *all* licensed pest control applicators, it prohibits use of four specific SGARs, and prohibits the use of those SGARs in any state park, state wildlife refuge or state conservancy. It does not apply to compliant governmental agencies regulating public health activities or to qualifying vector control districts, and it does allow use of these products in food warehouses, breweries, and wineries.

The City of El Cerrito has not used SGARs since 2012, but instead uses reduced risk pest management techniques, including owl boxes (pictured) in several park sites to manage rodents. For more information, please contact Environmental Programs Manager, Stephen Prée, at [spre@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:spre@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

## New Regulations for Treated Wood Waste



As of January 1, 2021, Treated Wood Waste (TWW) in California may no longer be disposed of in most landfills. Instead, TWW must be stored, transported, and discarded as hazardous waste. These changes affect everyone involved with the disposal of Treated Wood Waste, including Contractors, Businesses, Homeowners, Public Works Staff, Permit Counter Staff, Waste Haulers, etc., and at the current moment, the new laws make TWW difficult to properly store and dispose of. There is a new assembly bill ([AB 332](#)) seeking to reverse this change. It is in the midst of the legislative process and will take effect if/when signed by the Governor.

Treated wood is wood that has been chemically treated to prevent deterioration due to insects, fungi, and other environmental factors. Various chemical preservatives are used to treat wood, including water-based and oil-based treatments. Treated wood is often used where the wood is likely to come into direct contact with soil or water. Treated wood is commonly used for fence posts, decking, patio wood/posts, landscape timbers, pilings, railroad ties, and more.

When treated wood is no longer useful and is to be disposed, or stored with the intention of being disposed, it is then considered Treated Wood Waste. If treated wood is being reused, it is not considered waste, and does not require management as hazardous waste. Find more information on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) – Treated Wood Waste website, including a “Management of Treated Wood Waste in California” fact sheet at [dtsc.ca.gov/toxics-in-products/treated-wood-waste/](https://dtsc.ca.gov/toxics-in-products/treated-wood-waste/).