

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

DEC 6 1983

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

The Sacramento City Council

Ed Hall
PO Box 160513
Sacramento, Ca 95816
451-6927

November 22, 1983

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Sacramento is faced with budgetary problems and is looking for ways to save money by cutting various services. I propose that this city discontinue a service which is not only completely unnecessary but also results in a great deal of harm to the environment. I am referring to the Garden Refuse pickup service.

Grass clippings and leaves would be much better used on the properties that produce them. Among the benefits would be:

1. A substantial reduction in runoff during rainstorms. The materials themselves absorb large amounts of water, and they improve water absorption by the soil.
2. The virtual elimination of soil erosion on ground on which the materials are used.
3. During summer months, a substantial reduction- perhaps as much as 50%- in the amount of water required by plants when these materials are placed around them.
4. A tremendous improvement in the soil resulting in much healthier plants.

Property owners have several options on how to use these materials on their property.

1. They could be used in vegetable gardens. This not only eliminates the need for most of the work in gardening- such as rototilling, hoeing, raking, and weeding- but also greatly reduces the amount of water that must be supplied and makes fertilizers unnecessary.
2. Those who don't garden could use the materials in flower beds.
3. They could purchase mulch mowers or convert their present mowers if possible. Leaves and grass clippings could then be returned directly to lawns greatly benefitting them.
4. People could simply build a small bin out of \$2 worth of chicken wire in an out-of-the-way corner of their yard and place these materials in the bin year after year. Since these materials decompose, they would simply disappear.
5. Anyone who did not want to do any of the above could give the materials to a neighbor who would use them.

The elimination of this service would save about \$3 million annually through reduced manpower and equipment costs and a reduction in the amount of water pumped and treated during the summer months. If there is any logical reason for Sacramento, or any other city, to perform this service, I can't think of it. It should never have been done, and if it is continued, the environmental consequences will be disastrous.

I would like the opportunity to further explain this proposal to the City Council and to answer any questions you may have regarding it.

Sincerely,

Ed Hall

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RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF SACRAMENTO

MEMORANDUM

TO: WALTER J. SLIPE, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ANNE MASON, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF ITEM NO. 16, COUNCIL
AGENDA OF DECEMBER 6, 1983
DATE: DECEMBER 12, 1983

AM

Pursuant to Council action, the following matter is referred to you:

Garden refuse pickup service.

AM/sml/16

cc: Public Works Department