



URGENT NOTICE: Residential Waste Collection System/Service Upgrade in 2022

Dear Resident:

This letter is to inform you of BIG changes coming to your waste collection system in 2022. Many residents have asked San Joaquin County (County) over the years, "When are we going to get a three-cart system with recycling and organics collection?" Well, starting in 2022, most collection areas in the unincorporated county will be upgraded to a three-cart collection system to comply with new State mandates. The three-cart system, in most areas, will consist of a gray cart for trash, a blue cart for recyclables, and a green cart for yard waste and kitchen food scraps. Residents will be required to separate recyclables and organics from trash and sort materials into different carts according to their waste collector's collection system.



Why is this happening, you ask? Starting in 2022, all jurisdictions within California must comply with new recycling and diversion mandates associated with the passage of Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383).

What is SB 1383? In 2016, the State of California passed SB 1383 the "Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act." The law requires jurisdictions in California to recycle organic waste, including paper, cardboard, yard materials, food scraps, and food-soiled paper and requires the procurement of processed organic and recycled content products. It also includes a business component for delivering food items to local organizations for distribution to the underserved, preventing these items from reaching the waste stream. The goal of all this is to divert 75% of organics from reaching the landfill by 2025 through recycling, composting and other methods. Every person and business operating in the State will be affected by these policies.



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SB 1383 Background

Organic waste accounts for a significant portion of California's waste stream. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, if left to decompose in landfills, organic wastes release methane, a gas that traps the sun's heat, warms the atmosphere and contributes to global warming. Organic waste in landfills emits 20% of the State's methane, a climate super pollutant 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Organic waste, such as food scraps, yard trimmings, paper, and cardboard, make up more than half of the waste stream that Californians send to the landfill. To address this issue, former Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 1383 (2016) into law to reduce pollutants, including methane. In accordance with this law, Jurisdictions throughout California must meet new reduction limits through organic waste reduction, recycling, composting and others.



The State has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve human health, and create clean jobs that support resilient local economies. Implementing the statewide plan under SB 1383 will reduce short-lived, harmful, super pollutants with significant warming impacts, and is essential to achieving California's climate goals.

Along with this mandated increase in service, there will be an associated increase in cost to provide these services. The County is currently calculating the cost of compliance and is in the negotiation process with waste collectors to determine necessary collection rates. This information will be communicated to the public in the coming months. For more information, please visit www.SJCreycle.org or contact Charlie Yuon at 209.468.8088.

Thank you,



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San Joaquin County