



## Staff Report

January 8, 2008

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Sue Gedestad, Operations Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Green Waste Containerization Pilot Project

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### **Recommendation**

Approve discontinuing the green waste pilot containerization project. To address bicycle safety concerns, staff will pursue other measures such as enforcement, double striping of bike lanes, improved street lighting, and additional public education.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The cost of the pilot containerization project was estimated to be \$25,000 and funded with Solid Waste Reserve Fund (520). Any subsequent alternative pilot efforts will be funded the same.

### **Background**

The City Council approved the development and implementation of a containerization pilot program in April 2007. The pilot was designed to address the inherent conflict between on-street green waste collection and bicyclists.

Development of the specific containerization pilot details involved multiple Bicycle Advisory (BAC) and Natural Resources (NRC) commissions meetings. Also, in August all Davis residents were mailed a letter containing general information on the pilot project and education on proper green waste placement. Information on the City's web page has been changed to address the bicycle safety issues associated with green waste pick up. A flyer has also been developed that staff uses at various events as another educational tool.

In October the parcels that were being recommended for inclusion in the pilot were mailed letters with specific details of the pilot and dates for the both the BAC and NRC November meetings, as opportunities to comment. Both meetings had a large public turnout opposed to containerization. Common themes expressed at the meetings included: the described pilot was not practical, insufficient storage room for carts, carts too cumbersome, and no real bike safety issue documented. Some alternatives were also offered. There were some commenters who supported the pilot and related incidents with bike crashes and brush.

The Bicycle Advisory's response to the expressed opposition was continued support of the pilot. The Natural Resources Commission moved not to continue support. Their vote was based on the fact that the city's storm water management plan was approved and thus the environmental issue within their purview is no longer a factor. They did support continued review for alternatives to address the bicycle safety issue.

At its January meeting, the BAC developed the following clarification on the bicycle safety issue (see Attachment).

As a result of public comment, BAC's clarification and the availability of potential alternatives, staff is recommending that the pilot containerization program be discontinued. Bicycle safety is still a concern and staff will continue to work with the BAC to move forward in developing alternatives such as enhanced enforcement, double striping, improved street lighting, additional monitoring, and documentation.

sg/mb

Attachment: Bicycle Safety Statement



## **Bicycle Safety Statement Regarding Greenwaste Containerization**

**December 17, 2007**

The Davis Bicycle Advisory Commission recognizes and is concerned about the problem of yard waste in the City's bicycle lanes. One possible solution to that problem is containerization of the waste. Staff developed a proposed pilot containerization program, which the BAC approved unanimously at the November 19, 2007 commission meeting.

Since that meeting, the Natural Resources Commission has voted to oppose the containerization pilot project. In response to comments heard during the BAC and NRC meetings, the Davis Bicycle Advisory Commission would like to issue the following statement:

It is the intent of the Davis Bicycle Advisory Commission that the problem of waste in the bicycle lanes be solved. Containerization is not the issue.

The issue is that yard waste in the bicycle lanes obstructs bicycle traffic, inhibits non-expert cyclists from choosing bicycling over motor transit, and is a safety hazard that would not be tolerated by motorists were their lanes similarly obstructed, nor by pedestrians if sidewalks were blocked.

If City Council rejects the containerization pilot project, we encourage the Council to direct staff to propose and implement an alternate solution that will eliminate this hazard.

The Bicycle Advisory Commission will continue to pursue the issue of yard waste in bicycle lanes until the problem is corrected.