

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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September 19, 2018

**File No. 180646-3**

Lisa Gibson  
Environmental Review Officer  
Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Ste. 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:


On September 17, 2018, Supervisor Safai amended the following proposed legislation:

**File No. 180646-3**

**Ordinance amending the Environment Code to require audits every three years of large refuse generators for compliance with refuse separation requirements; to establish enforcement measures applicable to large refuse generators found noncompliant; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

This amended legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

*for* By:  Linda Wong, Assistant Clerk  
Budget and Finance Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning  
Laura Lynch, Environmental Planning

1 [Environment Code - Refuse Separation Compliance]

2  
3 **Ordinance amending the Environment Code to require audits every ~~30 months~~three**  
4 **years of large refuse generators for compliance with refuse separation requirements; to**  
5 **establish enforcement measures applicable to large refuse generators found**  
6 **noncompliant; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the**  
7 **California Environmental Quality Act.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
13 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
14 subsections or parts of tables.

15 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

16 Section 1. Environmental Findings.

17 The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
18 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
19 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
20 Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this  
21 determination.

22 Section 2. Findings.

23 (a) The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the Mandatory Recycling and  
24 Composting Ordinance #100-09 that became operative as Chapter 19 of the Environment  
25 Code in October 2009. Section 1903 requires that all persons source separate their refuse

1 into recyclables, compostables and trash, and refrain from mixing those material refuse  
2 streams in collection containers designated for another type of refuse. Section 1904 provides  
3 requirements for owners and managers of multifamily or commercial properties to provide  
4 adequate refuse service and effective source separation, including working with on-site  
5 janitors, to achieve compliance with the source separation requirement.

6 (b) Chapter 19 has led to the provision of adequate refuse service at 99% of San  
7 Francisco properties. But the Department of Environment has nevertheless found that 60% of  
8 all disposed material from the City is recyclable or compostable. San Francisco must address  
9 this gap in waste diversion if it is to achieve its adopted goal of zero waste.

10 (c) While source separation must improve across all sectors and property types,  
11 buildings that generate large amounts of refuse—including multifamily, multi-tenant  
12 commercial, and mixed-use properties, and those with roll-off refuse compactors—contribute  
13 significantly to refuse contamination, subsequent loss in recovery of recyclables/  
14 compostables, and reduced ability to process and market these materials. When audited,  
15 large refuse generators are often found to have significant refuse cross-contamination of  
16 recyclable and compostable materials in their trash designated for landfill. These large refuse  
17 generators face unique compliance challenges, and also present unique regulatory  
18 challenges, because contamination is difficult to identify in large-volume refuse containers and  
19 in refuse that has been compacted.

20 (d) At least 85 large commercial or multifamily refuse collection accounts in San  
21 Francisco are currently engaging the onsite services of persons or entities known as Zero  
22 Waste Facilitators to help sort and manage refuse for proper separation and placement in  
23 designated collection containers.

24 (e) Zero Waste Facilitators have helped these accounts improve compliance with  
25 Chapter 19, achieve refuse rate discounts, and contribute to improved waste diversion

1 Citywide. A detailed analysis of the results from 9 accounts that employ Zero Waste  
2 Facilitators found that on average, these accounts reduced trash service by 66%, increased  
3 their recycling and composting by over 150%, increased diversion by 30%, up to an average  
4 75% diversion rate, and procured refuse rate discounts resulting in a net cost savings of 25%.

5 (f) Compliance with San Francisco's source separation mandate requires a sustained  
6 commitment and, especially for large refuse generators, a robust source separation system.  
7 Many large refuse generators have achieved significant progress in developing and executing  
8 such systems through voluntary engagement of Zero Waste Facilitators.

9 (g) Heightened enforcement aimed at identifying compliance problems for large refuse  
10 generators, coupled with a mandate to dedicate resources to sustainable solutions to these  
11 problems, is critical to a zero-waste San Francisco.

12  
13 Section 3. The Environment Code is hereby amended by revising Section 1902, as  
14 follows:

15 (a) Each subsection letter accompanying each defined term in Section 1902 (i.e.,  
16 subsection letters (a)-(z)) is deleted.

17 (b) The following definitions of terms are added to Section 1902 and placed therein  
18 among the defined terms in correct alphabetical position:

19 "Audit" means a thorough and systematic visual inspection of the contents of refuse collection  
20 container(s) upon their removal from the container that results a finding of the approximate  
21 percentages of contaminants or materials not appropriate for that type of container (i.e., recyclables,  
22 compostables, or trash).

23 "Large Refuse Generator" means a commercial property refuse account holder, or a City-  
24 owned and operated facility, that has roll-off compactor service or generates 30 cubic yards or more of  
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1 uncompacted refuse per week. Where a roll-off or other compactor is used, the volume of compacted  
2 refuse shall be multiplied times three to account for its compaction.

3 “Zero Waste Facilitator” means a person or entity serving exclusively in the business of and  
4 with demonstrated capacity to manage refuse materials within a given property, including material  
5 sorting and transfer, and who meets criteria as may be specified in regulations promulgated by the  
6 Director, to achieve proper refuse source separation in compliance with this Chapter 19.

7  
8 Section 3. The Environment Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 1906,  
9 1908, and 1909, to read as follows:

10 **SEC. 1906. REQUIREMENTS FOR REFUSE COLLECTORS, TRANSFER**  
11 **STATIONS, AND PROCESSING FACILITIES.**

12 (a) All collectors must appropriately designate the collection containers they provide to  
13 customers for source separation of recyclables, compostables, and trash. The containers  
14 must:

15 (1) Bear appropriate signage that allows users to clearly and easily identify  
16 which containers to use for recyclables, compostables, or trash;

17 (2) Be color-coded:—blue for recyclables, green for compostables, and black  
18 for trash; and,

19 (3) Bear the name of the collector to whom the container belongs.

20 (b) (1) If a collector finds materials that are not the correct type as designated for  
21 that container, such as recyclables or compostables in a trash container, or trash in a  
22 compostables or recyclables container, the collector then must leave a tag on the container  
23 identifying the incorrect materials.

24 (2) If the collector continues to find incorrect materials in a collection container  
25 after the collector has left a previous tag for that customer and that type of container, the

1 collector must leave another tag on the container identifying the incorrect materials and send  
2 a written notice to the person who subscribes for that collection service.

3 (3) If the collector continues to find incorrect materials in a collection container  
4 after the collector has already left two or more tags for that customer and that type of  
5 container, the collector may refuse to empty the container, subject to California Code of  
6 Regulations Title 14, Section 17331, or as determined by the Director of Public Health or his  
7 or her designee. If the container is not emptied, the collector must leave a tag and send a  
8 written notice to the person who ~~subscribers~~ subscribes for the collection service, identifying the  
9 incorrect materials and describing what action must be taken for the materials to be collected;  
10 provided, however, that a collector may not refuse on this basis to empty containers from  
11 multifamily or commercial properties with multiple tenants and joint account collection service.

12 (4) The collector shall, upon request, provide to the Director a list of the names  
13 and addresses of those persons who have received tags or notices or whose containers have  
14 not been emptied due to non-compliance with this Chapter 19, or copies of the tags or notices  
15 issued by the collector. The collector shall also provide to the Director, upon request, a list of  
16 the names, addresses, and service levels of the collector's customers and any additional  
17 information required by the Director.

18 (c) Periodic Large Refuse Generator Audits. The Director or collector shall complete an  
19 Audit of every Large Refuse Generator for compliance with this Chapter 19 not less than once every  
20 thirty monthsthree years.

21 (d) Audit Findings. The Director shall find that a Large Refuse Generator is out of  
22 compliance with this Chapter 19 pursuant to an Audit of the contents of its collector-serviced refuse  
23 collection containers, if materials are found that do not belong in a designated collection container and  
24 are at a contamination level that either significantly impacts the ability to process and market the  
25 materials, or results in the significant loss of compostables or recyclables found in a collection

1 container. The report for each failed audit shall include photographs of the contamination and a  
2 description of how the contamination exceeds the Director's compliance threshold. Guidelines for the  
3 contamination threshold for Large Refuse Generators' compliance with this Chapter 19 shall be set  
4 and maintained by the Director based on market conditions and processing capabilities, and as needed  
5 to meet the City's progress toward zero-waste benchmarks. The Director shall review and revise these  
6 guidelines on an annual or more frequent basis as needed in furtherance of the objectives of this  
7 Chapter.

8 (e) **Notice of Noncompliance and Order to Comply.** Upon a finding of noncompliance under  
9 Sec. 1906(d), the Director shall promptly issue to the Large Refuse Generator a notice of  
10 noncompliance and order to comply ("notice and order").

11 (1) The notice and order shall state the provision(s) of this Chapter 19 with which the  
12 Large Refuse Generator has failed to comply, the specific Audit findings underlying this  
13 determination, and contact information for communications required by this Chapter. The  
14 notice and order shall also include a copy of the relevant provisions of this Chapter and related  
15 regulations.

16 (2) The notice and order shall state the requirements and ~~4560~~-day deadline in Section  
17 1906(f), and prescribe an adequate capacity of Zero Waste Facilitator(s) based on the Audit  
18 findings and in accordance with regulations.

19 (3) The notice and order may also mandate additional remedial steps and a timeline for  
20 response and/or compliance as the Director deems appropriate, in his or her lawful discretion  
21 and in furtherance of the objectives of this Chapter 19.

22 (f) **Zero Waste Facilitator Requirement.** A Large Refuse Generator who fails an Audit under  
23 Section 1906(c) must, within ~~4560~~ days of receipt of a Director's notice and order, and for a duration  
24 of a minimum of 24 consecutive months, designate staff or otherwise engage person(s) whose exclusive  
25 function is to serve as Zero Waste Facilitator(s). Such person(s) must meet minimum criteria, and be

1 engaged at sufficient capacity to address the Audit findings, in accordance with regulations  
2 promulgated by the Director and as specified in the Director's notice and order. The Large Refuse  
3 Generator must notify the Director in writing by the 45~~60~~-day deadline of its plan for compliance, and  
4 include supporting documentation, as described in regulations. The Large Refuse Generator shall be  
5 subject to a follow-up Audit upon expiry of the 24-month period if no earlier compliance Audit is  
6 conducted. The Director or collector shall conduct inspections, monitor compliance with the notice  
7 and order, and pursue enforcement in the intervening period, as permitted under this Chapter 19.

8 (g) **Compliance Audits.** Notwithstanding the 24-month requirement described in Section  
9 1906(f), after 12 consecutive months of compliance with all aspects of a notice and order issued under  
10 Section 1906(e), a Large Refuse Generator may request a follow-up Audit to demonstrate compliance.  
11 Such compliance Audits shall be conducted at the Large Refuse Generator's own expense. A Large  
12 Refuse Generator that has failed its most recent Audit must provide sufficient evidence of remediation  
13 efforts alongside a request for a compliance Audit. Provided these requirements are met, the Director  
14 or collector shall complete a requested compliance Audit within a reasonable time frame. No Large  
15 Refuse Generator is entitled to more than three Audits per collection container in a single 365-day  
16 period. Where the Large Refuse Generator passes a compliance Audit and has implemented mandated  
17 remedial measures, the Director shall issue an order finding compliance and resolving the underlying  
18 notice and order. Where the Large Refuse Generator fails a compliance Audit, the Director may order  
19 additional remedial measures and/or administrative penalties in accordance with Section 1906(h).

20 (h) **Enforcement of Notices of Noncompliance and Orders to Comply, and Audit Failure.**  
21 The Director may impose an administrative penalty of up to \$1000 for each violation of any aspect of a  
22 Director's order issued to a Large Refuse Generator under this Chapter 19. Each day of continued  
23 noncompliance may constitute a separate violation. The Director may hold such imposed  
24 administrative penalties in abeyance, pending completion of ordered remedial steps or based on other  
25



1 conditions, in accordance with his or her lawful discretion and in furtherance of the objectives of this  
2 Chapter 19.

3 ~~(e)~~(i) Within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, each collector must submit to  
4 the Department, on a form specified by the Director, an annual report of all tons collected by  
5 material type and to whom the material was sent.

6 (i) Upon one year from the operative date of this ordinance the ordinance in Board File No.  
7 180646 and annually thereafter, the Director shall report to the Board of Supervisors on notices and  
8 orders issued to Large Refuse Generators under this Chapter 19 within the prior 12-month period.

9 ~~(d)~~(k) No person may deliver recyclables or compostables, including those mixed with  
10 trash, to a landfill or transfer station for the purpose of having those materials landfilled,  
11 except as follows:

12 (1) A collector may drop off recyclables or compostables at the San Francisco  
13 transfer station for landfill if the transfer station has agreed to provide to the Director, upon  
14 request, audits of collection vehicles for a specified period going forward in time. The transfer  
15 station's audit shall report the quantity of recyclables or compostables, stated as estimated  
16 tons per load or as a percentage of the loads, deposited at the transfer station by collection  
17 vehicles specifically identified in the request over a reasonable period of time occurring after  
18 the request.

19 (2) A processing facility that sorts and reconstitutes recyclables for the purpose  
20 of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product or turns compostables into  
21 usable and marketable compost (e.g., soil-conditioning) material may send to a landfill a minor  
22 portion of those materials that constitutes unmarketable processing residuals, if the  
23 processing facility provides to the Director, upon request, audits of specific collection vehicles  
24 for a specific period going forward in time, of the quantities of recyclables or compostables  
25 sent to the landfill from the processing facility.

1           ~~(e)(1)~~ No person may deliver trash from the city, including trash mixed with recyclables  
2 or compostables, to a processing facility, unless the processing facility has agreed to provide  
3 to the Director, upon request, audits of collection vehicles for a specified period going forward  
4 in time. The processing facility's audit shall report the quantity of trash, stated as estimated  
5 tons per load or as a percentage of the loads, deposited at the processing facility by collection  
6 vehicles specifically identified in the request over a reasonable period of time occurring after  
7 the request.

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9           **SEC. 1908. ENFORCEMENT.**

10           (a) The Director ~~and his or her designee~~ may administer all provisions of this Chapter 19  
11 and enforce those provisions by any lawful means available for such purpose, including  
12 through imposition of administrative penalties for violations of those provisions of this Chapter, or of  
13 rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Chapter, except as otherwise provided in this  
14 Chapter.

15           (b) To the extent permitted by law, the Director ~~and collectors~~ may inspect any  
16 collection container, collection vehicle load, or receiving facility, including back-of-house  
17 facilities, and the Director may also inspect internal facilities, front-of-house bins, or refuse chute  
18 rooms, for collected trash, recyclables, or compostables, and proper separation thereof, to enforce  
19 this Chapter 19.

20           (c) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter 19, the Director of the Department of  
21 Public Health or his or her designee may impose administrative fines for violations of those  
22 provisions of this Chapter, or of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Chapter, that  
23 pertain to the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health.

24           (d) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter 19, the Director of Public Works or  
25 his or her designee may impose administrative fines for violations of those provisions of this

1 Chapter, or of any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this Chapter, that pertain to the  
2 jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works.

3 (e) ~~San Francisco~~ Administrative Code Chapter 100, "Procedures Governing the  
4 Imposition of Administrative Fines," as amended, is hereby incorporated in its entirety and  
5 shall govern the imposition, enforcement, collection, and review of administrative citations and  
6 penalties issued to enforce this Chapter 19 and any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this  
7 Chapter; provided, however, that:

8 (1) The Director of Public Works or the Director of Public Health may adopt  
9 regulations providing for lesser penalty amounts than those provided in Administrative Code  
10 Section 100.5;

11 (2) The fine for any violation at a dwelling or commercial property that  
12 generates less than one cubic yard of refuse per week may not initially exceed \$100; and

13 (3) The Director may impose administrative penalties as set forth in Section 1906(h).  
14 ~~No person who is the owner, tenant, manager, employee, contractor, or visitor of a multifamily or of a~~  
15 ~~multi-tenant commercial property shall be subject to fines or penalties for violation of Section 1903~~  
16 ~~(but will remain subject to such enforcement for violations of section 1904 and other sections of the~~  
17 ~~Ordinance), unless and until the Director of the Department of the Environment has adopted specific~~  
18 ~~regulations setting out the liability of such persons. The Director shall not adopt such regulations prior~~  
19 ~~to July 1, 2011.~~

20 (f) The ~~City~~ Department shall use administrative penalties collected under this Chapter  
21 19, including recovery of enforcement costs, to fund implementation and enforcement of this  
22 Chapter. Remedies under this Chapter are in addition to and do not supersede or limit any  
23 and all other remedies, civil or criminal.

24  
25 **SEC. 1909. FORMS, REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES.**

1 (a) After public notice and a public hearing, the Director may adopt necessary forms,  
2 ~~and regulations, and guidelines~~ to implement this Chapter.

3 (b) The Department shall provide assistance regarding compliance with this Chapter.

4 (c) The Department shall provide information on its website regarding what materials  
5 are accepted as recyclables, compostables, and trash under this Chapter.

6  
7 Section 4. Effective and Operative Dates.

8 (a) This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs  
9 when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not  
10 sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the  
11 Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

12 (b) This ordinance shall become operative on ~~January~~July 1, 2019.

13  
14 Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. Except as stated in Section 2, in enacting this  
15 ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases,  
16 paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or  
17 any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as  
18 additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in  
19 accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

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21  
22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
23 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

24 By:

  
25 NEHA GUPTA  
Deputy City Attorney

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**REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**  
(Amended in Committee, 9/17/2018)

[Environment Code - Refuse Separation Compliance]

**Ordinance amending the Environment Code to require audits every three years of large refuse generators for compliance with refuse separation requirements; to establish enforcement measures applicable to large refuse generators found noncompliant; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

Existing Law

Chapter 19 of the Environment Code requires source separation of refuse into recyclables, compostables, and trash, and mandates subscription to refuse collection service. Chapter 19 sets forth requirements for owners or managers of multifamily and commercial buildings, and food vendors and events, to provide their tenants, employees, contractors, and/or customers with access to refuse containers and training on source separation. It also sets forth standards for refuse collectors, transfer stations, and processing facilities related to tagging refuse containers of noncompliant customers, and delivery and acceptance of refuse materials. Chapter 19 provides for inspections, administrative enforcement, and issuance of administrative penalties by various Departments for noncompliance. It incorporates Administrative Code Section 100, governing the imposition, enforcement, and appeal of administrative citations, in its entirety, except as otherwise provided in Chapter 19.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would establish additional refuse separation compliance and enforcement measures applicable to large refuse generators and administered by the Director of the Department of Environment and his or her designees. Large refuse generators are defined as commercial property refuse account holders and City-owned and operated facilities that have roll-off compactor service, or generate 30 cubic yards or more of refuse per week. Large refuse generators would be subject to visual inspection audits of their refuse not less than every three years. The Director of the Department of Environment would issue to those large refuse generators found noncompliant a notice and order to comply.

This ordinance would require such noncompliant large refuse generators to appoint or otherwise engage staff or contractors whose exclusive function is to serve as zero waste facilitators, for a minimum of 24 consecutive months, upon receiving a Director's notice and order. A zero waste facilitator is a person in the business of and with experience managing refuse material sorting and transfer, who must also meet criteria set by the Director of the Department of Environment. After 24 consecutive months of compliance with the Director's notice and order, a large refuse generator would be subject to a follow-up audit. A finding of compliance at this audit would result in a Director's order lifting the prior notice and order,

while failure of a compliance audit could result in additional mandated remedial steps and/or imposition of administrative penalties.

Notwithstanding the 24-month minimum requirement for engagement of zero waste facilitator(s), a large refuse generator who has engaged zero waste facilitator(s) for 12 consecutive months and taken all other ordered remedial steps may request a compliance audit from the Department of Environment at its own expense. Under this ordinance, the Director of the Department of Environment would have authority to impose, and hold in abeyance at his or her lawful discretion, administrative penalties at a maximum of \$1000 per violation of each aspect of a Director's order. Each day of continued noncompliance may constitute a separate violation.

This ordinance's operative date would be July 1, 2019.

#### Background

This legislation reflects amendments passed at the Land Use Committee on September 17, 2018 to the substitute ordinance introduced at the Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2018. The ordinance was initially introduced at the Board of Supervisors on June 12, 2018.

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