



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: February 03, 2026
Placement: Set Hearing
(2/3/26);
Departmental
(2/24/26: First
Reading);
Administrative
(3/3/26: Second
Reading)
Estimated Time: 45 minutes on
February 24, 2026
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Chris Sneddon, P. E., Public Works Director
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P. E., Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending Chapter 17 of the County Code for Mandatory Service in Isla Vista; Second Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: None

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommended actions:

On February 3, 2026:

Set a hearing on the Departmental Agenda of February 24, 2026 to consider recommendations regarding the adoption of an Ordinance amending mandatory solid waste service requirements for the community of Isla Vista in the Second Supervisorial District, as follows:

- a) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending Chapter 17, Sections 17-1 and 17-7 of the Santa Barbara County Code, pertaining to mandatory solid waste service requirements for the community of Isla Vista in the Second Supervisorial District;

- b) Read the title, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17, Solid Waste Services, of the Santa Barbara County Code” and waive further reading of the Ordinance; and
- c) Set a hearing for the Administrative Agenda of March 3, 2026 to consider the adoption (Second Reading) of the Ordinance, as follows:
 - i. Adopt “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17, Solid Waste Services, of the Santa Barbara County Code” (Second Reading) and
 - ii. Determine that the above-recommended actions are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) and 15321 (Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies) and approve the posting of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item recommends updating the specific requirements for mandatory solid waste subscription in Isla Vista by amending Chapter 17, Sections 17-1 and 17-7 of the County Code. Approval of the proposed revisions to Chapter 17 in the attached Ordinance amendment (Attachment A) will restructure service responsibilities, update minimum service levels, and consolidate containers to address undersubscription in Isla Vista. These actions are necessary to reduce littering, inconsistent waste service, and indirect administrative costs related to solid waste code enforcement for this community.

Discussion:

The revisions proposed in this Chapter 17 Ordinance amendment address the new realities of higher population, more tenants per unit (including increased numbers per bedroom), and higher per capita waste generation since 1995 when this Ordinance was last revised. The proposed Ordinance amendments were developed in consultation with the Isla Vista Community Services District. Any revised or new requirements resulting from this Ordinance amendment will be enforced beginning July 1, 2026. The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of Public Works (RRWMD) will not enforce the provisions of this Ordinance amendment prior to that date to give owners and property managers time to adapt to any necessary changes.

The proposed Ordinance amendment shifts service responsibility from tenants to property owners and managers, requiring a single waste account per occupied parcel with limited exceptions for adjacent properties. It establishes clear definitions for dwelling types and updates minimum service levels based on bedroom counts, while phasing out 32-gallon cans in favor of consolidated larger carts or dumpsters. Additionally, the revisions mandate year-round service except during specific vacancy periods, strengthen enforcement protocols for repeat violations, and provide a temporary waiver for container storage requirements until July 1, 2028, to facilitate the transition to new equipment.

Background:

Isla Vista is the only unincorporated community in Santa Barbara County where all properties are required by Chapter 17 of the County Code to subscribe to solid waste services. Due to its high

population density, frequent student turnover, and chronic litter issues and illegal dumping, the area requires unique programs, including:

1. Mandatory solid waste services for all residents, including minimum solid waste subscription requirements for residential properties;
2. Weekly curbside bulky item pick-up throughout the year;
3. Daily curbside bulky item pick-up during the two-week period at the end of the academic year that coincides with the majority of residents moving out of the community;
4. Prohibition of indoor furniture stored outside in order to reduce arson and abandoned furniture; and
5. The dedication of more than 50% of a full-time equivalent's (FTE's) staff time to enforce Chapter 17 (Solid Waste Services) in the community to combat illegal dumping, littering, and other waste related nuisances.

These programs have evolved over the past few decades to continually address the solid waste challenges facing the community, however the Ordinance outlining mandatory service for Isla Vista is now due for further revisions. Initial adoption of the mandatory service requirement for Isla Vista occurred on January 28, 1992. The last amendments to Chapter 17, Section 17-7, Mandatory Service in Isla Vista, were adopted on March 28, 1995, when the entirety of Chapter 17 was reorganized and minor changes to Chapter 17-7 were made since initial adoption.

On June 3, 2025, the Board of Supervisors directed RRWMD to pursue restructuring of the fee schedule for maximum solid waste collection rates in Isla Vista, which will be presented before the Board as part of the annual Solid Waste Tipping Fees, Maximum Franchised Collection Rates, and New Cuyama Parcel Fees for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 set to go before the Board in June 2026.

Chapter 17 of the Santa Barbara County Code provides regulation for solid waste handling services, including the collection, transportation, storage, transfer, and processing of solid wastes, recyclables, and compostables, to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the County's residents and to protect the environment from litter and illegal dumping. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 and 15321, enforcement actions and actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment, are categorically exempt from CEQA.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no projected cost increases associated with this Ordinance amendment. Since the proposed Ordinance amendment is effective July 1, 2026, it is possible there will be a reduction in fiscal year 2026-27 administrative costs from enforcing County Code Chapter 17 (Solid Waste Services) in Isla Vista due to fewer instances of undersubscription, litter, illegal dumping, and other waste related nuisances or disputes.

Special Instructions:

After the February 3, 2026, set hearing, direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the attached Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment D) in the Santa Barbara Independent five (5) days prior to the First Reading.

After the March 3, 2026, Second Reading, direct the Clerk to:

- 1) Send copies of the adopted Ordinance and copies of the minute order to Yanette Luna, Public Works Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, 130 E. Victoria Street Suite 100, Santa Barbara 93101 and to County Counsel.
- 2) Publish a copy of the full ordinance with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for or against the Ordinances in the Santa Barbara Independent fifteen (15) days after the adoption of the Ordinance pursuant to Section 25124 of the Government Code.
- 3) Stamp and post the CEQA Notice of Exemption and return a stamped copy to John Viggianelli, Public Works Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, 130 E. Victoria Street Suite 100, Santa Barbara.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 of the Santa Barbara County Code, Solid Waste Services

Attachment B: Redlined version of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 of the Santa Barbara County Code, Solid Waste Services

Attachment C: Notice of Exemption

Attachment D: Public Notice

Contact Information:

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