

City of Costa Mesa
City Council Meeting
Service Request Follow-up
Meeting Date: June 7, 2004

TO: City Council

FROM: William J. Morris, Director of Public Services

DATE: June 14, 2004

SUBJECT: Trash Cans Not Being Returned to the Curb by Collection Persons

During "public comments" at your June 7, 2004 City Council meeting, Ms. Anne Hogan Shereshevsky expressed concern about trash cans not being returned to the curb by collection persons. The following information has been received from the Costa Mesa Sanitary District, at (714) 754-5030, concerning this item.

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District currently utilizes what is called a "semi automated" trash collection system for residential pickup. In this system, the trash can is attached to the lifting mechanism by the driver, who must exit the cab to accomplish this. Once the trash is dumped in the bed of the truck, the driver disconnects the trash can from the lifting mechanism and places it in the parkway.

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District is in the process of converting the current semi automated trash collection system into a fully automated collection system. With this fully automated system, residents place the trash cans in the street. The cans are picked up utilizing a mechanical arm; therefore, the driver does not have to exit the cab. Once emptied, the trash can is placed back in the street by the mechanical arm.

The workers know that the program change will be occurring within the next three months, so they are leaving the containers in the street at this time. The conversion process will include considering special circumstances, and if a resident knows of such, they are welcome to call the District at (714) 754-5030.

RH:cv

c Allan Roeder, City Manager
Ernesto Munoz, City Engineer
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Carol Proctor, Management Analyst
Rob Hamers, Manager, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Tom Fauth, Assistant Manager, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Anne Hogan Shereshevsky