

INLAND VALLEY
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Pomona council takes steps leading to moratorium on recycling, waste processing businesses

By [Monica Rodriguez](#), Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
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POMONA, CA - City Council members took steps this week leading to a moratorium on the establishment or expansion of recycling and waste handling businesses in the city.

Council members directed city administrators Monday night to prepare an urgency ordinance that would set a moratorium in place for 45 days and which could be extended twice - once for a year and a second extension for two years.

A proposed urgency ordinance is expected to go to the council June 16, said Community Development Director Mark Lazzaretto on Wednesday.

In addition to the urgency ordinance, the council is expected to empanel a committee to study such businesses' impacts on nearby neighborhoods, the environment and city finances.

Councilwoman Paula Lantz said implementing a moratorium would help in monitoring recycling and waste processing businesses.

"I think it's quite clear we have not had the capability for oversight" given the city's limited budget, she said.

Lantz added that as part of the process she would like to see what the evolution of such businesses could be in order to prepare for the future.

She also asked for information on three waste and recycling businesses.

Lazzaretto said Wednesday that Los Angeles County is proposing a project that involves the closed Spadra Landfill in nearby Walnut. The proposal calls for creating an asphalt recycling facility.

In addition, the city is working with two businesses that handle waste or recycling but which have been found to be in need of a conditional use permit.

"Both are existing businesses and both have business licences," Lazzaretto said.

Both have either evolved from their original purpose or should have been required to have conditional use permits from the time they were proposed, he said.

Prior to giving city staff direction council members heard from several residents who spoke in support of the moratorium and creation of a committee.

Among the speakers was Lisa Engdahl, a Pomona resident and chairwoman of Clean and Green Pomona, a group consisting of Pomona residents and businesses people that are interested in improving conditions in an industrial area in southeast Pomona. The group grew out of the Inland Communities Organizing Network, formerly known as OneLA and Inland Empire Sponsoring Committee, also known as IESC.

OneLA/IESC opposed the establishment of a waste transfer station along Ninth Street in southeast Pomona.

The transfer station would not be affected by the proposed moratorium, Lazzaretto said.

Engdahl said this year Pomona has had two significant fires that involved recycling or waste businesses.

She said a committee studying the matter should come up with a practical action plan to address any impacts on nearby neighborhoods and the city.

In addition, as part of its work, the committee should seek out comments from the public early on as to the effects such businesses have on their neighborhoods, Engdahl said.

Rev. Julie Roberts-Fronk, a resident of the city and pastor at First Christian Church who is also involved with Clean and Green Pomona, said recycling and waste businesses require greater oversight than they have been subject to in the past.

As cities work to increase recycling the number of such processing businesses will increase, moratorium proponents said.

Pomona will probably have more recycling and waste businesses seeking to open or expand, they said.

Before that happens the city should take steps to have better oversight of such businesses, Roberts-Fronk said.

At this point Pomona is not prepared for the arrival or expansion of additional recycling or waste processing businesses, she said.

Establishing a moratorium “would allow us to push the pause button” and give the city time to prepare, Roberts-Fronk said.