

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 1992

CITIZEN ADDRESSES CITY COUNCIL REGARDING
RECYCLING AND REFUSE COLLECTION IN THE
CITY OF LODI

CC-54

Mrs. Janet Pruss, 2421 Diablo Drive, Lodi addressed the City Council and asked that her comments be made a part of the record. They are as follows:

Gentlemen:

I speak tonight, **not** as a member of the Solid Waste Task Force, but as an individual. even though my feelings may be somewhat weighted by the one year, nine months that the Task Force has been studying the matter of Land Fill Reduction.

To me, the reduction of the Land Fill and final elimination of the need **for** one is at the heart of AB939, which requires that **all** of us THINK of a subject we would all rather ignore and hope it would just go away. But it won't! Like Topsy, it just grows and grows. In the old days **the** Indians moved on when their villages became "soiled". We do not have the same option.

As sophisticated as we think we have become, it seems we still "soil our **own** nest" to the degree that we soil not only our **own** area, but call on other areas to take our garbage (or land fill) to accommodate **our** desires for living in the manner to which we have become accustomed.

My reason for bringing this to you tonight is because I feel each of you need to have the benefit of all the input you can get to make the decision you must soon make on the future of **Lodi's** compliance with AB939. I want the public to know that even with no change in our present method of garbage collection, the rate will still go up to near the same figure as the semi-automated system that the Task Force recommended. **AND** with no change in service, we will be impacting the Land Fill with yard and garden waste shown to be over 13% of the total land fill. This is material which should be composted.

Some of you may feel you have time to delay a change in our method of collection. However, with Lodi's growth expected to reach 75,963 by the year 2010, time is running out. We should be advising all new residents who wish to become a part of our city that we expect them to do their part as we have done ours, to keep Lodi from "soiling her nest".

If there had never been an AB939, the fact remains that somehow, sometime, we must bite the bullet and meet our obligations to our Mother Earth. And this comes from one who has never belonged to an Environmental Group, but who certainly supports many of their ideas to "wake up to the future".

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 1992

I refute the contention of some that the rate proposed for the three-cart system is not fair to those who do not need the three carts. In the first place, the small 38 gallon cart is acceptable to most. The use of the 2nd and 3rd carts is optional, with no additional cost. This is what keeps the rate down for everyone, since the money for the recycling and composting is credited back to the city by California Waste Removal System. This methodology has already been approved by you, the Council. Therefore, I see it as a blessing to those who need but one trash cart (38 gal.) that others are helping pay their share of the cost for the trash which must go to the land fill.

Don't forget, the dumping fee will increase and if we keep on as we are, with no change in the system, the rate will go up even more.

Finally, I see no reason to hide the fact that the Lodi garbage rate has not been increased to cover their costs.

Lastly, I wish to state that the city of Lodi is and has been lucky to have had a refuse company that was so far ahead of the state mandate that we have the luxury of asking and looking at options before we are fined for non-compliance.

Lodi City Council Meeting, September 16, 1992 presentation by Janet Pruss

Gentlemen:

I speak tonight, not as a member of the Solid Waste Task Force, but as an individual - even though my feelings may be somewhat weighted by the one year, nine months that the Task Force has been studying the matter of Land Fill Reduction.

To me, the reduction of the Land Fill and final elimination of the need for one is at the heart of AB939, which requires that all of us THINK of a subject we would all rather ignore and hope it would *just* go away. But it won't! Like Topsy, it just grows and grows. In the old days the Indians moved on, when their villages became "soiled". We do not have the same option.

As sophisticated as we think we have become, it seems we still "soil our own nest" to the degree that we soil not only our own area, but call on other areas to take our garbage (or land fill) to accommodate our desires for living in the manner to which we have become accustomed.

My reason for bringing this to you tonight is because I feel each of you need to have the benefit of all the input you can get to make the decision you must soon make on the future of Lodi's compliance with AB939. I want the public to know that even with no change in our present method of garbage collection, the rate will still go up to near the same figure as the semi-automated system that the Task Force recommended. AND with no change in service, we will be impacting the Land Fill with yard and garden waste shown to be over 17% of the total land fill. This is material which should be composted.

Some of you may feel you have time to delay a change in our method of collection. However, with Lodi's growth expected to reach 75,963 by the year 2,010, time is running out. We should be advising all new residents who wish to become a part of our city that we expect them to do their part

as we have done ours, to keep Lodi from "soiling her nest".

If there had never been an AB939, the fact remains that some how, sometime, we **must** bite the bullet and meet our obligations to our Mother Earth. **And** this comes from one who **has** never belonged to an Environmental Group, but who certainly supports many of their ideas to "wake up to the future"!

I refute the contention of some that the rate proposed for the three cart system is not **fair** to those who do not need the three carts. In the first place, the small 38 gallon cart is acceptable to most. The use of the 2nd and 3rd carts is optional, with no additional cost, **this** is what keeps the rate down for everyone, since the money for the recycling and composting is credited back to the city by Calif, Waste Removal System. **This** methodology has already been approved by you, the council. Therefore, I see it as a blessing to those who need but one trash cart (38 gal.) that others are helping pay their share of the cost for the trash which **must** go to the land fill.

Don't forget, the dumping fee will increase and if we keep on as we are, with no change in the system, the rate will go up **even** more.

Finally, I see no reason to hide the fact that the Lodi garbage rate **has** not been increased for four years. **We** cannot expect any business to survive without increases to cover their costs.

Lastly, I wish to state that the city of Lodi is and has been lucky to have had a refuse company that was so far ahead of the state mandate that we have the luxury of asking and looking at options before we are fined for non-compliance.

*I ask that this presentation be
made a part of the permanent record,
Thank-you,
Janet Pruss*