

# A Greener El Cerrito

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

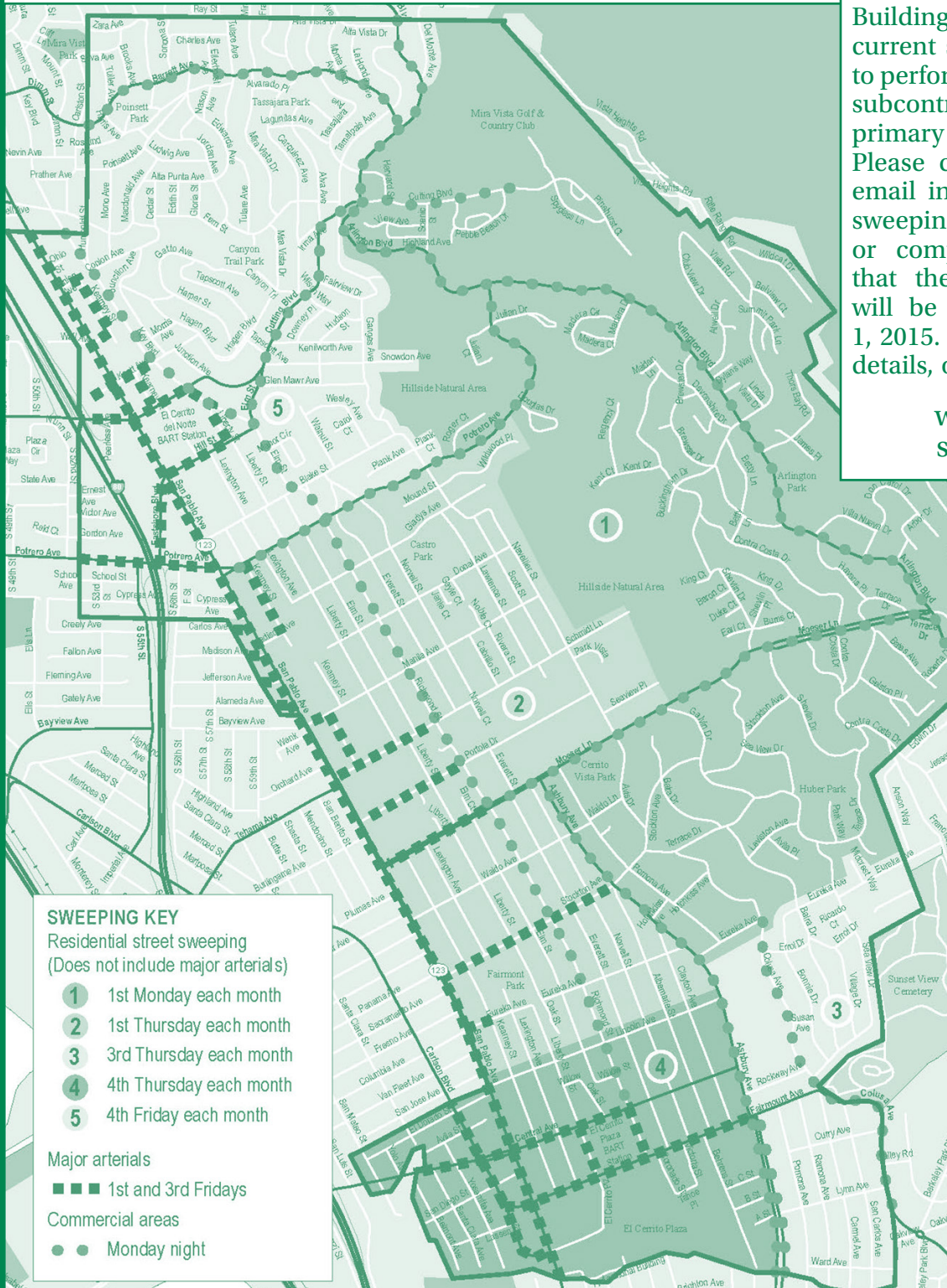
Winter 2014/15 • Volume 14

[www.ecenvironment.org](http://www.ecenvironment.org) • (510) 215-4350

## NEW STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE STARTS JANUARY 1

Effective January 1, 2015, East Bay Sanitary (EBS) will be the City's new street sweeping contractor. Universal Building Services, which is the City's current street sweeper, will continue to perform day-to-day operations as a subcontractor, with EBS taking on all primary customer service functions. Please call EBS at 510-237-4321 or email [info@ebsan.com](mailto:info@ebsan.com) for all street sweeping related inquiries, questions, or complaints. Please also note that the street sweeping schedule will be changing, effective January 1, 2015. Please refer to this map for details, or download the map online:

[www.el-cerrito.org/streetsweepingmap](http://www.el-cerrito.org/streetsweepingmap)



# Environmental Activities Calendar

[www.ecenvironment.org](http://www.ecenvironment.org) | 215-4350

<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	All day	<b>The Recycling + Environmental Resource Center and the offices of East Bay Sanitary will be closed</b> on December 24 & 25, December 31 (after noon), January 1, January 19, February 16, April 5, and May 25. Curbside collection of solid waste will occur as normally scheduled, except on December 25 and January 1 - collection for those two days will occur one day late, with regularly scheduled Friday collection to occur on Saturday.  Christmas trees will be picked up free of charge through January 16. Please place trees at curb by 6 a.m. on your collection day, and remove all ornaments and stands. Flocked trees will not be collected during regular curbside collection - please call East Bay Sanitary at 510-237-4321 to arrange for disposal of a flocked tree.
<b>DEC 16 &amp; JAN 6</b>	7 PM	<b>City Council Considers Community Choice Aggregation:</b> On December 16, the City Council will consider an ordinance to join Marin Clean Energy, with a second reading on January 6. See article on Page 4 for more details.
<b>JAN 17</b>	9 AM to 3 PM	<b>Electronic Waste Recycling Event:</b> At this <b>FREE event</b> anyone can recycle TVs, computer monitors, computers and accessories, stereos and music equipment, VCR & DVD players, toner cartridges, printers, fax machines, copiers, phone equipment, cell phones, MP3 players, microwaves and more for free! <b>UnWaste staff will unload your car for you!</b> For more information: <a href="http://www.unwaste.com">www.unwaste.com</a> or call UnWaste at 888-832-9839. 7501 Schmidt Lane.
<b>MARCH 2 - MARCH 8</b>	9 AM to 4 PM	<b>Compost Giveaway at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (7501 Schmidt Lane):</b> El Cerrito Residents, with proof of residency, get up to 6 cubic feet (45 gallons) of compost made from yard waste/food scraps!
<b>MARCH 7 - 14</b>	TBD	<b>California Arbor Week:</b> El Cerrito celebrates trees with this annual event. For more info contact <a href="mailto:spreed@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us">spreed@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us</a> or 510-559-7685, and for regional information see <a href="http://californiareleaf.org/programs/arborweek/">http://californiareleaf.org/programs/arborweek/</a>
<b>APRIL 18</b>	9 AM to 1:30 PM	<b>Earth Day Volunteer Event and Appreciation Lunch:</b> See form on Page 3 for details.
<b>MAY 2</b>	9 AM to 3 PM	<b>Shop the Spring Citywide Garage Sale:</b> See form on Page 3 for details.
<b>MAY 3</b>	10 AM to 5 PM	<b>Bringing Back the Natives Tour:</b> A free, self-guided tour of 50 native gardens in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, sponsored by the Clean Water Program. Visit <a href="http://www.bringingbackthenatives.com">www.bringingbackthenatives.com</a> for more information.
<b>MAY 14</b>	7 AM to 9 AM	<b>Bike to Work Day:</b> Walk or roll to the energetic EC Plaza BART / Ohlone Greenway "Energizer Station" for free goodies, bicycling information, and to chat with City staff about bike/ped topics.
<b>1st SAT MONTHLY</b>	10 AM to 12:30 PM	<b>Baxter Creek Gateway Work Parties:</b> Join volunteers and City staff in removing invasive species and restoring native habitat in this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. For more info, 510-559-7685, <a href="mailto:spreed@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us">spreed@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us</a> .
<b>2nd MON MONTHLY</b>	7 PM	<b>Tree Committee:</b> Come to the regular monthly meetings of the City's volunteer Tree Committee. Currently seeking additional members. For more info see <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?nid=109">http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?nid=109</a>
<b>2nd TUES MONTHLY</b>	7 PM	<b>Environmental Quality Committee:</b> Come to the regular monthly meetings of the City's volunteer Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) - members needed, apply today! See <a href="http://www.greenerelcerrito.org">www.greenerelcerrito.org</a> for details.

## 2015 Solid Waste and Recycling Rates

[www.ecrecycling.org](http://www.ecrecycling.org) | 215-4350

Garbage Container Size	Residential Service	Commercial / Multi-Family Service
20 Gallon	\$31.50 per month	\$31.50 per month
35 Gallon	\$42.08 per month	\$42.08 per month
64 Gallon	\$84.43 per month	\$84.43 per month
1 Cubic Yard (at once weekly pickup)	NA	\$281.32 per month
2 Cubic Yards (at once weekly pickup)	NA	\$546.42 per month
<b>Green Waste Collection (35 / 64 gal)</b>	64 gal cart included Extra 64 gal cart is \$53.20 per month	35 gal is \$27.51 per month per weekly pickup 64 gal is \$53.20 per month per weekly pickup



# Volunteer for El Cerrito's Annual Earth Day Celebration

## April 18, 2015 | Earth Day Volunteer Registration Form

Work Parties from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Citywide)  
 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
 (El Cerrito Community Center - 7007 Moeser Lane)  
 For more info: email [earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call 510-215-4350.

### Registration forms are due by April 1 to:

Operations + Environmental Services Division – Earth Day  
 10890 San Pablo Avenue  
 El Cerrito, CA 94530

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an idea for a work party or project that you would like to be involved in? Do you have any suggestions for potential work projects?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# EARTH DAY Get involved!



## Register for the May 2 Citywide Garage Sale



### HOST A SPRING GARAGE SALE!

Turn your old stuff into treasure! Register now to host a garage sale at your home during the Spring Citywide Garage Sale.

Registration fees cover the costs of advertising and promotion which includes posting your sale in the garage sale brochure, classified ads in local newspapers and online.

**Help spread the word about the Citywide Garage Sale.** Make your event fun and enjoyable by providing refreshments, treats, prizes or other enticements! Send us your suggestions regarding how to make our advertising strategy more effective—feedback from past garage sale hosts is especially valuable.

### REGISTRATION FORMS DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 3 by 4 PM!

**Find good bargains! Shop the May 2 Garage Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Garage Sale listings will be available online at [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org) and in self-serve literature stands located at the Community Center (7007 Moeser Lane) and the Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) starting April 23.

### Garage Sale Registration Form Spring 2015 El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale May 2 | 9 AM to 3 PM

**Legible registration forms are due (with \$15 NONREFUNDABLE registration fee paid by check to the City of El Cerrito) by 4p.m. on April 3:**

Environmental Services Division—Garage Sale  
 10890 San Pablo Avenue  
 El Cerrito, CA 94530

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/Sale Location \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Cross Street \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Legible Email Address (please provide an email address if you would like the opportunity to review the accuracy of your listing prior to publication):

\_\_\_\_\_

Sale Description: **Maximum of 20 words** describing the items for sale and any other details about the sale (i.e. fundraiser for a specific charity, snacks available, etc.). Descriptions will be repeated verbatim in the listing - use good grammar.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



City of El Cerrito  
 City Hall  
 10890 San Pablo Avenue  
 El Cerrito, CA 94530

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Oakland, CA  
 Permit #2508

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:  
 PLEASE DELIVER BY DECEMBER 13, 2014

ECR-WSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## El Cerrito Considers Community Choice Aggregation

The City Council is considering joining Marin Clean Energy (MCE) to provide low-carbon electricity at competitive rates for residents and businesses. This arrangement is known as Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). MCE is a not-for-profit public power agency partnering with PG&E to provide electricity service in Marin and Napa Counties, and the cities of Richmond, San Pablo, and Benicia. MCE offers 50-100% renewable energy, with its default 50% "Light Green" option priced cheaper than PG&E.

**What is CCA?** Community Choice Aggregation enables public agencies and JPAs to combine - or "aggregate" - the electricity demands of their constituents to more easily acquire electricity from preferred sources. With MCE PG&E still handles electric delivery, power line maintenance, and sends the monthly bill. MCE replaces PG&E's job of determining power sources, called electric generation. So instead of paying PG&E for both electric delivery and generation services, customers pay MCE for generation (at lower rates) and PG&E for delivery."



**Is electricity from MCE cleaner?**

By acquiring a greater percentage of electricity from renewable electricity generators (such as biogas, solar and wind power), MCE is able to reduce the percentage of fossil fuel energy its customers use. At present, 51% of MCE's energy comes from renewable sources, compared to 22% at PG&E. MCE's electricity rates are currently slightly less than those of PG&E.

**What are the next steps?** Take part in the community conversation about joining! The City currently has a topic on Open El Cerrito about CCA and MCE. Learn more and take a brief survey online at [www.el-cerrito.org/CCAforum](http://www.el-cerrito.org/CCAforum) or contact Maria Sanders in the Operations and Environmental Services Division at [msanders@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:msanders@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 559-7684.

**On December 16**, the City Council will consider an ordinance to join MCE. A second reading of the ordinance to join MCE is scheduled for the following City Council meeting on **January 6**.

If the City Council elects to join, MCE will begin a five month multi-lingual community outreach process to enroll customers and to let them know that they have the option to stay with PG&E's electricity generation service.