

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
FROM: JEFFREY HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
SUBJECT: STORM RESPONSE UPDATE
DATE: MARCH 23, 2023

Mayor and Council –

Please see an update on our efforts to keep up with the demand for storm damage pick-up.

- Victor

Since last month's ice and snow storms, staff has been working on curbside storm debris management. Below is a status and update of the program and the challenges in managing the volume of requests and magnitude of debris.

- 2,445 forestry service requests were entered in the wake of the storms (request deadline was 3/17/23)
- Three contractors (Limb Walkers, Cut My Tree Down, and B&B Landscaping), plus City crews are chipping. Crews are working overtime until ~7 p.m. each day and are working Saturdays.
- \$144,420 in clean-up costs for invoices received to date

The program was requested to accommodate residents with storm damage; however, based on feedback from staff and contractors, regular abuse is occurring.

- "Residents are absolutely abusing this," one contractor said. "They're cutting down trees or pruning around their properties for spring cleaning and putting that out on the curb."
- City staff has witnessed private contractors performing non-storm related tree work on properties, then dragging the debris to the curb for the City's crews to pick up.
- Another contractor said, "I've been to the same house four times because every time I go past, they have a new pile at the curb."
- Residents that did not make requests are also reportedly running debris out to the curb from the backyard after chipping crews cleared the street.

While 2,445 forestry service requests are overwhelming, crews have reported that an average of 5 additional sites per request are being picked up. These challenges are making progress inefficient (estimated 800 requests picked up) and have created a burden on staff and contractors.

Given the slow progress, staff reached out to GFL to assist with pick-up per a special debris provision in their contract. Unfortunately, due to the overwhelming regional communities' requests, GFL cannot assist with special pick-up until after April. GFL resumes regular yard waste pick-up services the first week of April, which may make a dent in debris removal; however, the regular yard waste program is restricted to bagged or bundled debris measuring less than 2" in diameter. Because most debris falls outside GFL's yard waste pick-up parameters, the bulk of the larger debris will be left at the curb until the special pick-up

can be executed, or one of the City's chipping crews removes it as part of the current program.

Staff will evaluate the progress through this week and determine if the current pick-up effort will be continued or altered given GFL's current schedule.





Logs too large to chip



Piles on private property