

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA STREET SWEEPING ASH MANAGEMENT

The Thomas Fire has created a large amount of ash which has been accumulating throughout the City of Santa Barbara. Some of that ash has accumulated on City streets. Most of the ash on City Streets is located in the gutter next to the curb. The ash is not going to dissipate on its own, and must be removed.

The California Office of Emergency Services, the Santa Barbara County Health Department, and local experts have advised the City that the immediate removal of ash using street sweepers is key to keeping the ash from spreading. The City is using the latest technology regenerative street sweepers with high efficiency vacuum filtration systems. The streets sweeper will pick up about 80% of the dust and ash in the first pass. However, some of the ash will be agitated by the street sweeper's rotary brooms, and will create a dust cloud around the sweeper. Each pass of the street sweeper will yield a net positive gain, with less dust being sent into the air. After a few passes, the dust cloud will subside.

Please remember to wear your N95 dust masks whenever you are near street sweeping operations. It is best to avoid street sweeping areas for at least ½ hour after the street sweeper has left. Remember to move your vehicles from the street on your designated street sweeping day to assist with the street sweeping efforts.

Thank you for your understanding and patience while we deal with the cleanup of this massive fire.