

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018**

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED
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PUBLIC COMMENT

WYNN GRINCH

California just made it legal to liquefy a corpse

By Annie Vainshtein Updated 3:41 pm PDT, Tuesday, October 17, 2017



IMAGE 1 OF 42

Water cremation, or alkaline hydrolysis, is an eco-friendly alternative to traditional forms of dealing with the dead, like burial or flame cremation.



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As early as 2020, Californians will be able to pursue a new option for end-of-life remains: water cremation.

On Sunday, Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 967, a controversial bill that's been making the rounds around the nation over the last several years. It makes it legal to dispose of human remains through a process commonly referred to

Update, October 16, 2017:

Gov. Jerry Brown last night signed into law the bill that legalizes a method of disposing of human remains commonly called 'water cremation.'

The method doesn't actually use water, but uses a chemical that speeds up decomposition of bodies and leaves behind only sterile water, bones, and medical implants or devices.

The new law establishes procedures for licensing and regulating mortuaries or other companies that aim to adopt the method, to be overseen by the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau within the state Department of Consumer Affairs.

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Governor Signs Law Allowing Californians to Choose to Liquefy Their Remains Oct. 16, 2017

Supporters say water cremation offers a green alternative to traditional cremation or burial.

Original Story, July 24, 2017:

You may not equate death with climate change, but disposing of human remains leaves a fairly hefty carbon footprint.

Supporters of a California bill allowing dead bodies to be dissolved in a hot chemical bath are hoping to overcome the 'ick factor.'

look up article. copy pass on

Toilet to Tap drinking water

“Cremation is really what people hold up as the environmentally friendly option,” says Caitlin Doughty, a mortician in Los Angeles. “It’s better than the whole rigmarole of formaldehyde and chemicals and big caskets that go into the more traditional funeral industry, but it still releases mercury into the air, and it uses a whole ton of natural gas.”

Plus, Doughty says, cemeteries monopolize land, an increasingly precious resource as the population grows.

Hence the growing popularity of a green alternative, known as water cremation, bio-cremation or flameless cremation. Basically, the body is dissolved in a hot chemical bath, leaving a sterile solution that can be flushed down the drain. The carbon footprint of this process is just a quarter of traditional fire cremation because it uses so much less energy; and only a sixth of a burial because it doesn't require the materials for concrete headstones, mahogany caskets or the chemicals used in embalming.

State lawmakers are considering a bill that would legalize water cremation. In the last decade, two previous efforts have failed, although the process has been approved in 14 other states, including neighboring Nevada. This year, a third attempt is gaining momentum in California, progressing further in the Legislature than the previous bills.

Not an Acid Bath

There’s only one place in California where bodies are currently dissolved — legally, at least. That would be a

AGENDA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Items 1 and 3

AGENDA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
MEETING DATE: December 4, 2018

Item #1 CONS 18-775: Approval of Professional Auditing Services Contract with Maze & Associates in the Amount of \$110,000

Is retaining Maze and Assoc, in compliance with Government Code section 12410.6(b)?

Yes, the City is in compliance with Government Code section 12410.6(b). The code states that *“Commencing with the 2014 fiscal year, a local agency shall not employ a public accounting firm to provide audit services to a local agency if the lead audit partner or coordinating audit partner having primary responsibility for the audit, or the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit, has performed audit services for that local agency for six consecutive fiscal years. For purposes of calculating the six consecutive fiscal years, the local agency shall not take into account any time that a public accounting firm was employed by that local agency prior to the 2014 fiscal year. The Controller may waive this requirement if he or she finds that another eligible public accounting firm is not available to perform the audit”*.

Maze & Associates, audit partner Katherine Yuen, has been the lead audit partner for five consecutive years since fiscal year 2013-14. For this new agreement, she will stay on as the lead audit partner for one more fiscal year to provide consistency during the second-year implementation of GASB 75, which will be the sixth consecutive years Ms. Yuen will be the lead audit partner. Then a new partner ,Vikki Rodriguez, will become the lead audit partner starting with fiscal year 2020 audit.

Item #3 CONS 18-810: Approval of Plans and Specifications, and Call for Bids for the FY 2019 Pavement Rehabilitation and Preventive Maintenance Project

1. Does the work include improvements to Vanderbilt?
Traffic calming measures
Bike lanes

The FY 2019 Pavement Rehabilitation and Preventive Maintenance Project will include a pavement overlay with dig-out locations on Vanderbilt Street between Briergate Way and Alquire Parkway. The project will include the replacement of 3 existing AC speed lumps with 3 rubberized speed lumps. Sharrows, designating Class III bike lanes, will be added on Vanderbilt Street as a recommendation from Bike East Bay. Class II bike lanes will be added to Breakwater Ave. from Breakwater Court to Change of Pavement and on Eden Landing Road from Investment Blvd to Hwy 92 Exit Ramp as part of this project.

2. It seems like a very small number of streets for \$8 million. Far less than 1/2 the streets completed for \$19m a couple years ago.

There are less number of streets in this year's project for the following reasons:

- Construction costs have significantly increased in past few years, the engineer's estimate has adjusted these unit cost values accordingly. If bids come in below engineer's estimate, we have additional streets ready to add to the project.
- FY16 pavement project was able to include cold-in place recycling treatment, which is less expensive than overlay with dig-outs. The selected streets for the FY19 pavement project were analyzed for the most cost-effective treatment options, and cold-in place treatment was not recommended for this project due to existing pavement conditions.
- The project includes streets with a high number of spot repairs (dig-outs) and streets with a PCI less than 30: O'Neil Ave., Lexington Ave., Fairway St., Delmar Ave.
- The higher the project cost, the higher the number of streets that can be included in the project due to the economy of scale factors, e.g. higher return to contractor, lower overall mobilization costs, etc.