



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**



**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** June 9, 2026  
**Placement:** Departmental Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** 30 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** Yes  
**If Yes, date from:** May 12, 2026 (Set Hearing)  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director   
Contact: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, Deputy Director   
**SUBJECT:** **Solid Waste Tipping Fees, Maximum Franchised Collection Rates, and New Cuyama Parcel Fees for FY 2026-27; All Supervisorial Districts**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a resolution, to be effective July 1, 2026, setting the fee schedules for solid waste handling and disposal fees at County solid waste facilities for Fiscal Year 2026-27;
- b) Approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 adjusted Per Ton Processing Rate of \$34.03 to be paid by the County to MarBorg Recovery, LP for the processing of municipal solid waste and source-separated recyclables at the ReSource Center Material Recovery Facility (MRF);
- c) Adopt a resolution, to be effective July 1, 2026, setting the Parcel Fee Schedule for the Cuyama Valley for Fiscal Year 2026-27;
- d) Adopt a resolution, to be effective July 1, 2026, setting the fee schedules for maximum franchised solid waste collection rates in the unincorporated Zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 service areas for Fiscal Year 2026-27;
  - i) Direct the Clerk to announce the close of the Public Hearing following the end of public comment for the departmental item, and that no additional protest votes will be accepted for the Isla Vista service area of Zone 3;

- ii) Direct the Clerk to count the number of written protests specifically received for the Isla Vista service area of Zone 3 referencing newly restructured maximum rates for this community proposed for Fiscal Year 2026-27;
- iii) Direct the Clerk to report the number protest votes counted as outlined above;
  - 1) If no majority protest on Isla Vista maximum franchised solid waste collection rates; adopt the resolution.
  - 2) If a majority protest exists; adopt the resolution for all other unincorporated Zone fee schedule service areas but take no action on Isla Vista maximum franchised solid waste collection rates and provide direction to staff.
- e) Determine that the above-recommended actions are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guideline Section 15273(a) (1), (2), (3) and (4) because they are for the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and that no expansion of services or facilities will result, and direct staff to file and post a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to consider recommendations for setting fees and rates for solid waste management services for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). Each year, your Board approves the following:

- Tipping fees charged at County-operated solid waste facilities
- Per Ton Processing Rate for the ReSource Center Material Recovery Facility
- Parcel fees for New Cuyama property owners to support local waste services
- Maximum rates the franchised (private) waste hauler can charge customers

**Discussion:**

This Board Letter provides an overview of each of the proposed fee and rate schedules for FY 2026-27 for County-operated solid waste management facilities (Attachment A), parcel fees for New Cuyama (Attachment B), and maximum rates charged by the franchised solid waste service provider (Attachment C).

**Tipping Fees at County Facilities**

Tipping fees at County solid waste facilities are set each year based on the actual cost of providing the service the prior fiscal year, as well as complying with the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division's (RRWMD's) long-term financial proforma for funding of debt obligations, capital, regulatory compliance, and closure/post-closure requirements associated with its solid waste management system.

Municipal solid waste currently delivered to the Tajiguas Landfill and ReSource Center is generated by the City of Santa Barbara, City of Goleta, City of Solvang, and City of Buellton (collectively referred to as the Jurisdictional Partners), and the unincorporated areas of southern Santa Barbara County and the Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys.

The Material Delivery Agreements between the County and the Jurisdictional Partners established the mechanism to set the franchise disposal rates charged at the County facilities. Historically, RRWMD has used the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as the basis for establishing the facility rates, in addition to the division's current labor rates and projected salary increase, to ensure the facilities are able to recover increasing costs and maintain the level of services for the communities now and in the future. During FY 2026-27, the proposed franchise disposal rates will increase by 3.54% from \$196.50 to \$203.45 per ton. Most other rates for waste handled at County facilities are proposed to increase by an average rate of 4.09%, with rates for the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center at UCSB slightly lower at an average of 3.03%. The proposed fee schedule is included as Attachment A to this Board Letter.

#### Material Recovery Facility Per Ton Processing Rate

The agreement between the County and Marborg Recovery, LP to operate the ReSource Center Material Recovery Facility (MRF) contains provisions that set forth how to calculate the Per Ton Processing Rate to be paid by the County to Marborg Recovery, LP for each ton of waste material delivered to and processed by the MRF. In accordance with Subsection 10.2.C of the agreement, the Per Ton Processing Rate is adjusted by the annual percentage change in the CPI-U. Using this index-based adjustment method, the FY 2026-27 Per Ton Processing Rate increased from \$33.00 to \$34.03.

#### Parcel Fees in New Cuyama

For FY 2026-27, RRWMD is not proposing any increases to the New Cuyama parcel fees. Although service costs remain high, RRWMD has taken steps to reduce operational expenses and maintain affordability for property owners. The Cuyama Valley continues to be served by two County-operated transfer stations built in 1996. Property owners pay for solid waste services through parcel fees established by the Board of Supervisors in 1982 (Resolution Number 82-360), pursuant to California Government Code Section 25830.

- The current single-family occupied dwelling rate is \$77.00 per year.
- Other parcel fees are based on a waste generation factor, comparing the single-family dwelling rate to that of waste generated by other land uses.

A rate study will be performed, and fee increase is under consideration, for FY 2027-28. Therefore, RRWMD requests that the Treasurer-Tax Collector continue to bill and collect the current fees as part of the regular County property tax system for FY 2026-27. The current parcel fee schedule is included as Attachment B to this Board Letter.

#### Maximum Residential and Commercial Franchised Collection Rates

Annually, the Board of Supervisors sets the maximum rates charged to residential and commercial customers by the franchised solid waste collection service provider(s) in the unincorporated areas of the County. Factors affecting these rates include: 1) the franchised hauler's cost to collect waste (which varies depending on the location); 2) changes in landfill disposal, recycling and organics processing fees; and 3) fees charged by the County for solid waste management programs. Proposed FY 2026-27 maximum franchised collection rates for each of the five franchised collection zones are provided in Attachment C.

*Collection costs:* Pursuant to the County's solid waste franchise agreements, a CPI adjustment is applied to the collection portion of each maximum rate to reimburse the service provider for their operational costs of collection. The CPI adjustment is based on the U.S. Department of Labor index

for “All Urban Consumers” in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area, which is the index defined in the franchise agreements to be used for this effort, for Calendar Year 2025. For this time period, the CPI was 3.2%, which was applied to the collection portion of the proposed FY 2026-27 maximum rates uniformly in all zones.

*Landfill tipping fees and recyclables and organics processing fees:* The second component of the maximum rate charged to customers is the cost to process or dispose of waste, which varies by facility and zone. It should be noted that the tipping fee for Zone 5 trash will increase significantly for FY 2026-27 as a result of the City of Santa Maria charging a higher tipping fee for unincorporated waste delivered to the City’s landfill. Tipping fees set by externally operated facilities are not within the County’s control, and directing Zone 5 trash to the Santa Maria Landfill remains the least expensive in-county option for these customers.

The following changes to tipping/processing fees outlined in the table below have been incorporated into the relevant zone’s proposed FY 2026-27 maximum rates:

Collection Zone	Trash		Recycling		Yard Waste or Mixed Organics				
	Current	FY 2026/27	Current	FY 2026/27	Current	FY 2026/27			
Zone 1	\$196.50/ Ton	\$203.45/ Ton	\$196.50/ ton	\$203.45/ ton	\$58/ton	\$60/ton			
Zone 2									
Zone 3									
Zone 4-Santa Ynez		3.54% increase	\$124/ton	\$128/ton	\$50.84/ton	\$52.37/ton			
Zone 4-Lompoc	\$110/ton	\$115/ton					3.23% increase	\$63.69/ton	\$65.61/ton
Zone 5	\$100/ton	\$115/ton					15% increase		

*Solid waste program fee:* The Department is not proposing any change to the current 11% solid waste program fee. This fee is used by the County to support a range of State-mandated solid waste management programs provided to the community, such as hazardous waste management, code enforcement, State-required reporting, recycling and organics diversion, edible food recovery, and public outreach and education. In accordance with State law, the County Code, and the franchise agreements, the County may assess a fee on solid waste collection rates to fund these activities based on the costs of administering the franchise agreements and complying with various State laws, such as AB 939, AB 341, AB 1826, AB 901, AB 827, and SB 1383. The fee also reflects the value of the exclusive rights granted only to the franchised hauler to use roads, streets, and right of ways for collection services.

### Restructured Isla Vista Franchised Collection Rates

On June 3, 2025, your Board directed RRWMD to pursue restructuring of the fee schedule for maximum solid waste collection rates in Isla Vista within Zone 3 to expand service options and clarify existing services. Staff subsequently negotiated updated, competitive maximum rates with the franchised hauler, MarBorg Industries, as reflected in the Zone 3 maximum franchised collection rates for FY 2026-27. It should be noted that Isla Vista is the only unincorporated community in the County with mandatory waste service as required by County Code Chapter 17-7.

Notices alerting Isla Vista property owners of the newly restructured maximum rates were mailed 45 days prior to this June 9, 2026, hearing. Since the restructured maximum rates are changing in the middle of the franchise term, protest votes will be counted and reported specifically for the FY 2026-27 Isla Vista maximum franchised collection rates; instructions on how to participate and submit a protest were included in the notice.

The Isla Vista Small Single-Unit bundled residential maximum rates are proposed to increase by an average of 12.63% as compared to current rates, depending on existing subscription levels; however, the new costs include the following added benefits:

- Weekly recycling service instead of bi-weekly recycling service.
  - This would make Isla Vista the only unincorporated area where bundled residential rates include weekly, not bi-weekly, recycling service.
- Ensured access to special Isla Vista residential services, including free weekly bulky item curbside pickups year-round and free daily bulky item curbside pickups during the two weeks following the end of the academic school year.
  - Current bundled residential rates do not pay into these special services.
- Phasing out 32-gallon cans to be replaced with 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon carts.
  - Carts have wheels and attached lids for better maneuverability and litter reduction.

The Isla Vista Multiple-Unit and Large Single-Unit residential maximum rates are proposed to increase by an average of 5.79% as compared to current rates, depending on existing subscription levels; however, the new costs include the following added benefits:

- In-place/backyard service of carts is mandatory and built into the rate.
  - It is typically assumed that carts are brought to the curb for service; however, due to the lack of parking and curb space in Isla Vista, in-place/backyard service was considered a necessary improvement. These customers will not need to wheel their carts to the curb for service.
- Ensured access to special Isla Vista residential services, including free weekly bulky item curbside pickups year-round and free daily bulky item curbside pickups during the two weeks following the end of the academic school year.
- Phasing out 32-gallon cans to be replaced with 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon carts.
  - In addition to improved maneuverability and better containment of contents, larger cart sizes allow properties to consolidate waste service into larger containers and reduce the overall space needed for solid waste storage.
  - Additional flexibility with 2x/week recycling cart pickups now offered.
  - Current rates only offer 1x/week recycling pickup.

The Isla Vista Commercial maximum rates are proposed to increase by an average of 3.74% as compared to current rates depending on existing subscription levels; however, the new costs include the following added benefits:

- In-place/backyard service of carts is mandatory and built into the rate, as described above.
  - Phasing out 32-gallon cans to be replaced with 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon carts, with benefits as described above.
  - Additional flexibility with 2x/week trash and 2x/week recycling cart pickups now offered.
  - Current rates only offer 1x/week trash or recycling pickup.

It should be noted that the proposed FY 2026-27 Isla Vista maximum franchised collection rates do not include additional taxes outside the scope of the franchise, such as the Isla Vista Community Services District 8% Utility User Tax approved by voters in 2018.

### CEQA Review

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(a) (1), (2), (3) and (4), CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials, meeting financial reserve needs and requirements, and obtaining funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas. Rate increases to fund capital projects for the expansion of a system remain subject to CEQA. The rates proposed for approval support the ongoing provision of solid waste collection, management, and disposal for the communities served by the County and do not expand services; they are therefore statutorily exempt from CEQA.

As a capital project, the Resource Center was separately reviewed under CEQA in 12EIR-00000-00002 certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016 and Addendum dated August 11, 2017 (revised October 26, 2017), considered by the Board of Supervisors on November 14, 2017 along with other Addendums and 15162 determinations for various project description changes. A relatively new capital project, the Tajiguas Landfill Capacity Increase Project, commenced construction in FY 2024-25 and is largely funded by RRWMD's capital reserves. This project was separately reviewed under CEQA in 23EIR-00001 certified by the Board of Supervisors on March 19, 2024.

The environmental documents for the ReSource Center and Capacity Increase projects are available at <https://www.countyofsb.org/1165/Environmental-Documents>.

### **Background:**

On June 3, 2025, your Board directed RRWMD to pursue restructuring of the fee schedule for maximum solid waste collection rates in Isla Vista within Zone 3 to provide expanded service options and clarify existing services for customers in that region.

On February 24, 2026, your Board approved an ordinance amendment to Chapter 17-1 and Chapter 17-7 of the County Code as it relates to mandatory solid waste service in Isla Vista. The ordinance amendment, which will be operable on July 1, 2026, increased the minimum required service levels for residential premises based on a volume of 35-gallon carts, not 32-gallon cans, and requires that waste service be consolidated into the largest possible containers. The new requirements of the ordinance amendment are not supported by the current customer rate structure which in many cases only offers 32-gallon cans for subscription.

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With the Board's approval on June 3, 2025, staff negotiated updated, competitive maximum rates with the franchised hauler for Isla Vista customers. The newly restructured fee schedule presented as part of the Zone 3 maximum franchised customer collection rates for FY 2026-27 provides 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon cart costs for all customer types, as well as clarifies access to existing special solid waste services in Isla Vista to best support the new requirements of the approved ordinance amendment.

**Performance Measure:**

County solid waste facilities charge rates identified in the attached rate schedules, and the contracted waste collection service provider(s) charges rates no greater than those included in the attached rate schedules. These rates are based on projected costs to provide the services. County staff conduct periodic billing audits to ensure that its service provider(s) is charging the Board-approved rates.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Facility Rates Schedule is detailed in the discussion section of this board letter. There are no proposed facilities impacts.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Tipping fees charged at County-operated solid waste management facilities, New Cuyama parcel fees, and the 11% solid waste program fee portion of the maximum franchised collection rates provide revenue to RRWMD's Enterprise Fund. Fees proposed in this Board Letter are included in RRWMD's Recommended budget for FY 2026-27, which projects total revenue for the Division to be approximately \$50,200,000. Aside from the solid waste program fee remitted to RRWMD by the franchised hauler, rates charged to residential and commercial customers for franchised collection services are billed by the service provider(s), who receives payments directly from the ratepayers, and are not included in RRWMD's budget.

**Special Instructions:**

Please direct the Clerk of the Board to count and report the number of written protests specifically received for FY 2026-27 Isla Vista solid waste maximum franchised collection rates. Additionally, please direct the Clerk of the Board to announce the close of the Public Hearing following the end of public comment for the departmental item, and that no additional protest votes for Zone 3 will be accepted at that time.

Please direct the Clerk of the Board to send a certified, stamped Minute Order and a copy of the signed Resolutions to: Juliette Mudge, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, AOP II at 130 E Victoria Suite 100 Santa Barbara.

Lastly, if approved on June 9, 2026, please direct the Clerk of the Board to date-stamp and post the Notice of Exemption (Attachment D) and return a stamped copy to the Public Works Department, RRWMD at 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 100, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 - Attention: John Viggianelli.

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**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Facility Rates Resolution FY26-27

**Attachment B** – Cuyama Fee Resolution FY 26-27

**Attachment C** – Resolution for FY26-27 Max Solid Waste Franchised Collection Rates

**Attachment D** – Notice of Exemption for FY 2026/27 Rates

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