

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 5/12/03
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 5/27/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Public Works Department

STAFF CONTACT: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, ext. 3603
Leslie Wells, Program Manager, ext. 3611

SUBJECT: Solid Waste Tipping Fees, Collection Rates, Parcel Fees, for fiscal year 2003/2004
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Set a Public Hearing for June 17, 2003 for 30 minutes to:
2. Adopt resolution (Exhibit 1) setting the fee schedules for:
 - a. Solid waste handling and disposal fees at County facilities, per Attachment A, effective July 1, 2003, and
 - b. Solid waste collection rates in the unincorporated area, per Attachment B, effective July 1, 2003.
3. Adopt resolution (Exhibit 2) setting the Parcel Fee Schedule for the Cuyama Valley for Fiscal Year 2003/2004, effective July 1, 2003.
4. Accept the Public Works Department's Notice of Exemption pursuant to the County's California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (Exhibit 3);

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Each year your Board adopts solid waste disposal and collection fees in accordance with Chapter 17 of the Santa Barbara County Code. Current franchise agreements with the solid waste collectors require the County to increase the collection portion of the rates each year by specified percentages of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as well as incorporate any increases in tipping or handling fees associated with the material collected by the service providers.

Tipping Fees

The tipping fees for trash at County facilities, as well as the Lompoc and Santa Maria landfills, were not raised this year. Public Works is proposing increases to the following minimum load charges: for trash at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station and the Tajiguas Landfill from \$15.00 to \$16.00, and at Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (formerly the Foxen Canyon Landfill) from \$9.00 to \$9.50; for minimum loads (700 lbs.) of clean construction and demolition (C&D) material from \$15.00 to \$16.00; for hard to handle waste from \$15.00 to \$16.00 at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station and the Tajiguas Landfill, and from \$9.00 to \$9.50 at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (See Attachment A).

In addition, Public Works is recommending an increase in the disposal fee for Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)-containing electronic waste (televisions and computer monitors) received at its facilities from the current \$12.50 per CRT to \$16.00 per CRT, and the establishment of an \$80.00 per ton tipping fee for all non-CRT electronic waste with a minimum load fee (less than 400 lbs.) of \$16.00.

Finally, Public Works is recommending the establishment of a minimum fee for the safe disposal of hazardous materials illegally dumped at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station. For batchable hazardous waste, a minimum fee of \$120.00 would be charged per incident for amounts less than 10 gallons of illegally disposed hazardous waste. For batchable hazardous waste in amounts greater than 10 gallons, and for non-batchable hazardous waste, the actual handling and disposal costs would be included in addition to the minimum fee.

Collection Rates

The CPI that was used to adjust the rates this fiscal year is 3.6% and was calculated using the U.S. Department of Labor Los Angeles-Riverside CPI from February 2002 to February 2003. This CPI adjustment is only made on the portion of the rate that reimburses the haulers for the collection of waste materials. Proposed residential and commercial rates are shown on Attachment B.

Public Works recommends that curbside recycling be provided to residents of the Trout Club, Painted Cave, Camino Cielo, Rosario Park and Paradise Road neighborhoods. Recycling service is currently provided to these areas through a roll-off box provided by MarBorg Industries and located at the San Marcos Fire Station/Camino Cielo Store. The roll-off is typically delivered once a month on a Thursday afternoon, serviced as needed throughout the weekend, and removed on Monday. MarBorg Industries has provided this service to the community without charge for several years and feels that this approach is no longer viable for a number of reasons. Some residents have apparently been using the roll-off intended for recyclables to dispose of their trash. As a result of this contamination MarBorg often has to pay the higher tipping fee for municipal solid waste when the roll-off is delivered to the SCR&TS, and the entire load must then be

landfilled defeating the purpose of recycling. In addition, U.S. Forest Service personnel at the San Marcos Fire Station have indicated that the roll-off box has become an attractive nuisance, requiring staff time to clean up garbage that has inappropriately been placed next to the roll-off.

Staff's proposal is to include the curbside collection of recyclables in Trout Club, Painted Cave, West Camino Cielo, Resario Park and Paradise Road trash rates starting July 1, 2003. MarBorg Industries will provide residents with commingled recycling containers. The carts will be serviced every other week, as is the system for all other unincorporated County residents. The additional cost of this service, estimated to be \$.21 per ratepayer per month will be included in residential trash rates for zone three, and will be included in all trash bills regardless of whether residents choose to use the recycling service. Residents who do not currently subscribe to regularly scheduled trash collection service but who would like curbside collection for recyclables can subscribe to recyclables collection service only at a cost of \$5.78 per household per month. Beginning August 1 2003, the roll-off box will no longer be placed at the Camino Cielo Store/San Marcos Fire Station.

In the north county some of the more remote, rural areas do not currently have regularly scheduled recyclables collection. The County Public Works Department and Health Sanitation Services is proposing to include curbside recyclables collection as part of regularly scheduled trash service in Tepesquet, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Ballard Canyon, and outskirts of the Lompoc area. The additional cost of providing this service is \$.59 per residential ratepayer per month in zones 4 and 5.

On October 15, 2002, your Board directed Public Works to develop programs to increase the diversion of recyclable materials from disposal at the Tajiguas Landfill. On December 17 2002, your Board approved a proposed commercial recycling program that included a disposal ban on all recyclable materials generated in the business sector that are currently being collected by the residential recycling program. As part of the commercial recycling program, multi-family housing units (apartment and condominium complexes) will automatically receive recycling capacity amounting to 30 percent of their current trash capacity, as part of their overall trash service. Businesses will also be required to recycle and will be offered either 90-gallon recycling carts or a variety of bin sizes and collection frequencies at a reduced rate, to meet their individual recycling needs. The rate to be charged for recycling is the trash rate less the disposal cost. Because businesses will generally be able to reduce their trash capacity as a result of recycling, they will in most cases be able to realize a savings over what they are currently paying for trash service.

As part of the commercial recycling program, a "non-compliance" commercial bin rate, 20 percent higher than the proposed commercial trash rate, has been developed. A business that is able to recycle materials but is unwilling to do so will be considered out of compliance under the following protocol. Following a six-month grace period, from September 1, 2003 to February 29, 2004, a business that is ineligible for an exemption to the commercial recycling program and is identified by the hauler as failing to comply with the program will receive a letter from the hauler outlining the program's intent and how to fully participate. If subsequent visual inspections by the hauler demonstrate a continued failure to recycle, the hauler will make a follow-up telephone call. County staff will also contact the business a final time to ensure that it is aware of the program and the repercussions of not participating. If a business continues to fail to recycle following this outreach procedure, it can be charged the non-compliance trash rate.

The following table provides an example of the rate increases for residential customers using a standard service level consisting of 60 gallons of trash and/or green waste service and up to 90 gallons of recyclables collected for each zone.

Residential Rates

	2002/2003 rate	2003/2004 rate	Percent increase
Zone 1 (MarBorg: Carpinteria, Summerland, Montecito)			
High Density	\$33.19	\$34.14	3%
Low Density	\$44.76	\$46.14	3%
Zone 2 (BFI: Goleta north of Hollister)	\$25.75	\$26.48	3%
Zone 3 (MarBorg: Goleta South of Hollister)			
Goleta/Mission Canyon/IV	\$25.62	\$26.58	4%
Hope Ranch	\$33.58	\$34.83	4%
IV Multifamily	\$33.15	\$34.28	3.5%
Zone 4 (Health Sanitation Services: Lompoc Valley)	\$26.54	\$27.30	5.5%
Zone 5 (Health Sanitation Services)			
Santa Ynez	\$25.01	\$25.73	5.5%
Santa Maria	\$21.69	\$22.25	5.5%

The following table provides an example of the proposed rate increases using a 2 cubic yard commercial container serviced once per week in the different service areas. Again, the percent increase also includes the CPI increase on the collection portion of the rate.

Commercial Rates

	2002/2003 rate	2003/2004 rate	Percent Increase
Zone 1	\$99.50	\$101.67	2%
Zone 2	\$86.77	\$88.68	2%
Zone 3			
Regular	\$84.95	\$87.47	3%
Isla Vista	\$90.32	\$93.01	3%
Zone 4	\$84.60	\$86.52	2%
Zone 5			
Santa Ynez	\$113.91	\$116.82	2.5%
Santa Maria	\$98.08	\$100.11	2%

Cuyama Valley Parcel Fees

Finally, the Cuyama Valley is served by two County operated transfer stations built in 1996, which replaced the local landfills upon their closure. MarBorg Industries is contracted by the County to transport waste from the transfer stations to the Tajiguas Landfill. MarBorg Industries also provides solid waste collection service to a small number of residents and businesses in the Cuyama Valley. In accordance with Section 25830 of the California Government Code, property owners in the Cuyama Valley pay for solid waste disposal services through parcel fees according to a schedule that was established with the adoption of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors in 1982 (Resolution Number 82-360). The fee schedule was

established to generate revenue to offset the operation and maintenance costs for solid waste disposal services in Cuyama Valley.

The Public Works Department annually reviews these fees for adequacy and cost competitiveness. The Department is proposing no increase in rates for 2003/2004. The single-family occupied dwelling rate will be \$77.00 for the year. Other fees are based on a waste generation factor, established in 1982, comparing the single family dwelling rate to that of waste generated by other land uses. The Public Works Department requests that the Treasurer-Tax Collector continue to bill and collect the current fee as part of the regular County property tax system.

The proposed fee schedule will generate approximately \$31,444 in revenue from the 594 parcels in the district. However, this amount does not cover the cost of service for Cuyama Valley residents, which is currently estimated at \$160,600. Current operating costs for the Cuyama and Ventucopa transfer stations, which together generate approximately 1,000 tons per year, is \$160.00 per ton, including transportation costs. Fees collected from Cuyama Valley residents lower this cost to \$129.00 per ton. The remainder of the cost is covered through revenues from the Tajiguas Landfill tip fee.

Mandates and Service Levels:

As a result of approving the recommended program changes, increased residential recycling collection in rural areas of the unincorporated county areas will be realized.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Tipping fees & collection rates are being increased consistent with consumer price index; no additional savings are anticipated.

Special Instructions:

Please direct the Clerk of the Board to publish a Notice of Public Hearing in the Santa Barbara News Press, North County and South Coast editions, and the Bakersfield Californian, five (5) and ten (10) days prior to the hearing, as per Government Code Section 6062a. Please send an executed copy of the Resolutions and a Minute Order to Georgia Navarro & Leslie Wells in Solid Waste & Utilities Division of the Public Works Department.

Concurrence

Auditor Controller
County Counsel