

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: 5/1/02
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 6/25/02
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 minutes
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, and CESQG Fees for fiscal year 2002/2003
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt resolution (Exhibit 1) setting the fee schedules for:
 - a. Solid waste handling and disposal fees at County facilities, per Attachment 1A, effective July 1, 2002, and
 - b. Solid waste collection rates in the unincorporated area, per Attachment 2B, effective July 1, 2002.
2. Adopt resolution (Exhibit 2) increasing the pull charge on unscheduled solid waste handling services, effective July 1, 2002.
3. Adopt resolution (Exhibit 3) setting the Parcel fee schedule for the Cuyama Valley area for fiscal year 2002/2003, effective July 1, 2002.
4. Accept the Public Works Department's Notice of Exemption pursuant to the County's California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines;

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. The Public Works Department has retained the services of R.W. Beck, a national consulting firm with considerable experience with solid waste systems, to assist with the development of a solid waste strategic business plan. One of the recommendations made by Beck consultants is to raise the clean green and clean wood waste rates at the South Coast Transfer Station and Foxen Canyon Landfill. Accordingly, Staff is proposing an increase in the fees for the collection of clean green and clean wood waste (See Attachment 1A). These rates haven't increased since FY 1999/2000 and are still significantly lower than the cost to dispose of trash in order to encourage diversion. Clean green waste accepted at the South Coast Transfer Station and Foxen Canyon Landfill would increase from the current \$22.00 per ton to \$28.00 per ton, with the minimum load increasing from \$7.50 to \$9.00 at the Transfer Station, and \$7.50 to \$8.50 at Foxen Canyon. Clean wood waste accepted at the South Coast Transfer Station would increase from the current \$32.00 per ton to \$35.00 per ton, with the minimum load increasing from \$8.00 to \$9.00. Clean wood waste accepted at the Foxen Canyon Landfill would increase from the current \$22.00 per ton to \$28.00 per ton, with the minimum load increasing from \$7.50 to \$8.50.

Additionally, The County Transfer Station has been collecting electronic waste from the public for several months. Recent changes in State law make it illegal to landfill cathode ray tubes (CRTs) typically found in computer monitors and televisions. In order to recover the cost of proper CRT disposal, staff is proposing a \$12.50 fee for each CRT collected. All other e-waste will continue to be accepted at no charge.

Collection Rates

The CPI that was used to adjust the rates this fiscal year is 2.8% and was calculated using the U.S. Department of Labor Los Angeles-Riverside CPI from March 2001 to March 2002. This CPI adjustment is only made on the portion of the rate that reimburses the haulers for the collection of waste materials.

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 collection for each zone.

Residential Rates

	2001/2002 rate	2002/2003 rate	Percent increase
Zone 1 (MarBorg: Carpinteria, Summerland, Montecito)			
High Density	\$32.52	\$33.18	2%
Low Density	\$43.82	\$44.76	2%
Zone 2 (BFI: Goleta north of Hollister)	\$25.25	\$25.75	2%
Zone 3 (MarBorg: Goleta South of Hollister)			
Goleta/Mission Canyon/IV	\$25.11	\$25.62	2%
Hope Ranch	\$32.88	\$33.58	2%
IV Multifamily	\$32.52	\$33.15	2%
Zone 4 (Health Sanitation Services: Lompoc Valley)	\$26.11	\$26.54	2%
Zone 5 (Health Sanitation Services)			
Santa Ynez	\$24.22	\$25.00	3.2%
Santa Maria	\$21.40	\$21.69	1.5%

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 and any increase in the disposal tipping fees.

Commercial Rates

	2001/2002 rate	2002/2003 rate	Percent Increase
Zone 1	\$97.94	\$99.50	2%
Zone 2	\$85.47	\$86.77	2%
Zone 3			
Regular	\$83.66	\$84.61	1%
Isla Vista	\$88.94	\$90.32	2%
Zone 4	\$83.44	\$84.60	1%
Zone 5			
Santa Ynez	\$107.87	\$113.91	6%
Santa Maria	\$97.05	\$98.08	1%

The six percent increase in Santa Ynez Valley commercial rates is due to an error in calculating the commercial rates for FY 2001/2002. Santa Ynez Valley waste is now direct hauled to the Tajiguas Landfill. The increased costs associated with direct hauling were distributed to FY 2001/2002 residential and commercial rates on a per pound or per cubic yard basis. An incorrect distribution of the direct haul costs to commercial bin rates for the Santa Ynez Valley in FY 2001/2002 resulted in Board approved rates that were lower than they should have been, resulting in the six percent increase this fiscal year.

Unscheduled Service Pull Charge

Staff is proposing to increase the pull-charge for unscheduled roll-off service from \$6.00 to \$12.00 per pull. Last year your Board authorized an increase in the unscheduled roll-off pull charge from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per pull. Subsequently, several of the franchised haulers notified the County that while they were having to charge their customers the 10% combined Franchise/Solid Waste Program Fee your Board authorized, unscheduled roll-off providers did not have to charge this to their customers, and therefore had an unfair competitive advantage. The proposed increase in pull charges is designed to equalize this imbalance.

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 2002/2003. 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 \$160,600.00. Current operating costs for the Cuyama and Ventucopa transfer stations, which together generate approximately 1,000 tons per year, is \$160.00 per ton. 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 integrated tip fee.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Fees

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG's) of hazardous materials are typically small businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month, including a maximum of 1 quart or 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste. CESQG's are eligible to use the Santa Barbara County Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center (CHWCC), located on the UCSB campus. CESQG's currently pay for the full cost of disposal, as well as a \$15.00 per visit user fee. An analysis conducted by Public Works Department and the Community Environmental Council showed that the disposal rates currently charged CESQG's do not cover the costs of running the program. Staff is recommending increasing the disposal rates for several materials currently accepted from CESQG's at the CHWCC, to cover a greater portion of the costs associated with this service, while not wanting to raise them too much to encourage illegal dumping. The proposed rate increases are summarized on Exhibit 4.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No changes to mandates and service levels are anticipated.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None.

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 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