



NOTICE CONCERNING PROPOSED SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING RATE ADJUSTMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**, a public hearing will be held at the City of Laguna Hills City Council Chambers located at 24035 El Toro Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 to consider proposed adjustments to the City's solid waste rates and charges. If approved by the City Council, the proposed rate adjustments will go into effect on July 1, 2022, and will be subject to annual adjustments for inflation.

WHY RATE ADJUSTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

All cities in the State, including Laguna Hills, face the most stringent solid waste legislation in California history under State Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383). For City residents and businesses to remain in compliance with this State Law, new organic waste services are necessary, none of which are funded by the State. Therefore, these services must be funded through the solid waste rates charged by the City's franchised waste hauler.

SB 1383 mandates that California reduce organic waste disposal in landfills by 50% by January 1, 2020, and 75% by January 1, 2025. Organic waste is defined to include green/yard waste and food waste. As a result, green/yard waste and food waste will no longer be able to be disposed of in landfills. It should be noted that the City has already implemented a residential green/yard waste recycling program and a commercial food waste recycling program under the current franchise agreement with CR&R and these services are currently in place.

The SB 1383 unfunded mandate will increase the costs of collection and processing of the waste stream in the City, which requires an increase in collection rates charged by the City's franchised waste hauler as shown in Table 1 on page 2. The City is fortunate to have very competitive rates among solid waste collection rates in the County.

PROPOSED SOLID WASTE RATES

The proposed initial maximum rates (Rates) for solid waste collection services will be considered by the City as part of an amendment to the Contract for the Collection and Transportation of Recyclable Materials to Processors for Diversion between the City of Laguna Hills and CR&R Incorporated (the Amended Agreement). The Amended Agreement will ensure the City will be in compliance with the State's SB 1383 requirements to implement organic waste recycling programs that includes a residential food waste recycling program.

The Rates include charges for automated curbside, bin collection, and roll-off box service. The Rates represent the estimated maximum amount CR&R may charge Rate payers as compensation due pursuant to the Amended Agreement for all labor, equipment, materials and supplies, taxes, insurance, bonds, letters of credit, overhead, disposal, transfer, processing, profit, and all other things necessary to perform all the services required by the Amended Agreement.

Single-Family dwellings with cart service will be charged a base rate, which includes a trash cart, a recycling cart, and an organics recycling cart. Commercial and Multi-Family customers with container (cart and/or bin) service are charged a monthly rate based on the number and size of containers, and the number of weekly pickups.

The Amended Agreement includes a clearly defined formula for adjusting the rates for inflation in labor, fuel, vehicle, insurance, and other operating costs as well as adopted increases in the wholesale cost of disposal. If approved, the initial rates will go into effect July 1, 2022. The residential and commercial rates are proposed to be automatically adjusted on October 1, 2023, pursuant to Section 53756 of the Government Code.

Table 1 on page 2 compares the current rates for typical residential and commercial services with those proposed for July 1, 2022. The entire rate schedule and rate adjustment formula can be viewed on the City's website at <https://www.ci.laguna-hills.ca.us/206/Trash-Recycling-Services>. For more information regarding the State's SB 1383 unfunded mandate please visit CalRecycle's website at <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp>.

Table 1. Proposed Solid Waste & Recycling Rates (per month)

	Residential: Cart	Commercial: Trash Bin *	Commercial: Recycling Bin *	Commercial: Food Waste Bin **
Current Rate	\$15.55	\$124.10	\$52.39	\$44.34
July 1, 2022	\$20.05	\$129.29	\$54.39	\$46.07
October 1, 2023	Adjusted for inflation in accordance to Amended Agreement			
*	Commercial and Multi-Family 3 Cubic Yard Bin serviced with 1 pickup per week.			
**	Commercial and Multi-Family 2 Cubic Yard Bin serviced with 1 pickup per week. Food waste recycling service already established.			

PUBLIC HEARING AND PROTEST PROCEEDINGS

Property owners, as defined under Proposition 218, may protest the proposed rate adjustment in writing prior to or during the public hearing. Consistent with the provisions of Proposition 218 and Government Code Section 53755, this notice has been mailed to all record owners of the affected properties at the addresses as they appear on the latest equalized assessment roll. If you are a property owner as defined under Proposition 218 and object to the proposed rates as described in this Notice, you may file a written protest with the City at or before the time set for the public hearing. Original written protests can be mailed or personally delivered to the City Clerk as follows:

City Clerk
 City of Laguna Hills
 24035 El Toro Rd.
 Laguna Hills, CA 92653

A valid written protest must include:

1. The name of the record owner or owners of the property; and
2. Identification of the property by either assessor's parcel number or street address; and
3. A statement of protest ("I/we protest" will suffice); and
4. The original signature of the protesting owner or owners (photocopies, electronic mail, electronic copies, e-comments, or facsimiles will not be accepted).

Please note that each property owner will be counted as a single vote, regardless of the number of owners. If there are two record owners, both must sign the written protest. If there are more than two owners, the protest must be signed by a majority of the owners. Multiple protests returned for a single property will be disallowed and the City Clerk will only accept one protest per property.

The City Clerk will determine the validity of all protests submitted and exclude any invalid protests from the final tabulation. The City Clerk may confer with the City Attorney in determining the validity of written protests. As part of this process, the City Attorney may view contested or suspect protest forms. The City Clerk's decision shall be final and binding.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice or the proposed rate adjustments, or would like even more detailed information, please call contact David Reynolds at (949) 707-2685.