

PLUMAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SOLID WASTE DIVISION


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Robert A. Perreault, Jr., P.E., Director of Public Works, Heidi H. Putnam, Solid Waste Manager

AGENDA REQUEST

for the June 16, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

June 8, 2020

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Robert Perreault, Director of Public Works 

Subject: Consideration of a proposed Rate Increase of 3.30% (residential) and 3.30% (commercial) for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor USA Waste of California, Inc., doing business as Feather River Disposal.

PREFACE:

The primary purpose of this Agenda Request, in compliance with Proposition 218, is to enable the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1. Receive a report and recommendations from the Department of Public Works pertaining to a Rate Increase of 3.30% (residential) and 3.30% (commercial) for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor Feather River Disposal, A Division of USA Waste of California, Inc..*
- 2. Enable commentary by the franchise contractor, Feather River Disposal.*
- 3. Open a Public Hearing and enable commentary by the general public and other governmental officials, if any. Receive and tabulate any written protests against the proposed fees by customers. Close Public Hearing.*
- 4. Consider the adoption of the attached proposed Resolution to Increase Rates by 3.30% (residential) and 3.30% (commercial) for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor USA Waste of California, Inc., doing business as Feather River Disposal (FRD).*

BACKGROUND:

2018:

For the time period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, Public Works staff, with the assistance of R3 Consulting Group, calculated a cumulative rate increase of 17.22% (residential) and 9.53% (commercial) for solid waste services related to collection fees, for door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor USA Waste of California, Inc., doing business as Feather River Disposal.

On August 6, 2019, the Director of Public Works recommended a 17.22% rate increase for residential collection, and 9.53% rate increase (commercial collection). The Board of Supervisors adopted the Rate Increase Resolution for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor USA Waste of California, Inc., doing business as Feather River Disposal. Resolution No. 19-8421, may be viewed on the Plumas County website at: <https://ca-plumascounty2.civicplus.com/2616/17509/Public-Documents>

2019:

On or about March 15, 2020, Feather River Disposal submitted an Audited Financial Statement for the Period Ending December 31, 2019. Public Works staff reviewed the audited financial statement and subsequently forwarded the documentation to the County's solid waste consultant, the R3 Consulting Group (R3), requesting that R3 apply the Refuse Rate Increase (RRI) procedure, as set forth in the replacement Franchise Agreement that took effect on April 1, 2017. The R3 Consulting Group reviewed the audited financial statement and concluded that FRD was entitled to a solid waste fee increase in the amount of 3.30%.

PROPOSED RATE INCREASE SUMMARY FOR FRD:

The cumulative proposed fee increases described above are summarized as follows:

- 3.30% (residential collection) and
- 3.30% (commercial collection) and
- 3.30% (residential and commercial customers self-hauling to transfer stations).

Note: This Agenda Request does not pertain to the transfer stations, as the proposed 3.30% rate increase considered and approved by the Board of Supervisors at the June 16, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting.

CONSIDERATION BY THE SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE

On June 11, 2020, the Plumas County Integrated Waste Management Task Force will conduct a Solid Waste Task Force Meeting to consider these proposed fee increase matters and develop “advice” for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. On June 11, 2020, the Solid Waste Task Force will vote for, or against, recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The outcome, and recommendations of the Solid Waste Task Force meeting, will be made public, at the public hearing scheduled for June 16, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On April 24, 2020, Plumas County Public Works, Solid Waste Division implemented the public notification actions associated with the Proposition 218 proposed Rate Increase for disposal of solid waste as operated by franchise contractor Feather River Disposal, A Division of USA Waste of California, Inc. (serving Franchise Area No. 1) for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities, and directed Public Works staff to implement the notification actions associated with Prop. 218. On May 1, 2020, the franchise contractor, Feather River Disposal mailed notices of a public hearing to 2,712 customers and property owners paying fees for residential and commercial customers under contract for curbside pickup and disposal of solid waste that detailed proposed rate adjustments and provided internet links to a listing of pertinent rate increase-related documents.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

In addition to the enclosures listed below, the following documents are pertinent to this Rate Increase:

- Resolution No. 19-8421 dated and, approved at the public hearing held August 6, 2019
- 2019 FRD Audited Financial Statements
- 2020 Refuse Rate Index (RRI) Adjustments, Dated April 5, 2020
- FRD Proposed 2020 Rate Adjustment – Exhibit A

Copies of the above documents are available for public viewing, during normal office hours, at:

- Department of Public Works Headquarters Building
1834 E Main Street, Quincy, CA 95971,
between the hours of 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday, or
- Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
520 Main Street, Room # 309, Quincy, CA 95971,
between the hours of 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday, or

- May be viewed on the Plumas County website at:
<https://ca-plumascounty2.civicplus.com/2616/17509/Public-Documents>

RESOLUTION OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

For the time period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, Public Works staff, with the assistance of R3 Consulting Group, has calculated a proposed cumulative rate increase of 3.30% for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor USA Waste of California, Inc., doing business as “Feather River Disposal”.

It is noted that the last rate increase authorized for FRD for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities was approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 6, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Director of Public Works respectfully recommends that, unless it is determined that there are timely written protests by *greater than* fifty percent of current collection route customers, the Board of Supervisors vote to adopt the attached, proposed Rate Increase Resolution for solid waste services related to collection fees, which shall cover door-to-door collection, transfer, hauling and ultimate disposal activities (within Franchise Area No. 1), as operated by franchise contractor USA Waste of California, Inc., doing business as “Feather River Disposal”.

ATTACHMENTS:

- NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: (2,712 Copies mailed May 1, 2020)
- Proposed Resolution for Collections Rate Increase for Franchise Service Area No. 1