



Public Hearing of Solid Waste Rate Increases for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031

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AGENDA



- Background
- Rate study and proposed rates
- Rate assistance program
- Protests
- Recommendation
- Next steps





BACKGROUND

- Feb. 24 Staff presented an informational item to update the City Council on the Solid Waste 5-Year Rate Study.
- March 10 Staff recommended solid waste rate increases for the next five fiscal years.
- March 16 Proposition 218 notices were mailed out. Due to errors, however, the notices had to be mailed out again which required rescheduling of the public hearing.
- May 12 Staff recommended that the City Council open the public hearing, receive and consider comments as part of the public record, take no final action on the proposed solid waste rates, and continue the public hearing to June 9.

RATE STUDY



- Strategy to fund on-going operations
 - Solid waste collection
 - Management of landfill at Bedwell Bayfront Park
- Based on a cost-of-service analysis that meets Prop. 218 requirements
 - Rate revenue does not exceed the cost required to provide the service
- Recommended the revenue needed for operations and rate stability
- Recommended the rates for next five years



PROPOSED RATES

- Single-family (1-4 units) bundled rates
 - 6% increases effective annually July 1, 2026 – 2030
 - Averaging an additional \$3 to \$4 per month
 - *No changes to rates for additional carts*
- Multi-family (>4 units) and commercial garbage rates
 - 1 cubic yard and less – annual increases from 0.04% to 4.72%
 - *No changes to rates for 2 cubic yards or more*
- Multi-family (>4 units) and commercial recycling rates
 - Annual increases ranging 3.86% to 5.07%
- Multi-family (>4 units) and commercial organics rates
 - Less than 1 cubic yard – annual increases from 0% to 5%
 - 1 cubic yard and more – annual increases from 0.19% to 6%

RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



- On Dec. 8, 2020, the City Council approved a rate assistance pilot program to provide discounts to qualified households.
 - 50% on the monthly fixed meter charge for Menlo Park Municipal Water customers
 - 20% monthly discount for Recology customers
 - Funded by the General Fund and renewed by City Council annually
- This fiscal year
 - Budgeted \$15,000
 - Provided \$10,345 in discounts for 99 households
 - Eligible households – 30% Area Median Income





PROTESTS

- Written protests may be submitted up to the close of the public hearing.
- After the City Council closes the public hearing:
 - The City Clerk will provide a final number of protests received.
 - If the number of protests received is more than 50% of the total parcels served (10,398), there would be a “majority protest.”
 - The City would not be authorized to approve the proposed rates under Prop. 218, if there was a “majority protest.”

RECOMMENDATION

Consider adoption of a resolution:

- Approving maximum increases in rates for the collection, processing, and disposal of waste, recycling, and compost materials for all customers effective July 1, 2026, with annual adjustments each July 1 for 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030

NEXT STEPS

- Receive protests and close the public hearing.
- Receive City Council direction.
- With rates approved:
 - Staff would update the solid waste rates webpage and work with Recology on updating rates.
 - New rates become effective and then adjust annually for the next five fiscal years July 1.



Thank you