

Potential Waste Management Fee Increase Statement

State Requirements Force Waste Collection Fee Increase in Lancaster; Public Hearing Rescheduled for July 26

Due to a newly implemented state law, Senate Bill 1383, the City of Lancaster is being forced to raise solid waste collection fees. The new state law requires that all organic materials be separated and recycled, which is more expensive than simply sending organic materials to landfills.

During the Lancaster City Council Meeting on July 12, 2022, a Public Hearing was scheduled to adopt a resolution approving the increased fees. The Council did not have a quorum due to an unforeseen family emergency, and the Public Hearing was continued. The continuation of the Public Hearing is now scheduled to take place during a Special Meeting on July 26.

“This rate increase comes as a result of the state’s far-reaching regulation that requires recycling food waste. We tried everything possible to waive or delay this requirement in Lancaster, but we can’t get out of it, and if we don’t comply, then the City would face state fines of \$10,000 a day,” said Vice Mayor Marvin Crist. “We’ve worked to keep rates as low as possible for our residents, negotiating with WM for a rate increase that is less than the regional average.”

The base rate for solid waste collection for a single-family dwelling to provide basic three-cart service is going up to about \$450 a year, or \$37.55 a month. Instead of a quarterly bill from WM (formerly Waste Management), customers will be billed annually as part of their Los Angeles County property tax bills.

“With the solid waste collection fee as part of the tax roll, residents will have the option of itemizing and deducting the fee as part of their taxes – another way to help make this change less costly for residents,” Vice Mayor Crist said. “It will also ensure that all properties pay their fair share, lessening the impact of illegal dumping.”

The Lancaster City Council approved a resolution on May 24, 2022, to amend the City’s existing agreement with WM. Under Proposition 218, the City was required to mail a public hearing notice to all serviced parcel owners about 45 days before the July 12 hearing.

The new solid waste collection fees will go into effect immediately, and the fee will be collected on tax rolls beginning July 2022.

For additional information about SB 1383, please visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp