



**Notice to Property Owners of Public Hearing Regarding  
Proposed Solid Waste Rate Changes  
Hearing Date & Time: April 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hearing Location: Tulare Public Library and Council Chambers  
475 North M Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

**Why are you receiving this Notice?**

The City of Tulare (the “City”) is mailing this notice to you because you are a solid waste customer directly liable for payment of solid waste service fees, or are the owner of record of a property that receives solid waste services. This notice describes proposed **rate changes** to be assessed to recover the cost of providing solid waste service to City customers, and provides notice of a public hearing to be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regarding these proposed changes.

Monthly solid waste service fees are the primary source of revenue used to pay for all aspects of the solid waste operations that provide services to customers. Expenses for these services include, but are not limited to, operations and maintenance, debt service, major and minor capital improvements, administration, as well as costs related to prudent long-term operational, capital planning, and financial management of the systems. Financial management would include maintaining adequate fund reserves and planning for contingencies.

**Why are Rate Increases needed?**

The City of Tulare is committed to providing high quality, reliable solid waste service at the lowest possible rates for its citizens. It is critically important for the City to continually maintain, repair, and improve the assets it holds and to keep pace with ever increasing operating costs. In recent years, the City has grown and taken on additional customers. The primary landfill previously used has been closed, causing longer tonnage deliveries to a landfill site further away. The City has absorbed the additional service impacts of growth and increased landfill travel without expanding staffing to address these impacts, or increase rates to address the costs related to these impacts. These costs include labor to service increased route sizes, longer landfill trips, and increased maintenance and fuel costs. In addition, the daily operations of solid waste have negatively impacted the quality of the City’s streets. This is an expense that was never fully identified or funded in the past, but has now been identified, and it has been proposed that it be included as an operating cost for solid waste.

The proposed rates will be used to ensure that the utility collects sufficient revenue to cover fixed expenses, to fund capital improvements, and to increase reserves used to fund ongoing repair and replacement of the solid waste operations in order to maintain reliable service in future years.

Over the next five years, the City plans to make operational and capital improvements to the solid waste operations. The proposed rates will help implement these improvements. These improvements include increasing staffing to meet the City’s growth since the previous rate increases in 2011, funding city street maintenance to combat the negative impact solid waste has on city streets, and increasing operational efficiencies by implementing technological improvements to solid waste.

The proposed rates are calculated using the costs associated with providing residential solid waste and street sweeping services. These costs include, but are not limited to, operations, maintenance, and required repairs and/or replacement and operations expansion. Beginning in July 1, 2021 and carrying forward annually, rates for Residential, Commercial and Roll Off services will be increased by a percentage based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These increases are to keep rates in line with inflationary increases. The CPI increases are currently estimated at 3% and are based on the City’s regional location within the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**What do the new rates look like?**

Table 1 below identifies the Residential, Commercial, Roll-Off and Street Sweeping rate increases that are currently set to be assessed beginning on July 1, 2018 for solid waste service. All of these rate increases will take effect in the future without further notice to you and without further legislative action. The proposed rates, if approved, will be implemented annually on the first day of the same month each fiscal year after the first rate goes into effect (presently

proposed by staff for July 1, 2018 but subject to approval during the hearing process). Attachment 2 provides the projected rates for the next five (5) years based on the annual rate adjustments listed in Table 1. provides the proposed rates as of July 1, 2018.

**Table 1  
Proposed Annual Rate Adjustments**

<b>RATE ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>FY 18/19</b>	<b>FY 19/20</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>	<b>FY 21/22*</b>	<b>FY 22/23*</b>
Residential Garbage Rates	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	CPI	CPI
Commercial Garbage Rates	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%	CPI	CPI
Roll Off Garbage Rates	14.0%	5.0%	0.0%	CPI	CPI
Street Sweeping Rates	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

\*CPI is estimated at 3%

**How do you file a Protest or Participate in the Public Hearing?**

Any property owner of a parcel subject to City solid waste service fees or any tenant directly responsible for the payment of solid waste service fees (i.e., a customer of record) may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. Property owners who own multiple properties and wish to submit a protest letter may list all of their properties with the respective parcel numbers within one letter and each individual parcel will be counted as one protest, provided there are no other letters received for that parcel.

**Every written protest MUST include ALL of the following to be counted:**

- (1) A statement that the identified property owner or customer of record is in opposition to the proposed rate changes;**
- (2) The location of the identified parcel, including the street address or assessor’s parcel number (APN);**
- (3) The name and signature of the property owner or customer of record submitting the protest.**

Written protests may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk at 411 East Kern Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274, in person to the City Clerk, or at the Public Hearing (date and time noted above). Regardless of how the written protest is submitted, it must be received by the City prior to the conclusion of the public comment portion of the Public Hearing. Any protest submitted via e-mail, fax, or any other electronic means will not be accepted. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any written protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed protest is for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Rate Changes - Solid Waste Service Fees.

The Board of Public Utilities Commissioners will hear and consider all written and oral protests to the proposed rate changes at the Public Hearing. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. Once the Public Hearing is closed, written protests will no longer be accepted, and no further testimony will be allowed. Following the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners will consider adopting the proposed rate changes for solid waste service described in this notice. If written protests against the proposed rates, as outlined above, are not presented by a majority of property owners or customers of record, the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners will be authorized to impose the proposed rates and request that the City Council approve the rates by way of resolution or ordinance. If adopted, the rates for solid waste will take effect on July 1, 2018, and will be reflected in the bill you receive in August of 2018.

If you have any questions about the proposed rate changes or would like to see more information about data used for the study, please contact Benjamin Siegel at (559) 684-4382 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional information and documents related to the proposed rate changes can be found on the City of Tulare’s website at [www.tulare.ca.gov](http://www.tulare.ca.gov).