



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Hearing to consider rate adjustments for Wilderness Garbage and Recycling, Cascade Disposal, Bend Garbage and Recycling, High Country Disposal and Deschutes Transfer Company

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

First, hold a public hearing; thereafter, consider approval of Board Order No. 2025-025 to provide for a 3% rate adjustment for residential, curbside waste and recyclables collection services provided to residents in unincorporated Deschutes County Cascade Disposal and a 4.7% increase for Republic Services (Wilderness Disposal, Bend Garbage and Recycling, High Country Disposal, and Deschutes Transfer Company).

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Franchise Waste and Recyclables Collection Services & Deschutes Transfer

Deschutes County contracts for the collection of waste and recyclables in the unincorporated county through franchises granted to Cascade Disposal (a subsidiary of Waste Connections) and three other franchises granted to Wilderness Garbage and Recycling, Bend Garbage and Recycling and High Country Disposal (operated by Republic Services).

All four franchisees approached the Solid Waste Department with rate increase requests for FY26. Three percent (3%) of the rate increases are driven primarily by the pass-through cost increase in the per ton disposal fee increases charged at Knott Landfill beginning July 1, 2025. After several negotiation/discussion sessions with Cascade Disposal and Republic Services, it was determined that 3% and 4.7% rate increases were appropriate and reasonable for waste and recyclables collection services in unincorporated Deschutes County.

Additional Services Approval

Both franchise haulers have been providing additional services to residents and commercial businesses which have been increasing over the years alongside the basic services that have traditionally been approved by the Board of County Commissioners. These services include debris box collections, additional frequency of collections, on-call services, and/or extra materials outside of the containers as examples. Since these services

are subject to the 5% Franchise Fee for all services provided under their respective collective franchise agreements, staff is requesting approval of all fees assessed by Cascade Disposal and Republic Services for all the services that they provide. This will provide transparency for their customers. This practice is being adopted by the Cities of Bend and Redmond this year as well.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

There are no budget impacts for the franchise collection service rate adjustments. Funds have been budgeted in the FY26 Solid Waste Operating Budget for the Deschutes Transfer rate increase.

ATTENDANCE:

Tim Brownell, Director of Solid Waste