



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Update on amendments to the Waste Management Franchise Agreement tied to state-mandated implementation of SB 1383, AB 341, and AB 1826 (Recycling and Organic Waste programs)

CEQA: Not a project.

Recommendation: That Council provide general input and direction to staff.

Prepared by: Zac Quentmeyer, Deputy Public Works Director

Council Meeting Date: 3/26/2024

Date Prepared: 3/21/2024

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: In October of 2022, City staff updated Council on contract amendment negotiations with Waste Management (WM) related to the implementation of SB 1383. At the time Waste Management provided a proposed rate schedule for implementing additional collection services for residential and commercial customers. The rate proposal included a bundled residential rate structure where if residents sign up for residential Waste Management services, they automatically receive and pay for three carts (garbage, recycling, and organics). Residents would also have an option to apply for a waiver and choose to self-haul, opting out of all WM services. However, the proposed rate structure did not provide an option for a customer to sign up for garbage and recycling services while opting out of organic services if they compost their yard waste and food scraps. The council directed staff to continue working with Waste Management to explore additional rate structures for those residents who choose to self-compost instead of paying for collection services.

Over the last year, a committee of staff and council members have met on and off with Waste Management staff to review a variety of rate structure options. These options included variations of 3 and 4 cart systems with options for mandatory and opt out services. Ultimately, it was determined that implementing a 4-cart system where customers receive a separate cart for yard waste and food waste would lead to dramatically higher rates. This was largely due to the cost associated with processing, labor and vehicles.

In October of 2023, the committee was introduced to a solid waste model implemented in Portland, Oregon where garbage is collected every other week instead of weekly. Organic waste would be picked up weekly. The basic concept behind this model is that that about 30% of residential garbage is food waste. Thus, if residents deposit food

waste in their organics cart, they should have less garbage and less slimy smelly waste in their garbage, making biweekly pick up manageable. Many residents would likely need to increase the size of their garbage cart under this model. Below are some pros and cons staff has identified with this concept:

Pros

1. Keep rates low. Garbage and organic services would flip flop, garbage being collected biweekly, and organics would switch to weekly service.
2. Encourage customers to use their organics cart for their food scraps which is the intent of SB 1383. If customers know their garbage cart will only be picked up every other week, they will be more likely to use their organics cart for food waste to reduce odors and maximize the capacity of their garbage cart.
3. No increase in the number of trucks on the road.

Cons

1. Potential contamination of recycling and organics. If customers run out of room in their garbage can, they may choose to add non recyclables to their recycling or non-organics to their organics.
2. Potential additional overage charges. If customers are regularly overfilling their garbage carts, they may be subject to overages charges levied by Waste Management.
3. Heavier garbage carts for customers. The average size and weight of the garbage carts will likely increase for most customers, making it more difficult for those with mobility issues to get their cart to the curb.

Staff is requesting council to provide direction on whether to continue to investigate a biweekly garbage service model.

Council Goals/Objectives: There are no specific goals or objectives that support the implementation of this mandate.

Fiscal Impact: The implementation of SB 1383 is an unfunded state-mandate and requires the City to dedicate staff and general fund money.

Funds Available: Implementation requires the City to fund this effort.

Account #: General Fund

Reviewed by: City Manager

Attachments: CalRecycle overview of SB 1383