



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

CITY HALL

CITY OF SONORA 94 N. WASHINGTON STREET, SONORA, CA 95370 P: (209) 532-4541
SERVICE, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, RESPECT, LEADERSHIP

DATE: October 6, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Carlye Buchholz, P.E., P.L.S., City Engineer

SUBJECT: Consider Approval of the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement to California Waste Recovery Systems, LLC (Cal-Waste) for Subscription-Based Solid Waste, Recycling, and Green Waste Collection and Management Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider Approval of the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement to California Waste Recovery Systems, LLC (Cal-Waste) for Subscription-Based Solid Waste, Recycling, and Green Waste Collection and Management Services.

BACKGROUND:

Effective solid waste collection is essential for maintaining public health, preventing pollution, and ensuring a clean and attractive environment. The average household generates between 60-90 gallons of trash, 30-60 gallons of recyclables, and 30-90 gallons of green waste per week. A well-managed waste collection system reduces illegal dumping, minimizes fire hazards, and controls pests, all of which contribute to a safer community.

As the City of Sonora (City) approaches the expiration of its current contract with Cal Sierra Disposal, a Waste Management (WM) Company, for solid waste (i.e., garbage and recyclables) collection, City staff have been evaluating ways in which to maximize the City's benefits associated with solid waste management.

On July 22, 2025, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit competitive bids and proposals for solid waste, recycling, and green waste collection and management services in the City.

On September 2, 2025, the City Council issued approval to negotiate with the highest-ranked proposer, California Waste Recovery Systems, LLC (Cal-Waste), for subscription-based solid waste, recycling, and green waste collection and management services.

On September 15, 2025, the City Council reviewed the negotiated rates proposed by Cal-Waste and provided direction to: (1) begin public outreach regarding the new contract; (2) proceed with the transition to Cal-Waste as the City's solid waste provider; (3) authorize the City Administrator to negotiate additional service options; (4) initiate the Proposition 218 process; and (5) establish a dedicated fund to account for franchise fee revenues generated under the new agreement. Staff recommend naming this fund the **Solid Waste Franchise Fund** to ensure transparency and facilitate tracking of revenues associated with the contract.



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FISCAL IMPACT:

The new contract with Cal-Waste will increase the franchise fee rate from 2% to 6% of gross revenues for garbage, recycling, and green waste services. This adjustment is projected to raise the City's annual franchise fee revenue from approximately \$50,000 to \$148,000. The additional revenue will be deposited into the General Fund and will be available to support general municipal operations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Cal-Waste Solid Waste Franchise Agreement
- Sonora Rates Addendum
- County Occupied Properties

CORE COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Responsibility and Stability, Infrastructure and Engineering, Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness, Economic Development/Growth and General Plan, Homelessness Issues, Staffing - Salary, Benefits, Training, and Retention