



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

CITY HALL

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CITY OF SONORA 94 N. WASHINGTON STREET, SONORA, CA 95370 P: (209) 532-4541

*SERVICE, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, RESPECT, LEADERSHIP*

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**DATE:** October 5, 2026

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Chris Gorsky, City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Cal-Waste Recovery Systems 2026 Annual Service Update and Contractual Rate Adjustment.

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## RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the 2026 Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Service Presentation from Cal-Waste Recovery Systems and Information Regarding the 2026 Annual Contractual Rate Adjustment Effective November 1, 2026.  
(This item is informational; no City Council action is required.)

## 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.

Cal-Waste Recovery Systems serves as the City of Sonora's exclusive recycling and solid waste service provider. As part of its annual update to the City Council, Cal-Waste has provided information regarding residential and commercial collection services, annual collection volumes, customer accounts, additional services provided to the community, and the annual service rate adjustment.

Residential collection currently includes trash service utilizing 35-, 65-, or 95-gallon carts, along with 95-gallon recycling and 65-gallon organics carts. Recycling and organics collection are provided biweekly.

## DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:

Cal-Waste is serving a total of 1,618 customers within the City of Sonora, consisting of 1,336 residential customers and 282 commercial customers. The annual update reports a total of 3,348 tons collected, consisting of:

| Material       | Tons Collected |
|----------------|----------------|
| Trash          | 2,708          |
| Recycling      | 435            |
| Mixed Organics | 205            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3,348</b>   |



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In addition to regular collection services, Cal-Waste reports providing 67 Handy Hauler services and 32 bulky-item pickups year to date.

## Annual Service Rate Adjustment

Pursuant to the City's agreement with Cal-Waste, the contractor has calculated a 4.87% CPI annual rate adjustment, for the service period beginning November 1, 2026, and ending October 31, 2027. The proposed Residential monthly rates are as follows:

| Cart Size | Current Monthly Rate | New Monthly Rate | Monthly Increase |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 35 Gallon | \$33.26              | \$34.88          | \$1.62           |
| 65 Gallon | \$50.96              | \$53.44          | \$2.48           |
| 95 Gallon | \$66.80              | \$70.05          | \$3.25           |

The proposed Commercial monthly rates are as follows:

| Cart Size | Current Monthly Rates | New Monthly Rate | Monthly Increase |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 35 Gallon | \$49.49               | \$51.88          | \$2.41           |
| 65 Gallon | \$65.94               | \$69.15          | \$3.21           |
| 95 Gallon | \$77.71               | \$81.49          | \$3.78           |

Rate increases are built into the City's contract with Cal Waste and take effect annually in November.

Cal-Waste also participates in and supports a variety of Sonora-area community events and organizations. The 2026 presentation identifies activities including Trick or Treat Street, America Recycles Day, the Historic Downtown Christmas Parade, Christmas Tree Lane, the Children's Holiday Party, Sonora Softball League, Tuolumne County Recreation Department's Touch-a-Truck, Sierra Repertory Theatre, and the Mother Lode Fair.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

The adjustment increases rates paid directly by residential and commercial customers to Cal-Waste. The City receives a franchise fee equal to 6% of gross revenue collected by Cal-Waste. If customer counts, service levels, and collections remain consistent, the rate adjustment is expected to produce a corresponding increase in franchise fee revenue.



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## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Presentation of 2026 Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Service Update and Annual Rate Adjustment

## **CORE COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

Fiscal Responsibility and Stability, Infrastructure and Engineering