

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SOLID WASTE RATES

The City of Hughson (“City”) Council will hold a public hearing to consider proposed increases in rates and charges for garbage, recycling, and organic waste services (“Proposed Rates”). Interested parties are invited to attend.

Date: **November 22, 2021**
Time: **6:00 PM**
Location: **City Council Chambers**
7018 Pine Street, Hughson, CA 95326

This Notice Describes:

- Introduction;
- How you can participate;
- How to get more information;
- Reasons for the Proposed Rate changes;
- Basis of the Proposed Rate increase; and
- Amount of proposed garbage, recycling, and organic waste rates.

Introduction

The safe, environmentally sound, and reliable garbage, recycling, and organic waste collection, transportation, and disposal or processing services are fundamentally important to the health and safety of Hughson residents. In recent years, State and Federal solid waste diversion and recycling regulations have changed and our City must comply with them. No State or Federal funds are available to cities to meet these new regulatory demands. The City has an exclusive franchise solid waste agreement with Gilton Solid Waste Management to collect garbage, recyclables, organic waste, bulky items, and illegal dumps within the city limits.

The Proposed Rates will help the City provide safe and reliable garbage, recycling, and organic waste collection services as mandated by the State. The City relies entirely on customer revenues to provide these services. No local, State or Federal taxes offset the cost of these services.

The Proposed Rates generate only the estimated revenue needed to cover actual costs of the garbage, recycling, and organic waste mandated services.

How Can I Participate?

Interested parties can comment on the Proposed Rates. California law prohibits the City from implementing the new rates if representatives of a majority of affected properties file written protests opposing the rates before the end of the public hearing. Either the owner of a property or the customer receiving garbage, recycling, and organic waste services at a property may submit a protest. Written protests must be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office before the end of the public hearing, which is scheduled for November 22, 2021. Written protests may be hand delivered or mailed to the City Clerk’s Office at the following address or delivered at the November 22, 2021 public hearing up until the hearing is closed:

**City of Hughson
City Clerk Office
PO Box 9
Hughson CA 95326**

Each protest must identify the affected property (by assessor’s parcel number or street address) and include the signature of a record property owner or the current occupant of the property who pays the utility bill. Email protests will not be accepted. Although oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest, the City Council welcomes input from the community during the public hearing. Only one protest per affected property will be counted. If you submit a written protest, please ensure that it states whether it is a protest of the solid waste fees. If you mail the written protest, it must be received by the City Clerk before the close of the public hearing item on November 22, 2021 City Council meeting.

How Can I Get More Information?

If you have any questions regarding the hearing, the Proposed Rates, or how to file a protest, please contact (209) 883-4054 or e-mail agose@hughson.org.

Reasons for the Proposed Rate Changes

The Proposed Rate increase is necessary to continue to provide safe, environmentally sound, and reliable solid waste, recycling, and organic waste collection, transportation and disposal or processing services to the citizens of the City.

Several factors have contributed to these increased costs, including, but not limited to:

- the rising costs associated with the processing of recycling materials;
- increased costs associated with purchase, operation and fuel for vehicles;
- increased labor costs;
- costs associated with the implementation of an Organics Program mandated by California Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826) and Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383).

AB 1826 and SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to develop a program to divert organic waste from landfills to an authorized composting facility. Organic waste is food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, and nonhazardous wood waste.

Basis of the Proposed Rate Increase

Total Proposed rate increase is based on the following cost increases and State mandates:

1. The increase in cost for garbage collection are due to increased processing of garbage, recyclables, and organics due to the Organics Program mandated by the State of California.
2. Additional increase in costs for garbage collection are due to increases in operations that include vehicles, equipment, maintenance, fuel, labor, and tipping fees.

Commencing on January 1, 2022, the scheduled increases will begin. Annually, commencing on January 1, 2024, a maximum of 3% COLA increase will occur on January 1st of each of the remaining 7 years.

Current and future rates are listed on the attached rate sheet.

