



## CITY OF RIDGECREST

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Subject: City of Ridgecrest proposes to implement bi-weekly collection of solid waste materials with the new implementation of weekly organics collection.

To comply with SB 1383, which requires all generators to be provided organics collection services, the City has been negotiating with the current sanitation contractor [Waste Management] to increase collection services to customers in order to comply. This increase in collection service will cause a rate increase to our residents. The City of Ridgecrest is proposing to transition the collection schedule of solid waste that is destined for landfill disposal from weekly to bi-weekly with the implementation of weekly organics collection. We believe this proposal would benefit our community by minimizing rate increases to consumers and encouraging compliance with waste sorting requirements.

- **Offset to Rate Increases:** Consumers are more likely to comply with a program that offsets rate increases. According to an estimate provided Waste Management (WM), offering bi-weekly collection of garbage rather than weekly collection would reduce the necessary rate adjustment by half [53.8% compared to 26.5%].
- **Encourage Compliance:** By reducing the collection frequency of solid waste from weekly to bi-weekly with the concurrent introduction of weekly organic collection, residents are more likely to be mindful when source-separating materials for collection. If solid waste collection remains at a weekly frequency, generators are less likely to change current habits of disposal leading to higher occurrences of contamination or non-compliance..

Through negotiations with WM, the City has developed the following measures to ensure compliance with the proposed collection service schedule:

- **Education & Outreach:** WM will be responsible for providing a SB 1383 starter-kit to all customers, which will include a service guide containing information on proper source-separating of waste and a counter top organics kitchen pail to prevent contamination and notices of non-compliance.
- **Quarterly route reviews:** WM will perform route reviews on a quarterly basis using SmartTruck technology to capture and record instances of contamination or non-compliance. Non-compliant entities will be identified, further education & outreach will be provided, and enforcement action will be taken if the violations are not corrected.
- **Increase Code Enforcement:** The City plans to hire an additional Code Enforcement Officer that will be responsible for assisting in monitoring contamination & violations in sanitation services and issuing citations for non-compliant entities.

The City identified the following potential public health concerns regarding the proposed collection frequency: (1) Odors & Pests; (2) Putrescent Solid Waste; (3) Missed Collections. To offset any potential adverse effects to public and environmental health with the implementation of this program the City of Ridgecrest has developed the following mitigation measures:

**Education & Outreach for Best Disposal Practices:** The City, through W/M, will provide outreach and education to consumers regarding how to properly dispose of solid waste materials for bi-weekly collection. As the majority of putrescent waste will be collected on weekly basis in the organics stream, focus will be given to potentially problematic waste such as pet waste & sanitary products.

**Pet Waste:** Considering that Ridgecrest is a high-desert region, moisture content for such waste products is lost quickly, which reduces the likelihood of odor issues. The City will recommend a “double-bagging” protocol for consumers to help contain odors and prevent the reproduction of pests, such as fly larvae. The use of plastic bags will provide a physical barrier to prevent egg-laying while the reduction in oxygen and retention of heat will kill developing larvae & pupae.

**Diapers & Sanitary Products:** As with pet waste, the City will recommend a “double-bagging” protocol for these materials to reduce odors & pest reproduction. For consumers that generate a ‘higher-than-average’ amount of these products, W/M will provide an additional drop-off bin, to be emptied at least every 48 hours, at their corporate yard for generators who elect to self-haul these materials.

**Missed Collections:** A primary concern for the bi-weekly collection of garbage is the occurrence of missed collections, which would result in garbage remaining on site for a month-long period. In addition to regularly scheduled collections, residents will be able to self-haul materials to the W/M Yard Drop-Off Bin/Ridgecrest landfill during operational hours.

The City of Ridgecrest’s goal is to be in compliance with applicable State laws and minimize rate impacts on residents. The City and W/M believe through extensive public education and a consistent monitoring program that these goals can be achieved while mitigating any potential public health concerns.

Thank you for your time in consideration of this proposal. We look forward to hearing your feedback.

Sincerely,



Ron Strand  
City Manager  
City of Ridgecrest, California