

July 18, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits an ordinance that will increase the King County Solid Waste Division basic fee for the disposal of municipal solid waste for the first time since 2013. The proposed fee is lower than was originally projected in the last rate plan for 2017-2018; the average effect on single-family curbside customers would be about \$0.94 cents per month, representing a five percent increase on a \$20 monthly bill. The Executive Proposed Solid Waste Disposal Fees for 2017-2018 document is attached.

The proposed basic fee of \$137.75 per ton will enable the division to sustain current services, repay debt for previously approved transfer station projects, reinforce service reliability, and conduct a transfer station demand management pilot project.

Specifically, the ordinance will accomplish the following:

- Fund the increased cost of current services including waste transfer and transport, continued operation and new development at the Cedar Hills landfill, implementation of waste prevention and recycling programs, and payment for central support services such as human resources, finance, and systemwide planning;
- Repay general obligation bonds for construction of previously approved new transfer stations at Factoria and South County;
- Continue reliable service delivery by upgrading the transfer station cashiering system, improving wastewater systems at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, and adding recycling requirements for transfer station self-haulers;
- Conduct a demand management pilot project in 2018 to test whether changes to services, hours, and prices at existing transfer stations can meet customer needs while avoiding capital investments for a new Northeast transfer station.

The Honorable Joe McDermott

July 18, 2016

Page 2

The legislation also furthers the goals of key County plans and initiatives as follows:

- The legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of Environmental Sustainability by providing safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible disposal of solid waste in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- The legislation furthers the Strategic Plan Financial Stewardship goal by enabling the division to make changes, such as transfer station efficiencies and extending the life of the landfill, which will keep rates lower for all customers over the long-term.
- The legislation furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of achieving a 70 percent recycling rate by improving recycling requirements for transfer station self-haulers and continuing a pilot project to test compressed natural gas trucks in the division's fleet.

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks has briefed the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on the legislation.

Thank you for considering this ordinance. This important legislation will enable the Solid Waste Division to continue to provide safe, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable solid waste transfer and disposal service to ratepayers.

If you have any questions about this ordinance, please contact Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4501.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council  
Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP