

“We are a welcoming, active and business-friendly rural foothill community built on California's rich gold rush history.”



City Manager's Report
March 10, 2026 City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Dave Warren, City Manager
Item #: 12.1

Subject: Consider authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a new solid waste collection franchise agreement with Waste Connections of California, Inc. with a sunset date in 2043.

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a new solid waste collection franchise agreement with Waste Connections of California, Inc. with a sunset date in 2043.

Purpose:

To establish a new franchise agreement with Waste Connections of California, Inc. that addresses all of the City's solid waste collection needs.

Strategic Plan Strategy:

Health and Public Safety 8. Solid Waste Disposal - Develop a Solid Waste Program that protects the environment and provides efficient and effective service.

Background:

In 1994, the City entered into a franchise agreement with El Dorado Disposal to collect solid waste within the City limits. That agreement included a 20 year term that expired in 2013. In 1998, USA Waste of California (Waste Management) purchased all of the stock in El Dorado Disposal, thereby effecting a transfer of the franchise agreement, which required the City's consent and to which the City consented. In 2006, Waste Connections of California, Inc. entered into an agreement with Waste Management to purchase all of El Dorado Disposal's assets and transfer the franchise agreement from El Dorado Disposal to Waste Connections of California, Inc. Since that time, the contract was amended three times. In 2008 the City began to consider mandatory garbage service with the requirement of Waste Connections provided containers. That service began in 2009. In order to assist with the cost of the new containers, the City extended the franchise agreement an additional 10 years to expire in 2023. In 2016, the term of the agreement was extended to 2033 primarily due to the \$12 million upgrade of Material Recovery Facility (MRF), which is providing better sorting and handling of recycled materials.

Waste Connections includes several services as part of their current contract, which are outlined below:

- Weekly trash service with multiple cart offerings at variable rates dependent on size
- Every other week recycling and green waste services
- Extra pickups of any commodity type
- Voucher for bulky item pickup curbside
- Voucher for 2.5 cubic yards of any type of material for drop off at the MRF
- Oil/Oil Filter curbside pickup upon request

- Battery jugs and curbside pickup upon request
- Community Clean Up Days
- Pink 35 gallon carts for Breast Cancer Awareness
- Online bill pay, online scheduling of bulky items pickup, online calendars and reminders
- Neighborhood Watch Program
- AB341 Compliance Recycling Program for Commercial Customers
- Commercial Recycling and Outreach Program – Sustainability Coordinator
- Truck Wraps advertising Placerville community events
- Commercial food waste program
- Mattress Recycling Program at the MRF
- Carpet Recycling Program at the MRF
- Textile Recycling at the Buy Back Center and at the MRF
- Voucher for the curbside pickup of paint, florescent bulbs/tubes and e waste
- Voucher for the curbside pickup of extra green waste in bags and bundles
- Voucher for drop off of green waste at the MRF
- Facilitation of the SB1383 Organic Waste Program making free compost available for pick up

These are all good programs that help us meet our recycling goals. From Staff's point of view, Waste Connections has been a good partner in our community in helping us meet recycling goals and other City projects. They have assisted with several cleanup problems we have had and they were one of our sponsors for the Rise and Shine Cleanup Day each year.

Discussion:

The latest agreement with El Dorado Disposal that was originally established thirty-two years ago, includes several amendments, and no longer meets the needs of both parties. Numerous services have been added over the years, some of which have not been memorialized within the agreement. Over the past year, the City and Waste Connections have been in negotiations over a new franchise agreement. A copy of the latest draft agreement is included in the agenda packet as Attachment B. The proposed agreement will combine all of the amendments into one document thereby improving clarity and reducing ambiguity. All services provided to the City and its residents and businesses will be memorialized in the proposed agreement. The new agreement format will make it easier to edit and adjust for future community needs. Specific language has been added to the agreement to ensure the City stays compliant with current State laws and initiatives. The new agreement includes language directly addressing the mandated requirements of SB 1383 including responsibilities for monitoring contamination and tracking compliance and providing compost to the community. Both parties have tentatively agreed to defer trash service on the Thanksgiving Holiday to the next workday like other holidays. The agreement assumes a transition from monthly to quarterly reporting with monthly data including waste volumes, contamination trends, recycling, performance standards, and compliance with SB 1383 initiatives. Waste Connections has agreed to combine this data into one comprehensive report that will be more user friendly to City staff.

The current contract with Waste Connections sunsets in 2033, and Waste Connections has proposed extending the term to 2043 or ten years longer to provide contract stability and ensure continued investment in the City. As an incentive, Waste Connections has offered to replace the thirty existing green decorative trash and recycle containers located in the Downtown area with new Big Belly trash and recycle containers.

The City has piloted a Big Belly container program near the Ambiance Clothing Store this past year as shown below:



Overall, the Big Belly container has been popular and very successful. Due to its well contained design, it minimizes pilfering of recyclable material thereby reducing the amount of trash that is left around the container. This is a real problem with the existing green colored containers, which are also very difficult to keep clean due to their design. The Big Belly containers are easier to access for Waste Connection employees and easier to keep clean and maintain by City staff. The Big Belly containers are available in different colors, and because of their superior design, can be wrapped with graphics and art and panels can be added for messaging and art.

Staff has engaged Arts and Culture El Dorado and the Placerville Public Art Committee on this potential opportunity. The City Council could consider issuing a Request for Proposal for commissioned art that could be placed on panels for the proposed Big Belly containers. The Placerville Public Art Committee is very interested in the possibility of partnering with the City in reviewing and recommending proposed art for the Big Belly containers.

If the City decides to extend the agreement to 2043, Waste Connections has agreed to purchase thirty new Big Belly containers and pay for commissioned art up to \$150,000. It's important to note that Waste Connection's current franchise agreement with El Dorado County sunsets in 2044.

Staff respectfully requests that the City Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a solid waste collection franchise agreement with Waste Connection of California, Inc. with a sunset date in 2043.

Options:

1. Approve staff's recommendation including the term extension to 2043.
2. Approve staff's recommendation and without the term extension (maintain the 2033 sunset).
3. Direct staff to take other actions.

Environmental:

Tonight's action is not applicable.

Cost:

If approved, some staff time and City Attorney time will be required to complete negotiations of the new franchise agreement with Waste Connections of California, Inc.

Budget Impact:

If approved, the projected cost of staff time and City Attorney time necessary to complete negotiations of the new franchise agreement with Waste Connections of California, Inc. can be absorbed within the adopted Operating Budget.



Dave Warren, City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Resolution
- B. Draft Franchise Agreement
- C. Waste Connections Presentation