

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Sanitation Services Fee Increase and Service Changes

Torrance City Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Torrance City Hall, Council Chambers
3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503

The City of Torrance Public Works Department is proposing an increase to the sanitation services fee to provide a change in service that will include citywide curbside residential green waste recycling for Torrance residents receiving service. **The increase will be either \$1.50 or \$2.50 per month** (depending on choice of service level/refuse container size).

Through recycling, we greatly reduce materials going into our landfills, save resources and protect our environment. The current green waste pilot program reduces waste on an average of 30% per household. Adding a fully implemented residential green waste recycling program will assist the City in its efforts to comply with the current 50% diversion requirement.

The sanitation fee will be increased by \$1.50 each month for residents accepting newly established standard service level (a 64-gal refuse, 96-gal recycling, 96-gal green waste), or \$2.50 each month for residents who choose to exceed that level (96-gal refuse, 96-gal recycling, 96-gal green waste). Residents must notify Public Works if they wish a different refuse container size than what they have now to go to the standard service level.

If approved at the public hearing by Council, the rate increase will go into effect February 1, 2012. A Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment will be applied to the rate annually each July 1 for five years. The new service will be fully implemented within one year.

Objections to the increase must be submitted in writing prior to or before the completion of the Public Hearing. For information on the protest process, contact the City Clerk's Office at 310-618-2870.

For other questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 310-781-6900 or PublicWorkInfo@TorranceCA.Gov. Please visit www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks for additional information.

City Council

Frank Scotto
Mayor

Gene Barnett
Tom Brewer
Pat Furey

Cliff Numark
Susan M. Rhilinger
Bill Sutherland



City of Torrance
Public Works Department



Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Sanitation Services Fee Increase and Service Changes

On January 24, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Torrance City Council, a Public Hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers located at 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, to discuss the proposed sanitation services fee increase which will change service levels to include a residential green waste recycling program.

The City Council will consider an increase to the sanitation services fee. If desired, this is your opportunity to file a protest to the potential action. If 50% plus one of property owners protest are received by the City Clerk by the end of the Public Hearing (approximately 14,750 protests), the fee increase cannot be adopted. Scheduling of this public hearing and providing notice to residents was approved at the November 22, 2011 City Council meeting.

The refuse standard is recommended to be modified:

CURRENT STANDARD	PROPOSED STANDARD	OPTIONAL SERVICE
Refuse – 96 gallon	Refuse - 64 gallon	Refuse - 96 gallon
Recycling – 96 gallon	Recycling – 96 gallon	Recycling – 96 gallon
Green Waste – None	Green Waste – 96 gallon	Green Waste – 96 gallon

The new Standard level of service will have a \$1.50 per month increase. The Optional service level will have a \$2.50 per month increase. All service levels will now include a green waste container. Implementation of the new service will be within one year. Residents will be required to request the change to the 64 gallon refuse container.

The low-income senior/disabled rate will remain at \$8.72 a month but will be required to take the Standard service. To qualify for this rate, applicant must be at least 62 years of age or permanently disabled, with a total household income of less than \$27,225.00 for the prior calendar year.

If approved at the public hearing by Council, the rate increase will go into effect February 1, 2012. A Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment will be applied to the rate annually each July 1 for five years.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900 or PublicWorkInfo@TorranceCA.Gov.

Please visit www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks for additional information.

CITY OF TORRANCE
GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION AND TABULATION OF PROTESTS

Where notice of a public hearing with respect to a utility rate increase has been given by the City pursuant to Article XIID, Section 6 of the California Constitution, the following shall apply:

Submission of Protests

1. Any property owner provided sanitation services by the City of Torrance may submit a written protest to the City Clerk, either by delivery to the City Clerk's office at 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, or by submitting the protest at the public hearing. Protests must be received by the end of the public hearing. No postmarks will be accepted; therefore, any protest not actually received by the close of the hearing, whether or not mailed prior to the hearing, will not be counted. Emailed, faxed and photocopied protests will not be counted.

For purposes of these Guidelines the term "property owner" shall mean any owner of record on the County of Los Angeles Assessor's rolls and any tenant directly liable to pay the assessment, fee or charge.

2. Each protest must identify the affected property (by assessor's parcel number or street address) and include the original signature of the property owner. Although oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as a formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest, the City Council welcomes input from the community during the public hearing on the proposed fee increase.
3. If a parcel served by the City is owned/rented by more than a single property owner, each property owner may submit a protest, but only one protest will be counted per parcel and any one protest submitted in accordance with these rules will be sufficient to count as a protest for that property.
4. In order to be valid, a protest must bear the original signature of the property owner with respect to the property identified on the protest. Protests not bearing the original signature of a property owner shall not be counted.
5. Any person who submits a protest may withdraw it by submitting to the City Clerk a written request that the protest be withdrawn. The withdrawal of a protest shall contain sufficient information to identify the affected parcel and the name of the property owner who submitted both the protest and the request that it be withdrawn.
6. A fee protest proceeding is not an election.
7. To ensure transparency and accountability in the fee protest tabulation, protests will constitute disclosable public records from and after the time they are opened during tabulation.

Tabulation of Protests

1. The City Clerk, or the Clerk's designee, will determine the validity of all protests. The Clerk will not accept as valid any protest if the Clerk determines that any of the following conditions exist:
 - a. The protest does not identify a property served by the City.

- b. The protest does not bear an original signature of a property owner of the parcel identified on the protest.
 - c. The protest does not state its opposition to the proposed fees.
 - d. The protest was not received by the City Clerk before the close of the public hearing on the proposed fees.
 - e. A request to withdraw the protest is received prior to the close of the public hearing on the proposed fees.
2. The City Clerk's decision that a protest is not valid shall constitute a final action of the City and shall not be subject to any internal appeal.
 3. A majority protest exists if written protests are timely submitted and not withdrawn by the property owners of a majority (50% plus one) of the properties subject to the proposed fee.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Clerk will complete the tabulation of all protests received, including those received during the public hearing and shall report the results of the tabulation to the City Council upon completion. If review of the protests received demonstrates that the number received is manifestly less than one-half of the parcels served by the City with respect to the fee which is the subject of the protest, then the City Clerk may advise the City Council of the absence of a majority protest without determining the validity of all protests.

4. If at the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Clerk determines that additional time will be required to tabulate the protests, the Clerk will so advise the City Council, which may adjourn the meeting to allow the tabulation to be completed on another day or days. If so, the City Council will declare the time and place of tabulation, which will be conducted in a place where interested members of the public may observe the tabulation, and the Council will declare the time at which the meeting will be resumed to receive and act on the tabulation report of the City Clerk.

To Property Owners

For your written protest to be valid you need to ensure that the following information is included:

- ✓ The protest must include the Street Address or Assessor Parcel Number.
- ✓ The protest must have the original signature of the property owner.
- ✓ The protest must state its opposition to the proposed fee increase.
- ✓ The protest must be received by the City Clerk before the close of the Public Hearing on the proposed fee.

A protest form is enclosed should you wish to file a protest against the proposed rate increase.

PROTEST FORM

(Note all protests must be received by the January 24, 2012 deadline.
Postmarks, faxes, e-mails or photocopied protests will not be accepted)

Deliver to the City Clerk

City of Torrance
3031 Torrance, Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Date _____

Street Address **OR** Assessor Parcel Number

RE: Proposed Sanitation Fee Increase for Green Waste Recycling Program

CHECK ONE:

- Protest Sanitation Fee increase
- Withdraw previously submitted protest

Property Owner Original Signature

Print Name



City of Torrance
Department of Public Works
20500 Madrona Avenue
Torrance, CA 90503

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Torrance, CA

City of Torrance Public Notice
Public Hearing on Proposed Sanitation Fee Increase and Service Changes
(Green Waste Recycling Included)
Dated Material – Please open immediately



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