

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF TORRANCE REFUSE COLLECTION RATES

PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023



The City of Torrance Public Works Department - Sanitation Division provides refuse collection service to approximately 29,500 customer accounts within the City. The Sanitation Division is proposing annual increases to refuse collection rates over the next 5 years that, if approved, will go into effect starting July 1, 2023 (FY 2024). These increases will provide the Sanitation Division with the annual funding needed to cover operating costs including disposal fees; vehicle maintenance and replacement costs; decreases in the resale market for recyclable material; and ensure compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383, California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Law. The rate adjustment also enables the Sanitation Division to establish adequate reserve funds, while maintaining our position as having rates that are considerably lower than five (5) local agencies that provide similar municipal refuse collection services. The last increase to refuse collection rates was in 2017. The rate proposal applies to those customers receiving refuse collection service from the City of Torrance.

The Sanitation Division is also developing a path for the City's compliance with current legislation, including Assembly Bill (AB) 341 (Mandatory commercial and multi-family recycling), AB 2176 (large venue and special event recycling), and AB 1826 (commercial organics recycling).

The proposed annual increases to Torrance refuse collection service rates will be implemented each July 1 over the next five years and will revise the current rate structure for single-family residential (SFR) customers, our multi-family customers, and low-income senior/disabled customers. The proposed rates are outlined in Tables A and B on the following page. You may submit comments about the proposed increases, in writing, before the completion of the Public Hearing on June 6, 2023. For more information regarding the process, submitting comments, or submitting a protest, please refer to the material contained in this notice or contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2870.

Questions or comments regarding the rate proposal or other related information may be directed to the Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900 or by email at PublicWorksInfo@TorranceCA.Gov. Please visit www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks for additional information.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor George K. Chen

City of Torrance
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 20500 Madrona Avenue
 Torrance, California 90503

Mike Griffiths Bridgett Lewis
 Jon Kaji Aurelio Mattucci
 Sharon Kalani Asam Sheikh

Craig Bilezerian
 Public Works Director

Rebecca Poirier Tim Goodrich
 City Clerk City Treasurer

Aram Chaparyan
 City Manager



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Proposed Torrance Refuse Collection Rate Schedule, Effective July 1, 2023 (FY 2024)

Table A: Proposed Annual Percentage Increase

Service Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
96 Gallon Refuse Container	15.4%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%
64 Gallon Refuse Container	12.3%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Refuse Alley Service	12.3%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Low Income, Senior, Disabled (64 Gallon)	12.3%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Additional Refuse Container	26.4%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%

Table B: Proposed 5-Year Rate Schedule

Service	Current Rate	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
96 Gallon Refuse Container	\$ 35.31	\$ 40.74	\$ 44.41	\$ 48.41	\$ 52.29	\$ 56.48
64 Gallon Refuse Container	\$ 34.10	\$ 38.29	\$ 41.74	\$ 45.50	\$ 49.14	\$ 53.08
Refuse Alley Service	\$ 34.10	\$ 38.29	\$ 41.74	\$ 45.50	\$ 49.14	\$ 53.08
Low Income, Senior, Disabled (64 Gallon)	\$ 10.45	\$ 11.74	\$ 12.80	\$ 13.96	\$ 15.08	\$ 16.29
Additional Refuse Container	\$ 25.58	\$ 32.33	\$ 35.24	\$ 38.42	\$ 41.50	\$ 44.82

Rates: If the proposed rates are approved at the June 6th public hearing, the rates shown above will automatically adjust on July 1 of each year from 2023 through 2027. The annual rate increases on July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2027, will occur without a future public hearing.

Note: In accordance with SB 1383, the City began collecting and diverting organic material with food waste from landfills beginning January 1, 2023. This change in service is reflected in the proposed rates and diverts food scraps from the landfill by requiring customers to place food scraps into the organics (green) cart instead of the refuse (black) cart. The City will continue to offer residents one free Large Item Pickup for up to 20 items annually.

Senior Low-Income and Disabled Low-Income Rates: The senior low-income or disabled low-income discount rate will be funded from non-rate revenues. To qualify, the applicant must be 62 years or older or permanently disabled. In addition, total household income must not be greater than \$36,450 for the prior calendar year. If you meet these criteria, please call the City's Finance Department at (310) 618-5830 for an application.



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PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023



Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Refuse Collection Rate Increase

During the regularly scheduled meeting of the Torrance City Council on **June 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**, the City Council will hold a Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers located at 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA, to discuss proposed increases to refuse collection rates for the five-year period, starting July 1, 2023 (FY 2024) through June 30, 2028 (FY 2028). You may protest this potential increase if you wish. If written protests are filed by a total of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the total customer accounts served by the Torrance Sanitation Division and are received by the City Clerk by the end of the Public Hearing, the rate increases cannot be adopted.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900 or PublicWorksInfo@TorranceCA.Gov. Please visit www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks for more information.

SUMMARY OF CITY OF TORRANCE GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION AND TABULATION OF PROTESTS

The following guidelines apply to this protest hearing:

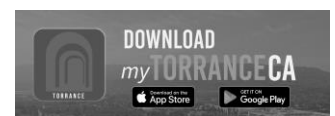
Submission of Protests

1. Any customer billing party of record provided refuse collection service by the City of Torrance may submit a written request to the City Clerk, either by hand delivery to the City Clerk's Office, at 3031 Torrance Blvd, CA, by mail to the City Clerk, 3031 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90509-2970, or by submitting the protest at the June 6, 2023, public hearing. Protests must be received by the end of the public hearing. No protest received after the public hearing, including a postmarked protest mailed before the hearing, will be counted. Emailed, faxed and photocopied protests will not be counted.

"Customer billing party of record" means the person responsible for paying refuse collection charges and fees as shown in City records.

2. Each protest must identify the customer billing account number or street address for which it is made and include the original signature of the customer billing party of record. 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 refuse collection rate increase.

3. If a customer account served by the City has more than one customer billing party on record, any person may submit a protest, but only one protest will be counted per customer account.



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CITY OF TORRANCE REFUSE COLLECTION RATES

PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023



4. Any person who submits a protest may withdraw it by submitting to the City Clerk a written request that the protest be withdrawn. The request must identify the customer billing party of record who submitted both the protest and the request that it be withdrawn.
5. A fee protest hearing/proceeding is not an election.
6. To ensure transparency and accountability in the fee protest count, protests will be disclosable public records when they are opened and counted.

Tabulation of Protests

1. The City Clerk, or an appointed designee, will determine the validity of all protests. The City Clerk will not accept as valid any protest if she determines that any of the following conditions exist:
 - a. The protest does not identify a refuse collection account served by the City.
 - b. The protest does not bear an original signature of a customer billing party of record identified on the protest.
 - c. The protest does not state its opposition to the proposed rates.
 - d. The protest was not received by the City Clerk before the close of the public hearing on the proposed rates.
 - e. A request to withdraw the protest is received before the close of the public hearing on the proposed rates.
2. The City Clerk's decision that a protest is not valid constitutes a final action of the City and is not subject to any internal appeal.
3. A majority protest exists when the total amount of protests received, and determined valid, either equals or exceeds fifty percent (50%) plus one of the customer accounts serviced by the City.

At the end of the public hearing, the City Clerk will count all valid protests received, including those received during the public hearing, and will report the result to the City Council. If a review of the protests received demonstrates that the number received is obviously less than half of customer accounts, the City Clerk may advise the City Council of the absence of a majority protest without validating and counting the protests.

4. If at the end of the public hearing, the City Clerk determines additional time is needed to count the protests, the City Clerk will advise the City Council, which may adjourn the meeting to allow the count to be completed on another day or days. If so, the City Council will declare the time and place of the count, which will be conducted in a place where the public may observe it, and the Council will announce when the meeting will be resumed to receive and act on the report of the City Clerk.



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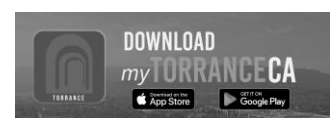
PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023

To Torrance Refuse Collection Service Billing Parties of Record

For a written protest to be valid, you must include the following information:

- ✓ A Street Address or Customer Account Number.
- ✓ An original signature of a Customer Billing Party of Record.
- ✓ A statement of opposition to the proposed rate increase or by checking the Check Box on the Protest Form on the back of this page.
- ✓ The protest must be received by the City Clerk before the close of the June 6, 2023, Public Hearing on the proposed rates.

A Protest Form is enclosed should you wish to protest the proposed rates.



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PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023

PROTEST FORM

Note: All protests must be received by the City Clerk prior to the close of the public hearing on June 6, 2023. No protest received after the public hearing, including a postmarked protest mailed before the hearing, will be counted. Emailed, faxed and photocopied protests will not be counted.

Deliver or Mail to:

The City Clerk
City of Torrance
3031 Torrance Blvd,
Torrance, CA 90503

Date _____

Street Address OR Customer Billing Account Number

RE: Torrance Refuse Collection Rate Increase

CHECK ONE:

- I PROTEST the Torrance Refuse Collection rate increase
- I WITHDRAW my previously submitted protest

Signature

Print Name






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

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