

Council Meeting of  
June 6, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Public Works – Conduct Public Hearing and Adopt RESOLUTION Approving Proposed Series of Annual Increases for Refuse Collection Rates Over a Five-Year Period beginning July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2028. Expenditure: None.**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing on a series of annual rate increases; and
- 2) Adopt a RESOLUTION approving a proposed series of annual rate increases in the City of Torrance Refuse Collection rates for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028; and
- 3) Maintain the discount rate for low-income senior and disabled customers.

### **FUNDING**

None required.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Sanitation Division (Sanitation) of the Public Works Department provides weekly refuse, recycling, and organic/green waste collection services to over 29,500 homes serviced by over 90,000 collection carts. In addition to weekly collection services, Sanitation offers residents one free Large Item Pick-Up (LIPU) service (up to 20 items) per year. Sanitation also holds special recycling events for electronics and paper twice per year. Additionally, the City sponsors used oil collection events at various auto parts stores twice per year.

Sanitation operates as an Enterprise fund with all costs being borne from the revenues received from customers paying established refuse collection rates. Currently, expenditures are outpacing revenues, and it is necessary to evaluate refuse collection rates. The last rate evaluation occurred in 2017, followed by a five-year rate increase structure that began on July 1, 2017. The last rate increase was July 1, 2021, and rates have not increased since that time. Staff recently hired Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (Raftelis) to complete a full cost-of-service analysis to evaluate refuse collection rates

to align revenues with expenditures. Staff identified several significant cost drivers that make adjusting collection rates necessary at this time. They are as follows:

1. Compliance with California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Law (SB 1383) has doubled the cost to dispose of organic waste
2. The resale market for recyclable material has decreased
3. Operating and maintenance costs have increased
4. Vehicle replacement costs have increased

Torrance's refuse collection rates are currently among the lowest in the area, below most other municipal agencies providing similar services.

## **ANALYSIS**

A comprehensive refuse rate cost of service study was completed by Raftelis in February 2023, which recommended a series of annual rate adjustments over the five-year period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028. The study focuses on several inter-related objectives and areas including:

1. Determination of revenue requirements (amount of revenue to meet expenses) to provide for disposal, operating, maintenance, and capital needs
2. Evaluation of rates and a rate structure that is equitable and adheres to recognized standards in accordance with Prop 218
3. Evaluation of the adequacy of financial reserves and appropriate reserve policy
4. Development of a five-year rate that provides for the financial health of refuse collection services

## **STATUS OF REFUSE FUND**

Refuse revenues are collected using established residential rates for the collection and disposal of refuse, recycling, and organic/green waste. At the end of fiscal year 2022-23, the Sanitation Enterprise Fund is projected to have an insufficient fund balance due to increases in overall expenses. There are many factors impacting costs for service including compliance with new state laws. SB 1383 establishes statewide targets to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed of in landfills to 75% and rescue at least 20% of currently disposed of edible food by 2025 and redirect that food to people in need. While Torrance residents continue to recycle, the market for recyclable material has decreased due to China's Operation National Sword, a policy initiative launched in 2017 to reduce the amount of recyclable material it imports. Public Works is also developing a path for the City's compliance with current legislation. This includes Assembly Bill (AB) 341 (mandatory commercial and multi-family recycling that sets a statewide 70 percent diversion target), AB 2176 (large venue and special event recycling), and AB 1826 (commercial organics recycling). The City is now required to monitor all private hauler serviced accounts, including enforcement, to ensure compliance with all state laws, which will require the use of a consultant(s) and the potential need for additional positions in Sanitation.

Additionally, operating, vehicle maintenance, and replacement costs have increased. Supply chain issues have delayed the delivery time of new vehicles, increasing the age of the City's fleet and associated maintenance costs. Thus, an appropriate rate plan is requested to be implemented to eliminate the projected operating deficit, provide funding for operations and vehicle replacements, and provide long-term financial stability for the refuse collection enterprise.

### COST OF SERVICE

The City's current refuse collection rate structure is based on the size of the refuse container, either 64-gallon or 96-gallon, selected by the resident. Cost of service-based refuse fees reflects charges recovered from different customer classes in proportion to the cost of providing that service to that class of customer. To calculate fair and equitable rates so that users pay in proportion to the cost of providing service, the study performed a cost allocation of total revenue requirements for the provision of refuse collection service.

### RATE STUDY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

As a result of the study's findings and analysis, it is proposed that a five-year rate adjustment be considered that eliminates an operating deficit and provides adequate revenues to cover all operating and maintenance costs, capital needs, and establishes an appropriate level of reserves. The refuse rate proposal covers a five-year period and would be effective July 1, 2023, with increases to automatically adjust on July 1 of each year from 2023 through 2027. The annual rate increase on July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2027, will occur without a public hearing. The proposed overall five-year rate adjustments are outlined in Table A and Table B below:

**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 (64 Gallon)	26.4%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%

**Table B: Proposed 5-Year Rate Schedule**

Rate Schedule	Current Rates	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 (64 Gallon)	\$25.58	\$32.33	\$35.24	\$38.42	\$41.50	\$44.82

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.

### RATE IMPACTS

Torrance's Sanitation refuse collection rates for 96-gallon containers are considerably lower than five (5) local agencies providing similar municipal refuse collection services and are likely to remain below these agencies' rates even with the proposed 5-year rate adjustments. Similarly, Torrance's Sanitation refuse collection rates for 64-gallon containers are considerably lower than the rates for three (3) of the same local agencies. In 2023, the average monthly refuse collection bill for these agencies with similar services ranges from \$31.67 to \$124.04 for a single-family customer. See Table C below.

**Table C: Neighboring Agencies Refuse Rates Providing Municipal Collection**

City	Collection Type	64 Gallon	96 Gallon
Glendale*	Municipal	\$27.76	\$31.67
Pomona	Municipal	N/A	\$33.13
Long Beach**	Municipal	\$31.74	\$34.42
<b>Torrance (Current)</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>\$34.10</b>	<b>\$35.31</b>
<b>Torrance (Proposed)</b>	<b>Municipal</b>	<b>\$38.29</b>	<b>\$40.74</b>
Pasadena	Municipal	\$26.44	\$40.99
Burbank***	Municipal	\$34.84	\$55.03
Culver City****	Municipal	\$53.49	\$72.96
Santa Monica	Municipal	\$83.55	\$107.79
Los Angeles	Municipal	\$100.04	\$124.04

\* Owns their own landfill but does not operate it

\*\* Excludes Green Waste diversion program; all refuse and green waste is incinerated at SERRF

\*\*\* Owns and operates their own landfill

\*\*\*\* Denotes rates effective 7/1/2023

Under the proposed rate adjustment, Torrance Refuse Collection rates will remain lower than five (5) other local agencies for 96-gallon container service and three (3) other local agencies for 64-gallon service. All Proposition 218 requirements have been met. The public notification was completed on April 20, 2023, in accordance with the minimum 45-day notice period, and two public notices regarding the Public Hearing were published in the Daily Breeze on May 21, 2023, and May 28, 2023.


It is therefore the recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve the five-year refuse collection rates to become effective on July 1, 2023, with subsequent adjustments on July 1 of each year from 2023 through 2027, in accordance with the Resolution.

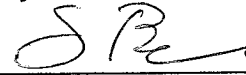
Respectfully submitted,

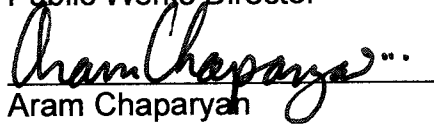
CRAIG BILEZERIAN  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

By   
Chris Kuebert  
Sanitation Services Manager

CONCUR:

  
Matthew Knapp  
Deputy Public Works Director - Operations

  
Craig Bilezerian  
Public Works Director

  
Aram Chaparyan  
City Manager

- Attachments:
- A. Refuse Collection Cost of Service Presentation
  - B. RESOLUTION setting Refuse Collection Rates
  - C. Proposition 218 Public Notices mailed to customers
  - D. Notice of Public Hearing published in Daily Breeze (Materials Available)
  - E. Correspondence received prior to May 22, 2023





# REFUSE COLLECTION COST OF SERVICE STUDY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

# BACKGROUND

- ❖ The City provides residential collection to approximately 29,500 accounts weekly.
- ❖ Three cart system – Refuse (Black), Organic Waste (Green), and Recycling (Gray/Blue)
- ❖ Carts sizes available – 64 or 96 gallon
- ❖ Refuse and Organic Waste disposed at Allied Waste Services Transfer Stations located in Gardena, Wilmington, and Compton
- ❖ Recycling processed at Potential Industries in Wilmington

# OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Identify appropriate fund levels to provide adequate funding for:
  - ❖ All operational costs including Disposal, Operations, Maintenance, and Vehicle Replacement
  - ❖ An appropriate level of reserve funds
- ❖ Covers 5-year period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2028
- ❖ Cost of service-based rates required by Proposition 218

# COST OF SERVICE (COS)

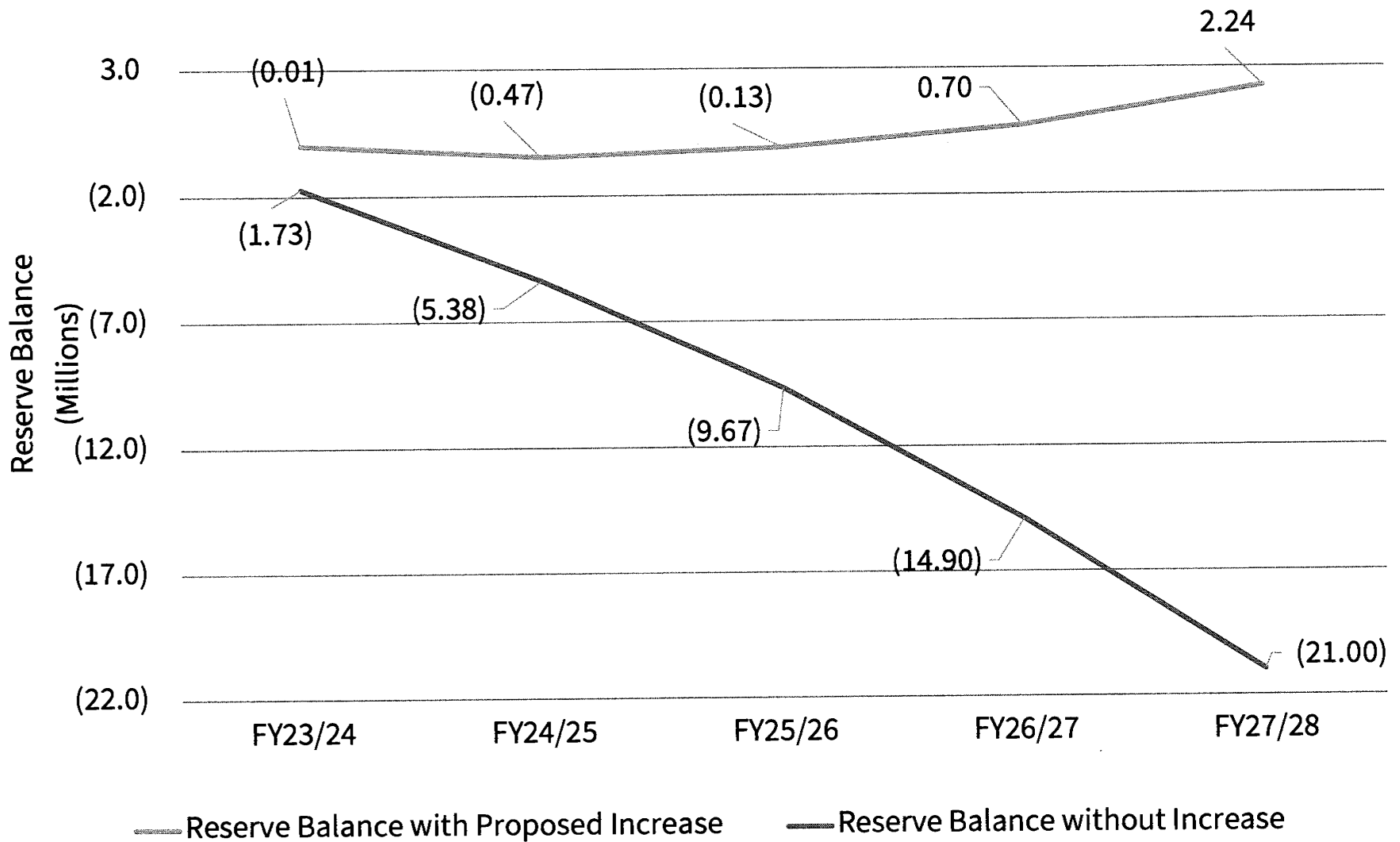
- ❖ Using recognized COS methodology
- ❖ Identifies revenue requirements based on operational needs
- ❖ City Collection:
  - ❖ Single Family Residential (SFR)
  - ❖ Some Multi-Family units up to 4

# FINDINGS

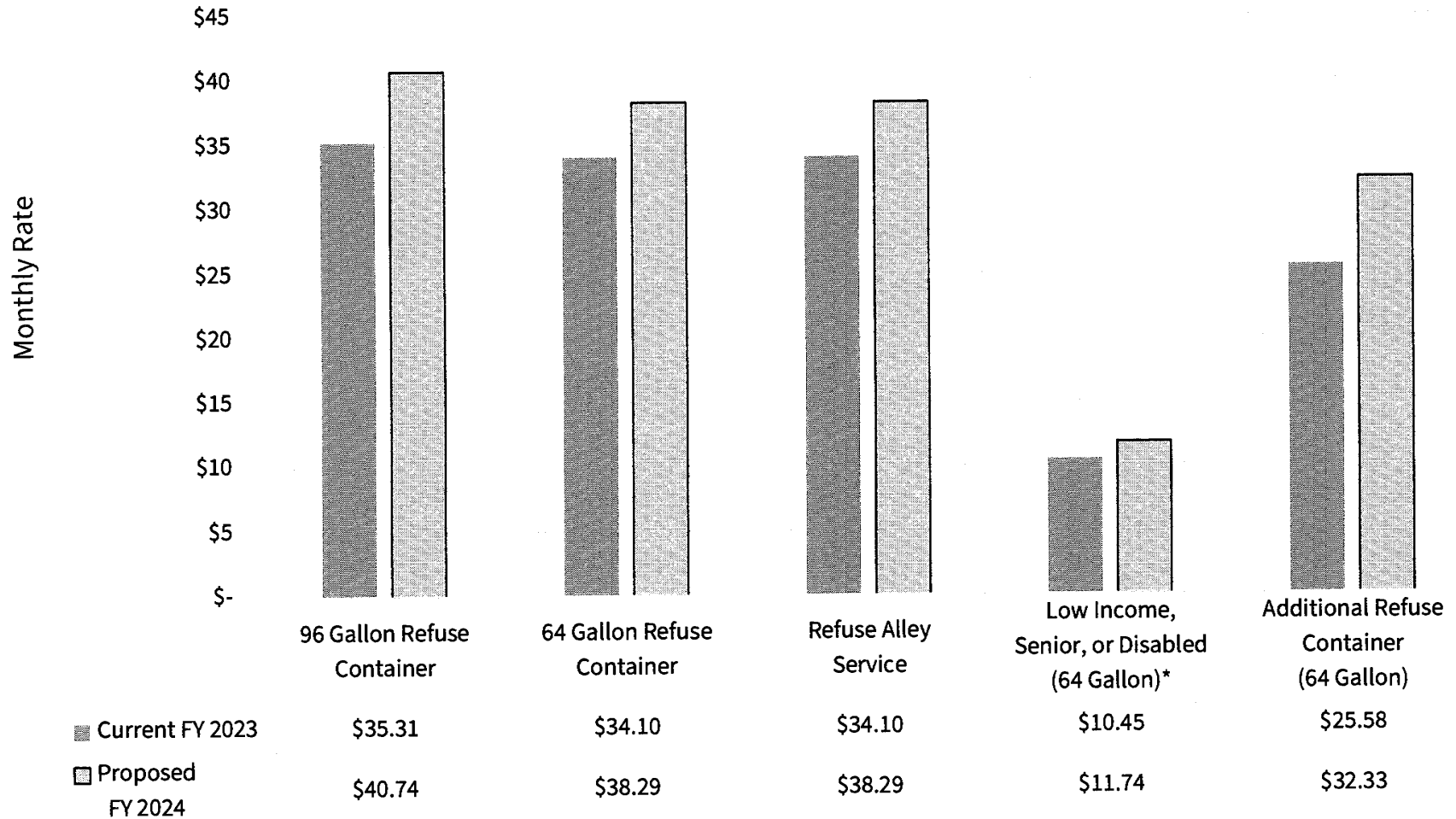
- ❖ Current rates are not adequate to meet operating and capital needs
- ❖ Implement a 5-year rate plan consistent with Proposition 218 requirements

Current Monthly Rates	2023
96 Gallon Refuse Container	\$ 35.31
64 Gallon Refuse Container	\$ 34.10
Alley Service	\$ 34.10
Low Income Senior/ Disabled (64 Gallon)	\$ 10.45
Additional Refuse Container (64 Gallon)	\$ 25.58

# PROJECTED OPERATING RESERVE FUND BALANCE



# PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL REFUSE RATE IMPACTS



\* Minimum age of 62 years of age or permanently disabled, total gross household income no greater than \$36,450

# PROPOSED 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 (64 Gallon)	26.4%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%

# PROPOSED REFUSE RATES

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

# MONTHLY RATE COMPARISONS

City	Collection Type	64 Gallon	96 Gallon
Glendale*	Municipal	\$27.76	\$31.67
Pomona	Municipal	N/A	\$33.13
Long Beach**	Municipal	\$31.74	\$34.42
Torrance (Current)	Municipal	\$34.10	\$35.31
Torrance (Proposed)	Municipal	\$38.29	\$40.74
Pasadena	Municipal	\$26.44	\$40.99
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Santa Monica	Municipal	\$83.55	\$107.79
Los Angeles	Municipal	\$100.04	\$124.04

\* Owns their own landfill but does not operate it

\*\* Does not include Green Waste diversion program, all refuse and green waste is incinerated at SERRF

\*\*\* Owns and operates their own landfill

\*\*\*\* Denotes future rate on 7/1/2023

# PROPOSITION 218 NOTICES

- ❖ Public Notice regarding June 6<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing on the proposed refuse rate increases mailed on April 20, 2023
- ❖ Legal Notice for the June 6<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing was published in the Daily Breeze on
  - ❖ May 21, 2023
  - ❖ May 28, 2023

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed Torrance refuse collection rate increase
- ❖ Adopt Resolution Approving a Series of Annual Increases for Refuse Collection Rates over a Five-Year Period beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028.
- ❖ Maintain discounted rate for low-income senior/disabled customers

STOP

# QUESTIONS?

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



## RESOLUTION NO. 2022 \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ADOPTING A REVISED SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR  
REFUSE COLLECTION RATES IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Torrance (herein "City") provides refuse collection services, to single-family and some multi-family accounts in the City under the aegis of the City's Public Works Department; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 43.2.2 and 43.2.5 of the Torrance Municipal Code, the City Council of the City of Torrance has the authority to set and collect rates and charges for refuse collection fees for single-family and multi-family accounts receiving City refuse collection service; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council on April 11, 2023, set June 6, 2023, as the date for a Public Hearing for consideration of the revised schedule of refuse collection fees effective July 1, 2023, including automatic rate adjustments to become effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year through June 30, 2028; and

**WHEREAS**, the refuse collection rates apply to all single-family and multi-family accounts receiving City refuse collection services; and

**WHEREAS**, the notice of June 6, 2023, public hearing (the "Hearing") and the proposed schedule of rates and charges were mailed to each City of Torrance customer as required by the California Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, such customer mailing notices were completed and mailed by **April 20, 2023**; and

**WHEREAS**, a protest form was attached to the customer mailing notice; and

**WHEREAS**, at the Hearing, the City Council heard and considered all oral and written testimony and protests; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to approve the proposed schedule of refuse collection rates.

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY  
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The rates set forth in this Resolution shall take effect on July 1, 2023 (FY 2024).

## SECTION 2. SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES

### A. Rate Structure

Customer rate classes are divided into categories of service defined as 96 Gallon Refuse Container, 64 Gallon Refuse Container, Refuse Alley Service, Low Income, Senior, or Disabled (64 Gallon), and Additional Refuse Container (64 Gallon).

### B. Rate Schedule Effective July 1, 2023

#### 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, or Disabled (64 Gallon)	12.3%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Additional Refuse Container (64 Gallon)	26.4%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%

#### Proposed 5-Year Rate Schedule

Rate Schedule	Current Rates	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, or Disabled (64 Gallon)	\$10.45	\$11.74	\$12.80	\$13.96	\$15.08	\$16.29
Additional Refuse Container (64 Gallon)	\$25.58	\$32.33	\$35.24	\$38.42	\$41.50	\$44.82

## SECTION 3. RATE ADJUSTMENTS

Each rate set forth in Section 2 of this Resolution shall automatically adjust effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year from 2023 through 2027. Refuse collection rates will be adjusted by 9% in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and 8% in fiscal years 2027 and 2028. Notice of these adjustments shall be given to customers pursuant to Section 53756(d) of the California Government Code at least 30 days prior to their actual implementation date. The rates effective through July 1, 2027, shall continue in effect until amended or repealed by action of the City Council.

## SECTION 4. PRIOR ACTIONS SUPERSEDED

This Resolution supersedes prior resolutions of the City Council to the extent that they set rates consistent with those set forth herein.

**SECTION 5. ADMINISTRATION**

It shall be the duty and function of the Finance Director to administer this Resolution.

**SECTION 6. FINDINGS**

The City Council hereby finds:

- A. The written protests against the rates established in Sections 2 and 3 of this Resolution have not been received with respect to a majority of affected customers.
- B. The revenues derived from those rates shall not exceed the funds required to provide refuse collection service.
- C. The revenues derived from those rates will not be used for any other purpose other than providing refuse collection service.
- D. That the amounts of those rates imposed upon any parcel or person as an incident of property ownership will not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel.
- E. That those rates will not be imposed unless refuse collection service is used by, or immediately available to the customer.
- F. That those rates are imposed for refuse collection services and not for a general government service such as police, fire, ambulance, or library services.

**INTRODUCED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor George K. Chen

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
PATRICK Q. SULLIVAN  
City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tatia Y. Strader, Assistant City Attorney



# 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](mailto:PublicWorksInfo@TorranceCA.Gov). Please visit [www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks) for additional information.

#### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor George K. Chen

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

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

Craig Bilezerian  
 Public Works Director

Rebecca Poirier	Tim Goodrich
City Clerk	City Treasurer

Aram Chaparyan  
 City Manager



CITY OF TORRANCE

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## CITY OF TORRANCE REFUSE COLLECTION RATES

### PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023

#### 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
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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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## CITY OF TORRANCE REFUSE COLLECTION RATES

### 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](mailto:PublicWorksInfo@TorranceCA.Gov). Please visit [www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks](http://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.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

# 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.



# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **CITY OF TORRANCE REFUSE COLLECTION RATES**

### **PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023**

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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.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## CITY OF TORRANCE REFUSE COLLECTION RATES

### PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 6, 2023

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#### 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

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### 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

Pre-Sorted  
First Class  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #234  
Torrance CA

**City of Torrance Public Notice**  
**Public Hearing on Proposed**  
**Torrance Refuse Collection Rate Increase**  
*Dated Material – Please open immediately*



**City of Torrance Public Notice**  
**Public Hearing on Proposed**  
**Torrance Refuse Collection Rate Increase**  
*Dated Material – Please open immediately*



**MATERIALS AVAILABLE THURSDAY**



25 April, 2023

Craig Bilezerian

Public Works Director

Public Works Dept.

City of Torrance

Subject: Proposed Increase in Refuse Collection Rates

Dear Mr. Bilezerian,

I am in receipt of a Public Notice regarding a proposal for the City of Torrance to increase Refuse Collection Rates.

The increases appear to be very significant with an approximate increase over a 5-year period of 61%. This seems to me to be excessive.

There was no explanation or reasoning for such a significant increase. Please provide me with the information that necessitated such a rate increase, so that I can make a reasonable judgement of the proposal.

What worries me more is that if this passes, other departments and salaries of the City of Torrance will be looking for similar increases. (I doubt if you have seen such an increase in your salary or budget in your working life.)

You may reply to this request by e-mail [REDACTED] which will save the city postage.

Respectfully,



Peter E. Davis

[REDACTED]  
Torrance, CA 90505

Cc George K. Chen (Mayor, City of Torrance)

Aram Chaparyan (City Manager, City of Torrance)

Rebecca Poirier (City Clerk, City of Torrance)

**From:** [PublicWorksInfo](#)  
**To:** [Kuebert, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Refuse Collection Rates, Comment  
**Date:** Monday, May 8, 2023 8:22:05 AM

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**From:** Robert Ronne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 8:18 AM  
**To:** PublicWorksInfo <publicworksinfo@torranceca.gov>  
**Cc:** Robert Ronne [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Refuse Collection Rates, Comment

**WARNING: External e-mail**  
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

This may be a contrary view, but I am very much in favor of increasing the Refuse Collection Rates. In fact, these increases are long overdue. The rates have seemed artificially low for a great while, and Torrance has always been fair about creating a senior/low income/disabled rate to ease the burden on those who can least afford increases. For decades, the City has effectively and efficiently collected the things we don't want right at our curbside. The story, for most of us, ends at the curb. But, the story of the long, expensive, and difficult journey the refuse takes when it leaves our curbs is seldom told. One can only imagine that collection sites are being located further and further from our curbs (I recall there was a site in PV, but that was long since closed), that the cost of removal, as well as the landfill issues themselves are growing in severity. The cost must match the service; and we all want our refuse collected, not abandoned. I hope these increases will allow Torrance to continue to accomplish timely and effective curb side pick of our refuse.