

# YOUR GUIDE TO THE SOLID WASTE FEE AND ITS USES

THE SOLID WASTE FEE WILL PAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNFUNDED MANDATED PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY AT OUR LOCAL BEACHES, OCEAN AND LAGOONS. COLLECTION OF THE FEE MUST BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS.

## PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### WHAT IS THIS BALLOT FOR?

The ballot you just received is for a vote on a monthly solid waste fee.

### DOESN'T THE CITY ALREADY HAVE A MONTHLY SOLID WASTE FEE?

Yes, since 2005 the City has collected a fee, which appears as a separate line-item on your Waste Management or EDCO bills. However, as a result of a settlement agreement with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association, collection of that fee must be approved by a majority of the property owners for the City to continue to collect it beyond September 30, 2007.

### WHY IS IT A SOLID WASTE FEE?

This is a solid waste fee because it pays for programs that prevent pollutants, classified in the City's Municipal Code as solid waste, from entering the storm drain system. The fee, if approved, will help pay for the water quality programs required by the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

This fee is based on property use and is tiered based on the level of service for each property (not a flat fee). As you can see in the rate schedules included, the fee varies depending on the size and quantity of the trash and recycling containers at each residential property and the size, quantity and frequency of service for commercial properties. The amount of potential pollutants each property generates is the basis for the fee amount that a property owner pays each month (larger containers and additional containers pay a higher fee). Owners of undeveloped land are not subject to the fee.



### WHAT WILL THIS FEE PAY FOR?

This fee will pay for the implementation of state and federal unfunded mandated programs to improve the water quality at our local beaches, ocean and lagoons. The City of Solana Beach, along with 17 cities and the County of San Diego, owns and operates a storm drain system, which is the network of gutters, catch basins, channels and pipes that collect storm water and urban runoff and discharge it into local creeks, lagoons and the ocean. Unlike sewer systems that send sewage to a treatment plant before being discharged, most storm drain systems, including the City's, were built to collect and convey runoff to prevent flooding but not to remove pollutants and treat urban runoff. Therefore, any pollutants that urban runoff carries into the storm drain system are discharged untreated directly into the ocean and lagoons.

### WHAT IF THE CITY DOES NOT COMPLY WITH NPDES REGULATIONS?

The State Regional Water Quality Control Boards, which issue NPDES permits in California, has mandated the City to implement water runoff cleanup programs or face fines that could be as much as \$10,000 a day. To avoid being fined and to respond to the desire of our community to maintain a high quality of life, the City has implemented increased water quality control measures and adopted an Urban Runoff Management Plan.

### WHERE DO THE POLLUTANTS COME FROM?

The pollutants come from a variety of sources, mostly from the way we live our everyday lives. Pollutants are carried to the storm drain system when it rains, when over-irrigating, hosing down outdoor areas (driveways, patios, sidewalks, etc), washing vehicles, etc. Some examples of typical storm drain pollution are:

- Bacteria from animal waste (not picking up after your pet), food waste and sewer overflows.
- Nutrients from fertilizers.
- Organic compounds (soaps, cleaners, solvents, etc) from car washing.
- Sediment from erosion and construction projects.
- Metals (copper, zinc, lead) from vehicle brakes and parts.
- Oil and grease from leaks and spills from vehicles, restaurants and gas stations.
- Pesticides from residential or commercial pest control activities.
- Gross pollutants such as trash, debris, leaves and yard waste.

#### WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE URBAN RUNOFF MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The following projects and programs are included in the City's Urban Runoff Management Plan:

- Commercial, Industrial and Municipal facility compliance inspections.
- Trash and litter debris removal.
- Public outreach and education.
- Construction plan review and inspections of construction sites.
- Installation and maintenance of treatment structures at public facilities.
- Preventing illegal connections and discharges into the storm drain system.
- Water quality monitoring and sampling of ocean and lagoons.
- Regular cleaning of City storm drain channels and catch basins.
- Violation enforcement and follow-up activities.

#### WHAT IS THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING THE NPDES PROGRAM?

Based on the current state and federal requirements, the estimated cost to implement the mandated NPDES clean water programs currently total about \$319,322 per year. This fee, if approved, would generate approximately \$244,245 per year. Franchise fees, construction plan checks and inspections, and other fees pay for the remaining cost of the Program.

#### HOW WILL THE COST OF THIS PROGRAM BE ALLOCATED IN THE CITY'S BUDGET IF NOT APPROVED BY THIS ELECTION?

If the fee is not approved, the cost of the mandated NPDES program will be taken from the General Fund. The City's General Fund pays for all general services, including police protection, fire services, parks, road maintenance and other construction projects.

#### HOW MUCH WILL THE PROPOSED NPDES FEE COST PROPERTY OWNERS?

Single-family residential homeowners will pay a fee based on the size and number of trash and recycling containers they have. Multi-family and commercial property owners will pay a fee based on the size of container, number of containers and frequency of service they require. The tiered fee increases as the amount of trash and recyclables generated onsite increases. For the complete rate structure, please see the attached rate schedules.

#### HOW IS THE FEE CALCULATED?

The fee is based on a property's expected contribution of solid waste pollutants, which is determined by the level of trash and recycling service at each parcel. The properties that generate the most potential pollutants will require larger containers, more containers, and/or a higher frequency weekly service, so they pay a higher fee.

#### WHY ARE PROPERTY OWNERS VOTING ON THE FEE?

Under the provisions of California Proposition 218, and as agreed to in the City's settlement with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, property owners are being asked to approve the new fee structure through a mailed ballot procedure.

#### HOW ARE THE BALLOTS HANDLED AND TABULATED?

All property owners (as shown on the County of San Diego 2007/2008 Secured Tax Roll) that are subject to the fee will receive an official property owner ballot and a pre-addressed return envelope. They must be returned and received by **5:00 p.m.** September 20, 2007. The ballots will be opened and tabulated under the direction of the City Clerk's office. The results of the election will be certified and presented to the City Council on September 26, 2007. Each property shall receive one (1) vote; therefore, timeshare property owner ballots will be counted as 1/50th of a vote representing the property's ownership interest.

#### HOW DO I CAST MY VOTE SO THAT IT WILL BE COUNTED?

Simply fill out the ballot by marking your choice, signing and dating and then either mail or deliver your ballot in the return envelope to the Solana Beach City Clerk by **5:00 p.m.** September 20, 2007. It is important to note that the ballots must be received by **5:00 p.m.** September 20, 2007, not postmarked by that date and they must be signed in order to be counted.

#### WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CITY'S NPDES PROGRAM OR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS VOTE?

You may contact the City's Environmental Specialist Danny King at (858) 720-2477 or email him at [dking@cosb.org](mailto:dking@cosb.org) for any additional information or with any questions. You may also visit our web page at: <http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us>

## RESIDENTIAL RATE SCHEDULE

### NPDES Solid Waste Fee Structure – Proposed Fee Changes

	<b>per month</b>
Current Residential NPDES Solid Waste Fee	\$1.82

#### PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL NPDES SOLID WASTE FEES

For Every 35 gallon (32 nominal) Cart	\$0.44
For Every 64 gallon Cart	\$0.88
For Every 96 gallon Cart	\$1.32

#### EXAMPLE NPDES SOLID WASTE FEES

1-64 gal. Recycle	\$0.88
1-64 gal. Trash & 1-64 gal. Recycle	\$1.76
1-96 gal. Trash & 1-64 gal. Recycle	\$2.20
1-96 gal. Trash & 1-96 gal. Recycle	\$2.64

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	CURRENT NPDES SOLID WASTE FEE PER MONTH	PROPOSED RATE PER MONTH
<u>Residential Bin: 1x week</u>		
Per 2-Yard Bin	\$5.88	\$5.56
Per 3-Yard Bin	\$8.81	\$8.34
Per 4-Yard Bin	\$11.26	\$11.12
Per 5-Yard Bin	\$13.70	\$13.90
<u>Commercial Can: 1x week</u>		
Per Commercial Can	\$3.63	\$1.76
<u>Commercial (1x week)</u>		
Per 2-Yard Bin	\$6.49	\$6.83
Per 3-Yard Bin	\$9.75	\$10.25
Per 4-Yard Bin	\$13.00	\$13.67
Per 5-Yard Bin	\$16.24	\$17.09

## COMMERCIAL RATE SCHEDULE

Bin Size	Service Frequency	Current NPDES Solid Waste Fee per month	Proposed NPDES Solid Waste Fee per month
2 Cubic Yard Bin	1X Week	\$6.49	\$6.83
	2X Week	\$11.34	\$13.67
	3X Week	\$16.16	\$20.50
	4X Week	\$20.83	\$27.34
	5X Week	\$25.80	\$34.17
	6X Week	\$30.65	\$41.00
3 Cubic Yard Bin	1X Week	\$9.75	\$10.25
	2X Week	\$17.00	\$20.50
	3X Week	\$24.45	\$30.75
	4X Week	\$31.48	\$41.00
	5X Week	\$38.71	\$51.26
	6X Week	\$45.92	\$61.51
4 Cubic Yard Bin	1X Week	\$13.00	\$13.67
	2X Week	\$22.67	\$27.34
	3X Week	\$32.33	\$41.00
	4X Week	\$41.98	\$54.67
	5X Week	\$51.61	\$68.34
	6X Week	\$61.23	\$82.01
5 Cubic Yard Bin	1X Week	\$16.24	\$17.09
	2X Week	\$28.32	\$34.17
	3X Week	\$41.55	\$51.26
	4X Week	\$59.29	\$68.34
	5X Week	\$64.51	\$85.43
	6X Week	\$76.67	\$102.51