



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of San Diego Invites Residents to Learn More About Proposed Trash and Recycling Services

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AIM TO HELP SAN DIEGANS BETTER UNDERSTAND PROPOSED COST MODEL AND SERVICE OPTIONS FOR POTENTIAL NEW TRASH FEES

SAN DIEGO – Starting on Monday, Feb. 24, the City of San Diego will kick off a third round of community open houses to give San Diegans the opportunity to learn more about proposed costs and service options for waste collection. The proposed fees come as a result of the public vote to approve Measure B, which allows the City to charge a cost-recovery fee for trash and recycling collection for the first time since the City began providing these services 100 years ago.

The City provides waste collection services to approximately 233,000 residential properties. Currently, these properties do not directly pay for trash and recycling collection, whereas residents in apartment complexes and those with homeowner associations, for example, do pay private waste collection companies for these services.

Last year, the City initiated a cost-of-service study to determine the costs of establishing a new solid waste management fee. The results of the cost-of-service study, and proposed financial assistance options for eligible properties, will be presented to the City Council in March, and City staff will ask the Council to schedule a public hearing for a final vote in June.

If approved, the new fee would reduce the City's dependency on the General Fund to collect trash and recycling from a subset of San Diego residents and instead allow the City to allocate those freed-up General Fund dollars to City projects and services that benefit *all* city residents.

"If the new fees are approved, the City of San Diego will join every major jurisdiction in California in recovering costs for the waste collection services provided to residents," said Kirby Brady, Interim Director, Environmental Services Department (ESD). **"By repealing the century-old People's Ordinance, San Diegans signaled that they want a more equitable system where everyone who receives waste management services - whether from the City or from a private company - pays for**

those services.”

“Since last summer, we have connected with nearly 10,000 San Diegans who shared with us what kind of waste collection services they would like to receive,” said Jeremy Bauer, Assistant Director of ESD. “We now encourage folks to come back and join us during our third round of community engagement to better understand the new services proposed, how the fees would apply, the timing of next steps, and how to stay involved.”

Proposed fees starting in the first year (FY2026) include increased service reliability, bin replacements and repairs at no additional charge and a missed collections crew to address service issues day-of. By year three (FY2028), curbside bulky item pickup and increased recycling frequency would kick in and the fee would increase.

As part of the cost-of-service study, the City evaluated comparable jurisdictions in California. San Diego’s proposed fee for service at the 95-gallon service level (at \$53 per month) is closely aligned with Sacramento at \$57.79 and Long Beach, which recently proposed a fee of \$67.63 per month. Oakland and San Jose have by far the highest fee, at \$160.27 and \$160.35 per month, respectively. If approved, trash fees would be charged using a tax roll billing system administered by the County.

During a series of open house events that kicked off last summer, City staff surveyed residents about the services they would like to see as the new waste collection fee was being evaluated. Key takeaways from the open houses include:

- Two-thirds of respondents expressed interest in curbside bulky item pickup.
- Half of the respondents were interested in increased recycling frequency.
- 40% of survey respondents were interested in container repairs and replacements being built into the fee.
- Other priorities included more consistent service and smaller trash container options.
- Participants were also interested in additional options for the drop-off of household hazardous waste and electronics, a service ESD plans to continue to provide with other sources of funding.

San Diegans are invited to attend a third series of open house meetings during February, March and April to learn details about the proposed fees and services. The first in-person meeting will take place at the Otay Mesa-Nestor Library on Monday, Feb. 24. A calendar of events and more information is available at cleangreensd.org.

Residents are invited to any of the scheduled events:

Monday, Feb. 24	Otay Mesa-Nestor Library, 3003 Coronado Ave., 92154
Monday, March 3	Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13330 Salmon River Rd., 92129
Monday, March 10	Pacific Highlands Ranch Library, 12911 Pacific Pl., 92130
Monday, March 17	City Heights/Weingart Library, 3795 Fairmount Ave., 92105
Monday, March 24	Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101, 1650 El Prado, 92101
Tuesday, March 25	Linda Vista Library, 2160 Ulric St., 92111
Tuesday, April 1	Skyline Hills Library, 7900 Paradise Valley Rd., 92139
Friday, April 4	Virtual meeting (English and Spanish) - 9 to 11 a.m.
Monday, April 7	San Diego College of Continuing Education, 3249 Fordham St., 92110
Tuesday, April 8	North University Community Library, 8820 Judicial Dr., 92122

About the Environmental Services Department:

The [Environmental Services Department \(ESD\)](#) ensures that City of San Diego residents have a clean and safe environment. The department pursues waste management strategies that emphasize waste reduction; recycling and composting; and environmentally sound landfill management.



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