

ATHENS RESIDENTIAL TRASH SERVICE CUSTOMER ISSUE OVERVIEW

Background

- In October 2014, Governor Brown signed AB 1826 into law, which mandates the implementation of an organic waste diversion program for all commercial businesses and all multi-family dwellings with 5 or more units.
 - Ultimately, the law requires that by 2020, organic waste must be reduced by 50% of the level of disposal during 2014
 - Organic waste refers to food waste, green waste, landscape / pruning waste, wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste.
 - AB 1826 was developed based on the directives of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. That legislation identified that reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfills and increasing the production of compost and mulch were important requirements, because organic waste in landfills served as a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Based the requirements of AB 1826, the City has coordinated with Athens to develop a comprehensive closed loop organics recycling program that has benefits for all customers, including residential customers
- The new agreement with Athens was considered by the City Council and approved on June 21, 2016.

New AB 1826 Organics Charge and Closed Loop Recycling Program

- Pursuant to the agreement, for residential customers, the AB 1826 Organics Charge that is being assessed was developed to pay for additional services that all residents of Monrovia will be able to access through the closed loop organics recycling program, which includes the following components:
 - All of the residential green waste that is collected will be mixed with the organics material collected from commercial and multi-family customers through the City's AB 1826 program
 - We plan on taking of the AB 1826 organics waste and the residential green waste collected and turning that material into compost / mulch, which will then be provided to all Monrovia residents at no extra cost at two different give-away events per year
 - This means that through the new program developed, residents will have access annually to as much compost / mulch material as they may need, and the City will coordinate and distribute additional information regarding these programs in the coming months

- Furthermore, given the high fire danger in the hillsides, the fee is also going towards paying for a fire danger zone brush clearance program here in Monrovia that Athens is coordinating, whereby any organic waste collected through the brush clearance program will also be converted into compost / mulch for Monrovia residents
 - All residents living in the high fire zone area will have free brush clearance hauling services from May 1 – June 30 every year
 - This program has the added benefit of reducing fire risk in our residential neighborhoods in the foothills

Closed Loop Organics Recycling Program Also Implemented to Meet Other State Mandates

- Additionally, the residential AB 1826 Organics Charge takes into account additional State environmental legislation that we need to address
 - Pursuant to AB 1594, green waste will not allowed to be utilized for meeting our mandatory 50% diversion rate in 2020
 - AB 1594 requires that the City in 2017 provide the State with a report that outlines how we intend to continue meeting our diversion rate, given that green waste will not be allowed for use towards calculating our overall diversion rate levels
 - By implementing the closed loop organics recycling program, we will be able to use all of our organics program materials to assist with meeting our diversion rate requirements
 - In this manner, the closed loop organics recycling program will ultimately allow us to stay in compliance with our diversion rate requirements, while also allowing us to continue offering the green colored trash bins for the separation and processing of residential green waste

New Costs Associated with New Organics Recycling Program

- During the past week or two, new bills that reflect increased trash service costs were distributed to residential customers
- No one likes to pay more for any service
- However, given new State recycling mandates, we have made every attempt to balance compliance with achieving added value / benefit for our residents
- To that end, your new updated residential trash bill includes a new monthly service charge identified as “Cal AB1826 Organic Charge”
- The monthly cost for the new organics recycling program is \$3.75 / month

- Athens bills residential customers on a quarterly basis, and so the charge on your bill is for three (3) months of service at \$3.75 / month, for a total of \$11.25
- Outside of the new charge for the organics program, the new monthly cost for trash services for the typical residential customer includes a base monthly cost increase of \$1.24 / month to take into account the new California minimum wage cost and required CPI cost adjustments
- In total, this means that the monthly cost for the typical 90-gallon trash barrel service is \$28.79 / month
- For comparative purposes, costs for the same residential trash service from around the region are as follows:

• Azusa	\$25.44
• Bell Gardens	\$25.92
• Monterey Park	\$26.99
• Glendora	\$28.76
• Monrovia	\$28.79
• Covina	\$29.30
• Irwindale	\$29.66
• West Covina	\$29.72
• Sierra Madre	\$32.10
• Temple City	\$33.51
• San Gabriel	\$34.37
• Palos Verdes Estates	\$35.49
• San Marino	\$42.04
• South Pasadena	\$43.04
- As the above cost overview illustrates, even with the new organics program implemented, we still have one of the lowest residential trash service costs in the area

Other Considerations Regarding the New Contract with Athens

- In addition to the residential organics recycling mulch / compost that will be provided to residents, the new contract with Athens also includes the following beneficial provisions:
 - Future trash service rate adjustment controls
 - Any future rate increases subject to City oversight and review
 - Any requested increase of more than 5% specifically requires City Council review and approval, and can be denied by the City Council
 - Athens will provide the City with unlimited abandoned bulky item pick-up services
 - The City receives many complaints regarding abandoned bulky items located throughout the City
 - The new contract with Athens allows the City to make unlimited requests to pick-up bulky items / trash that are left on the side of the street
 - This means that if you see any bulky items left on the street (couches, mattresses, furniture, etc.), please call the City's Public Works Division at (626) 932-5575, and we'll take care of it

- The new agreement allows the City to control the cost for street sweeping services, which are also provided by Athens
- Athens will implement an organics recycling program available to all commercial and multi-family customers
 - Our agreement with Athens puts in place a robust program that will allow us to comply with mandated AB 1826 requirements, and makes the organics recycling program available to all applicable commercial and multi-family customers
- If you should have any questions, please contact Alex Tachiki, Management Assistant, at atachiki@ci.monrovia.ca.us, or via phone at (626) 932-5553