



TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

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Town Council Meeting Summary – November 13, 2019

- The Council approved a new, 10-year garbage franchise agreement with GreenWaste Recovery, Inc. The Town has had such an agreement with GreenWaste since 2002.

Both the [Town's garbage consultant](#) and [GreenWaste](#) presented to the Council.

Changes to the cost of base service are driven by several factors, including:

- Changes in the recycling market and an overall reduction in the value of recyclables(China)
- Industry-wide cost increases
- Unanticipated increases (11%) in the volume of materials collected in the Towns
- Significant increases in costs of providing municipal solid waste services due to changes in State Regulations (SB 1383)
 - The impact of this State of California regulation, including changes in how the material can be collected and processed, and the introduction of extensive auditing, reporting, and fines, cannot be underestimated.
 - The rate impact in California has been anywhere from 30-70%.

Other rate changes are a factor of accounting for the cost of the service.

As part of the negotiations with GreenWaste, the following benefits were secured:

- Drive-On Service – no fee over 500 feet (GWR wanted \$22 extra per 100 feet)
- Reporting - added items to reporting for information and future decision making (e.g., Diversion Rate)
- Term extensions – negotiated for elect on first term extension, rather than offer
- Town-Wide Clean Up – negotiated to keep Mixed Compostable Materials
- On-Call Clean Up – negotiated for a voucher for Mixed Compostable Materials
- Limited Accessibility and On-Premise Services – negotiated to not freeze service level or institute a volume reduction
- Residential Manure Collection – negotiated to add residential manure collection in response to feedback from horse owners that the companies offering these services were diminishing; in addition, offering this service ensures manure is composted rather than landfilled
- Commercial Yard Trimmings Collection – negotiated to add an option for Commercial Service Recipients to dispose of Yard Trimming separately; offering this service results in a higher level of composted product

- Smaller Default Cart Option – negotiated smaller default cart options in response to resident concerns and requests

Because of changes to state law, residents may be affected by requirements for new carts. In the coming days, GreenWaste will be reaching out to all customers to determine their choice for servicer provision. New rates will go into effect on January 1, 2020.

- The Council heard a report from the Ad Hoc Wildfire Preparedness Committee on their recommendations to bolster and strengthen the Town’s resiliency to wildfires. Subjects reviewed by the Committee were [home hardening](#), [vegetation management](#), and [communications and evacuation](#).

The Council asked staff to prepare cost and work plan modifications to accommodate the recommendations, which were enthusiastically accepted by the Council. The Council will adopt recommendations at their December 11 meeting.

- Judith Hasko and Nicholas Targ were re-appointed to four-year terms on the Planning Commission, and Megan Koch and Jane Wilson were re-appointed unopposed to the Architectural Site Control Commission.
- The Town Council approved the addition of the Ladera Community Church, as well as the Town itself, to the Affiliated Housing Program of the Housing Element. This program, currently consisting of the Priory, the Sequoias, and Stanford University, allows employers to house their employees on their land. The Housing Element will be amended to accommodate this change and must be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Town Council once drafted.
- In January 2021, the use of gas-powered electric leaf blowers will be prohibited. In advance of that prohibition, the Town Council created an [incentive/trade-in program](#) that would reimburse 40% of the cost of an electric leaf blower or up to 120 dollars, contingent of exchange of the gas-powered model. The program will begin in early 2020.
- The Town Council authorized a potential application for SB 2 grant funds, to be used to support housing planning work (funds are “on the table” and available to all municipalities that apply for them), and authorized the Council subcommittee conducting the annual evaluation of the Town Manager to also conduct an annual review of the Town Attorney.
- The Council heard a presentation from the Sequoia Health Care District on their [“Sequoia Strong” program](#), made up of resources to support “healthy living”.

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