

**EL DORADO  
COUNTY**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**Gerri Silva  
M.S., REHS  
Director**

*Environmental  
Health*

*Air Quality  
Management  
District*

*Solid Waste &  
Hazardous  
Materials*

*Water Quality  
& Protection*

*Tahoe Office/  
Vector Control*



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August 22, 2008

Mr. Jeff Tillman, President  
South Tahoe Refuse Company, Inc.  
2140 Ruth Avenue  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: Recycling Programs for the South Tahoe Refuse Company Franchise  
Service Area

Dear Mr. Tillman:

During the August 18, 2008 Board of Supervisors Special Meeting to discuss solid waste issues within the County of El Dorado, the Board gave direction to Environmental Management Department (EMD) staff to research the feasibility of introducing new or enhanced recycling programs for the unincorporated areas of the County. EMD staff was further directed to bring back to the Board on October 7, 2008 staff's recommendations regarding a plan to for new or enhanced recycling programs.

As you are aware the NewPoint Group Solid Waste Rate and Service Study was also presented to the Board during the Special Meeting on August 18, 2008. The Study concluded that South Tahoe Refuse (STR) should consider a separate blue bag program for residential customers.

Please provide EMD with your written plan to pilot a blue bag program for residential customers within the STR franchise area. The plan should include a timeline of no later than January 1, 2009. The plan should also include other potential options for enhancing recycling, such as central locations for mixed recycling and/or green waste collection.

In order to meet submittal deadlines for the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, please remit STR's written plan to EMD no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, September 5, 2008. In addition, please contact Kevin Gilliland no later than September 5, 2008 to schedule a meeting the following week to discuss STR's plan with EMD staff. All plans must be finalized by September 12, 2008.

If you have any questions you reach me at 530-621-6653 or [gsilva@co.el-dorado.ca.us](mailto:gsilva@co.el-dorado.ca.us). You may also contact Greg Stanton at 530-621-6658 or [gstanton@co.el-dorado.ca.us](mailto:gstanton@co.el-dorado.ca.us).

Respectfully,

Gerri Silva, M.S., REHS  
Director of Environmental Management

Cc: Gayle Erbe-Hamlin, CAO, County of El Dorado



September 12, 2008

Gerri Silva, Director  
El Dorado County Environmental Management  
2850 Fairlane Ct., Building C  
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: South Tahoe Refuse Program Implementation

Dear Ms. Silva,

Thank you for your time yesterday to discuss expansion of STR recycling programs. It was very helpful to us to sit down and brainstorm on the various programs. Your staff is well informed and provided some really beneficial insight.

The following items are outlined to answer unresolved questions.

**Blue Bag Recycling Program**

- A pilot project will be rolled out in a portion of the unincorporated area of El Dorado County on 1-1-09. We anticipate using the Upper Truckee area so the Blue Bag pickup will be Tuesdays. A map of the proposed area is attached. There are approximately 1,383 customers in that area. We invite you to send staff up to follow the trucks on this route.
- Blue bags will be provided to the customers initially and then replaced at curbside by our employees as the bags are used, similar to the system used by Sierra Disposal Service. There is not limit to the number of bags per household.
- The estimated cost of the program is provided in the attached spreadsheet, as well as anticipated revenue offsets.
- STR plans to roll the Blue Bag Recycling Program out to all customers in our three jurisdictions around Earth Day 2009. We are requesting an item on the next JPA agenda to discuss program design among the three jurisdictions and to confirm related cost estimates.
- We will provide drafts of the educational materials as they are developed for your review and comment. Any samples or examples you have are welcomed.

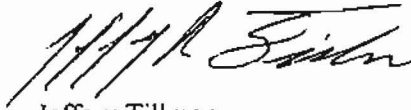
**Green Waste Recycling Program**

- The Green Waste Recycling Program will be rolled out, at a minimum, as a pilot project the week of Earth Day 2009.

- STR intends to run calendared Green Waste routes, every other week for residents.
- If the Resource Recovery Facility is not operational by spring, we will run as many Green Waste routes in the County as is feasible, staging the material in the existing MRF for immediate transfer to composting operations. If the Resource Recovery Facility is operational, we will be able to open up all the routes.
- There is no estimated cost increase for this program, unless STR is asked to provide a special bag which would trigger an associated cost increase.

Please feel free to contact me if further information or clarification is needed.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery Tillman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeffery Tillman  
President

Encl.

September 26, 2008

Mr. Greg Stanton, Deputy Director  
Environmental Management Department  
County of El Dorado  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, California 95667

**Subject: Solid Waste Franchisee Service Enhancement Proposals**

NewPoint Group reviewed service enhancement proposals submitted to the County of El Dorado (County) by each of its six (6) solid waste franchisees. Franchisees submitted these letter proposals to the County between September 2, 2008 and September 16, 2008.

Following direction from the County Board of Supervisors (Board) at its August 18, 2008, Board meeting, the County requested that each franchisee prepare a proposal to enhance the refuse, recycling, and/or yard waste services provided to customers within its service area. County staff subsequently worked with the six (6) franchisees to refine these proposals to meet County objectives.

As a result of these refinements, the franchisees' service enhancement proposals are as follows:

*Waste Connections of California*

- **Amador Disposal Service, Inc. (ADS)** – ADS proposes new cart-based refuse collection (32-, 64-, or 96-gallon container sizes)<sup>1</sup>; a new separate every other week, 64-gallon, cart-based curbside recycling route;<sup>1</sup> and regional yard waste and/or recycling drop boxes provided on one additional clean up day
- **El Dorado Disposal Service (EDDS)** – EDDS proposes extending the cart-based system of a 32-, 64-, or 96-gallon refuse cart, a bi-weekly 64-gallon recycling cart, and a bi-weekly 96-gallon yard waste carts to all of its customers<sup>1,2</sup>

*South Tahoe Refuse Company*

- **American River Disposal Service (ARDS)** – ARDS proposes a new year-round blue bag curbside recycling program, with bags collected on the refuse collection route; and a new seasonal yard waste collection program with separately designated, customer-provided, bags of yard waste collected on the refuse collection route

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<sup>1</sup> With some customer exceptions allowed.

<sup>2</sup> Represents a 44 percent increase in refuse carts to replace those that originally provided their own refuse cans, and a 30 percent increase in recycling carts so that EDDS provides all customers with a recycling cart. Customers have the option of requesting a yard waste cart, at no charge.

- **Sierra Disposal Service (SDS)** – SDS proposes new cart-based refuse collection (32-, 64-, or 96-gallon container sizes), and a new bi-weekly cart-based curbside recycling program for 80 percent of its customers
- **South Tahoe Refuse (STR)** – STR proposes a new blue bag curbside recycling program for 1,383 customers, and separate calendared, bi-weekly yard waste route to collect yard waste in customer provided bags or containers

*Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal*

- **Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD)** – TTSD proposes to provide increased public awareness of its curbside blue bag recycling program and also a new free clean up day.

In Table 1, on the following page, we summarize residential curbside service levels with the additional service enhancements proposed by the franchisees. Based on the findings in Table 1, with the service enhancements proposed, a total of three (3) of six (6) franchisees enhance refuse collection services, five (5) of six (6) franchisees enhance recycling services, and three (3) of six (6) franchisees enhance yard waste services. Of the 18 potential areas to enhance (i.e., six franchisees multiplied by three service types), the proposals enhance eleven (11) areas. The areas are shown by bold boxes in Table 1.

With the service enhancements proposed, 100 percent of the County's residential customers will have a curbside refuse collection option, 100 percent will have a curbside recycling option, and 73 percent will have a curbside yard waste collection option. For two areas without a curbside yard waste collection option (Amador Disposal Service and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal), the franchisee plans to add an additional clean up day with drop boxes for yard waste and recyclables collection.

With the service enhancements proposed, 75 percent of the County's residential customers will have cart-based curbside refuse collection, 71 percent will have cart-based curbside recycling, and 50 percent will have a cart-based curbside yard waste collection option. Currently, approximately 7,688, or 28 percent, of the County's customers have refuse collection carts, approximately 9,690, or 35 percent, have curbside recycling carts, and approximately 1,200, or 4 percent have yard waste carts.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> For the 50 percent of unincorporated County customers offered cart-based yard waste (in EDDS areas), under the new proposal, these customers have the option of requesting a yard waste cart (at no extra charge). Currently, customers pay an extra \$2.00 charge for a yard waste cart. Under the new proposal, yard waste carts are provided by EDDS at no extra charge. So, while 50 percent of unincorporated County customers are offered the yard waste cart service, the exact number that request a yard waste cart likely will be lower than 50 percent of unincorporated County customers.

Table 1  
Refuse, Recycling, and Yard Waste Service Levels of Six Franchisees  
(with Proposed Service Enhancements)<sup>4</sup>

Parent Company/Franchisee	Estimated Number of Uninc. County Residential Customers	Refuse Service Level	Recycling Service Level	Yard Waste Service Level	New Rate Structure Proposed
<i>Waste Connections of California</i>					
1. Amador Disposal Service (ADS)	2,005	Cart weekly (32, 64, or 96 gallon)	Cart bi-weekly (64 gallon)	None	Yes
2. El Dorado Disposal Service (EDDS)	13,671	Cart weekly (32, 64, or 96 gallon)	Cart bi-weekly (64 gallon)	Cart bi-weekly (96 gallon)	Yes
<i>South Tahoe Refuse Company</i>					
3. American River Disposal Service (ARDS)	211	Can weekly (32 or 45 gallon)	Blue bag weekly	Customer bags weekly	No
4. Sierra Disposal Service (SDS)	4,661	Cart weekly (32, 64, or 96 gallon)	Cart bi-weekly <sup>5</sup>	None	Yes
5. South Tahoe Refuse (STR)	5,943	Unlimited can weekly	Blue bag weekly	Customer containers bi-weekly	No
<i>Tahoe-Truckee Sierra Disposal</i>					
6. Tahoe-Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD)	757	Can weekly (32 gallon)	Blue bag weekly	None	
Total	27,248				
Total Customers Offered Some Program Option		27,248 (100%)	27,248 (100%)	19,825 (73%)	
Total Customers Offered Cart-based Program Option		20,337 (75%)	19,405 (71%)	13,671 (50%)	
Total Franchises with Service Enhancements		3	5	3	

<sup>4</sup> Areas with service enhancements are shown with a bold box.

<sup>5</sup> For 80 percent of customers.

Mr. Greg Stanton  
September 26, 2008

Page 4

Additionally, under the service enhancement proposals, Amador Disposal Service, El Dorado Disposal Service, and Sierra Disposal Service areas all will now have both cart-based refuse and curbside cart-based recycling. This means that virtually the entire West Slope of the County will have cart-based refuse and recycling.<sup>6</sup>

Of the six (6) franchisees, three (3) propose an entirely new rate structure, with rates restructured to encourage customers to reduce their refuse container size. These three franchisees include Amador Disposal Service, El Dorado Disposal Service, and Sierra Disposal Service. Each of these three franchisees is requesting rate increases from the County for their service enhancements. The South Tahoe Refuse franchise area is not requesting a rate increase for service enhancements at this time, as the South Lake Tahoe Basin Waste Management Authority will cover the first year costs of an STR blue bag program pilot.<sup>7</sup> The American River Disposal Service and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal areas are not requesting a rate increase for service enhancements.

NewPoint Group provided the County with our *Solid Waste Rate and Service Study* (Study), dated August 5, 2008. In Section 9 of this Study (beginning on page 9-7), we identified recommendations for each franchisee, including service enhancement recommendations. These proposals provided by each of the six (6) franchisees are highly consistent with the service enhancement recommendations contained in Section 9 of our Study.

We commend the County, and its franchise companies, on their efforts to develop these service enhancement proposals in this short, approximately one-month timeframe. We support these incremental service enhancements and the County's efforts to advance its overall residential refuse, recycling, and yard waste collection system.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 442-0189, or Erik Nylund at (916) 442-2456, should you have any questions regarding our opinion of these County service enhancements.

Very truly yours,

NewPoint Group, Inc.



James A. Gibson, Ph.D.  
Director

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<sup>6</sup> All of the West Slope with the exception of American River Disposal Service (211 customers).

<sup>7</sup> STR plans to track the costs of the blue bag program and after one-year will revisit the issue of whether to request a rate increase from the County for this service enhancement.



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# SOUTH LAKE TAHOE BASIN WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

South Lake Tahoe City Council Chambers  
1901 Airport Road, South Lake Tahoe  
Monday, September 22, 2008 - 10:00 a.m  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 am by Chair Lovell

2. Roll Call:

Present were Board Members Kathay Lovell, Norma Santiago, Nancy Mc. Dermid and Legal Counsel Tom Bruen. Staff members present were Assistant City Manager Rick Angelocci, El Dorado County Environmental Management Manager Geri Silva, El Dorado County Fiscal Manager Kerri Williams and Secretary Krista Eissinger.

3. Approval of Agenda

Board Member Norma Santiago motioned approval of the agenda as presented and Board Member McDermid seconded the motion and all members unanimously approved the motion.

4. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

Consent:

5. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Minutes of SLTBWMA Meeting August 14, 2008

6. Funding Requests and Status Reports:

- a. Finance Status Report

Board Member Santiago motioned approval of the Consent Agenda as presented and Board Member McDermid seconded the motion and all members unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion:

7. *Discussion and Possible Action* to Adopt the FY 2008-09 JPA Budget.

Staff Gerri Silva requested this item be discussed after Item 10.

Kerri Williams told the Board the attachments in their packet has the proposed budget that is outlined for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2008 but it does not have any line items for general sustainability or for any general contribution or supplement to Tahoe Blue Bag Program or an Earth Day program.

After a brief discussion Board Member McDermid motioned to amend the budget as proposed to add a sustainable line item in the amount of \$100,000 for the proposed 2008/2009 budget beginning October 1, 2008. Board Member Santiago seconded the motion and all members unanimously approved the motion.

8. *Discussion and Possible Action* Related to the Release of Milestone #1 Funds to STR Per Request Dated August 14, 2008 regarding the Resource Recovery Facility Project.

Terry Trease of South Tahoe Refuse told the Board they had submitted various permits to the Board and to date they have collected almost \$2.5m for money for the recovery project. They will be asking for release of the Milestone #1 portion which is approximately \$1.4m. Legal Counsel Tom Bruen told the Board he recommended release of the funds providing the permits for construction can be verified as received by STR. Rick Angelocci said he understands the actual building permit has been signed and released as of the time of this meeting.

On counsel's recommendation Board Member McDermid motioned approval to notify the member agencies the JPA has verified all permits for construction have been obtained by STR and the Milestone #1 funds should be released to STR as requested. Member Santiago seconded the motion and all members unanimously approved the motion.

9. *Discussion and Possible Action* Related to South Tahoe Refuse's Proposal Related to Blue Bag Recycling and Green Waste Recycling.

John Marchini of South Tahoe Refuse said STR is very excited about implementing this program in their service areas. The first proposed program will be rolled out with a coupon being provided to the customers and with the coupon they can go to various vendors that carry the bags and pick up a box of blue bags. They can use them for the weekly recycling service and when they run out they are responsible to purchase their own bags.

The second proposed option would be to provide all of their customers with boxes or a roll of blue bags and when they run out they would be required to purchase their own bags from the local vendors to continue the service. This option is how Truckee and Incline Village run their programs.

The third option is to provide two blue bags to the customer initially and then as they put either 1 or 2 blue bags out for recycling the drivers would replace the bag or bags. This program is the one STR is proposing for El Dorado County. With regards to the City and Douglas County it is up for discussion.

The phased area for El Dorado County is from South Tahoe High School to Highway 50 along North Upper Truckee Road. The phased area for the City will be the Sierra Tract area and a portion of Al Tahoe from Los Angeles to the meadow near Meeks. They have not designated a pilot program for Douglas County as of yet but they will have a meeting with officials on October 9 where it will be reviewed.

Kathay Lovell asked Rick Angelocci if the pilot program for the City would require Council action. Rick said he believes it does not require Council approval but he recommends the issue be presented to Council to give it more publicity and to get the blessing of Council and present it to the public. John said their intention is to rollout the phased programs for the jurisdictions is on January 1, 2009 and then a full blown rollout to the entire service area in April to coincide around Earth Day events.

John also showed the Board some examples of the proposed blue bags and the various options. STR has decided on a higher mil bag due to durability and is similar to what Truckee currently uses. The bags are not biodegradable and can be recycled but the biodegradable

bags cannot be recycled. The benefit of a bio bag is that if it ends up in a landfill it will eventually breakdown, but that is not certain if it is covered with dirt. The compostable bag they looked at probably would not work for the blue bag program but may work for the green waste program. These bags are being tested to see if they breakdown properly.

Kathay Lovell told staff of STR that she commends the entire organization for their cooperation and efforts on recycling and the public is ready to participate and has wanted to see this happen for some time.

John also mentioned that STR is working with the Department of Conservation who is offering to pay for and develop educational material and distribute the information throughout the entire service area.

Terry Trease asked if the JPA could pay part of the first year cost of the program. Kathay Lovell said she felt it was an appropriate cost. Tom Bruen told the Board the JPA has the funds and has the ability to decide to subsidize the new recycling program.

Commercial recycling programs were briefly discussed and Board Member McDermid said recognition of some kind would be an incentive for commercial operators to participate and be recognized in a visible way by their guests and/or patrons.

Kathay Lovell asked if STR would think about a pilot commercial blue bag program whether it be restaurants or certain target areas for discussion at the next meeting. She said the City is currently developing an incentive for green businesses that are using biodegradable bags and be able to recognize them in some way.

There was no action taken on this item.

10. *Discussion* Regarding the JPA Role in Sustainability and Goal Setting for Future Green Projects. Board Member Lovell said she requested this item be placed on the agenda so the JPA would have the opportunity to discuss what role the JPA Board should play in setting goals in sustainability.

Jeanne Lear of STR told the Board the second part of their letter presented in Item 9 talks about sustainability and if the building is completed they can roll out the program because it is operationally doable with their current budget as long as there is no special bag. If the building is not ready by Spring they would be taking the green waste down for composting.

The question STR wants the California jurisdictions to consider is that under the current franchise agreement they are required to pick up these materials each week and they would like to have the pick ups every other week. Gerri Silva said El Dorado County wanted to have the budget line item placed after this item because the County is trying to have the pilot program for blue bags and green waste roll out in spring with Earth Day and possibly do a larger kick off if the JPA wants to get involved in that way. Member McDermid said she would support JPA participation but reminded the Board that Earth Day could be inclement.

Kathay Lovell asked if the Board is comfortable having a regular placeholder on every agenda that is a sustainable topic and asked staff from each jurisdiction to give either an update or suggestion how this Board could further the sustainability issue.

Norma told the Board El Dorado County is currently at a 59% diversion rate but they need to see what is being done outside of the basin. We are restricted in terms of what we can and cannot do in the basin.

Rick Angelocci said the bill regarding the percentage of diversion increase did not make it through the legislative process this year but what did make it through was a bill redefining how the diversion rate is calculated. The intent of this bill is to shift the focus more on the programs that communities have in place versus actual weight.

11. Items of Mutual Interest

Kathay Lovell told the Board she would request that the Board receives a quarterly P&L Statement via email.

12. Next Meeting Date

November 17, 2008 at 10 am will be the next meeting date.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am



SOUTH TAHOE REFUSE CO., INC.

August 20, 2008

Ms. Gerri Silva, Director of Environmental Management  
El Dorado County  
2850 Fairlane Ct.  
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: South Tahoe Refuse, Inc.

Dear Ms. Silva:

Enclosed please find the Annual Summary and 2009 rate application for South Tahoe Refuse, Inc. In accordance with the franchise agreement with El Dorado County and the Solid Waste Rate Setting Policies and Procedures Manual we are required to submit this to the County annually on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The company has calculated an 8.0% rate adjustment for the 2009 rate year. Kindly advise if you wish for the company to submit this Annual Summary to the JPA or any other items to facilitate your review.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tillman", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Tillman  
President