

12-9-08

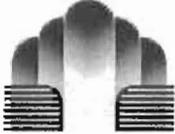


Suzanne Allen de Sanchez/PV/EDC
12/08/2008 01:33 PM

To Cynthia C Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Legislative File ID 08-1532 - Amador Disposal Service Rate and Service Increase request

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County
530.621.5394

----- Forwarded by Suzanne Allen de Sanchez/PV/EDC on 12/08/2008 01:33 PM -----



The BOSONE/PV/EDC
Sent by: Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC
12/08/2008 01:32 PM

To Suzanne Allen de Sanchez/PV/EDC@TCP
cc
Subject Fw: Legislative File ID 08-1532 - Amador Disposal Service Rate and Service Increase request



"L. Dean Baker"
<amiwhere@boilerbakers.com>
12/08/2008 10:46 AM

To <bosone@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,
<bostwo@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,
<bosthree@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,
<bosfour@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,
<bosfive@co.el-dorado.ca.us>, <arnitab@wcnx.org>
cc
Subject RE: Legislative File ID 08-1532 - Amador Disposal Service Rate and Service Increase request

Attached is a letter regarding the Amador Disposal Service Rate and Service Increase request. The request has many flaws and safety issues for the residents. Please submit this letter as I will be unable to attend the hearing on Tuesday Dec. 9.

Thank you,

L. Dean Baker



Response to 08-1532.doc

December 7, 2008

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Legislative File ID 08-1532 - Amador Disposal Service Rate and Service Increase request

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing in regard to Amador Disposal Service's (ADS) annual rate increase request and proposed enhanced residential recycling program to be implemented for all residential customers in its Franchise area.

In regards to the annual rate increase, there are a few points of concern.

- First and foremost, the budget projections are just that, projections which were made over 8 months ago, apparently prior to the April 23 letter from ADS to Gerri Silva. The market conditions are dramatically different now. Currently there is a strong probability that we will soon be entering a depression which will affect all costs for an extended period. Many costs will decrease, as well as many of the resident's annual income.
- And just this week, fuel is already down to prices not seen since January of 2004 and one brief period in January of 2005. (I know this because I have records for all the fuel I have ever put into my Honda CRX which I purchased in December 1991 and now with over 200,000 miles on it.) That alone should make the fuel surcharge proposal unnecessary. And many other costs are expected to continue to decrease as well, again making any proposed rate increase at this time unjustified by the current outlook.
- At the very least, I believe the proposed budget no longer reflects the current conditions and should be updated and re-distributed before any further consideration of any rate increase or fuel surcharge.

In regards to the mandatory enhanced residential recycling program, I have many concerns.

- Currently there are many residents in Amador Disposal Service Franchise area of El Dorado County who must transport their containers to a group pick-up site. Where I live, several residents must haul their own garbage containers over 1 mile to a group pick-up area as the garbage trucks will not travel on non-county maintained roads. Some residents here must travel over 2 miles to the group pick-up site. These roads have steep grades, sharp turns and some of the roads are dirt and in poor condition. The oversize containers are much more likely to cause damage to our vehicles in transporting them to the group pick-up area, like tipping over and breaking a window, or falling out and spilling.
- Many of the residents in this service area are over 50 years of age. I am sure many of our residents could not even lift a full 45- or 64-gallon container into their vehicle by themselves. I am a fit 45-year old father of three and I find it very difficult to manhandle a fully loaded 32-gallon container up and into the back of a pickup truck. It should be noted that the garbage trucks have mechanical devices to lift these oversize containers. (Luckily for me, I very rarely have a fully loaded 32-gallon container to take down, and I frequently transport the container in

the front seat of the aforementioned Honda CRX.)

- If a resident does not have a large vehicle, they will not be able transport either multiple containers or oversize containers. These large vehicles, typically older pick-up trucks, will contribute in their own way to increase air pollution.
- I also am very concerned that many residents will end up leaving oversized containers at the group pick-up area creating a public eyesore. Furthermore, additional containers at our pick-up area are very likely to cause a safety problem for access on and off of Latrobe Road.
- Our CC&Rs require that we keep our trash cans out of view while on our property. Oversize containers as well as multiple containers will present some residents with additional expenditures to meet this requirement.
- The approximately \$5 additional charge per month for the enhanced recycle program, i.e. the privilege of using containers provided by ADS, is excessive. I have had the same 32-gallon container for 10 years and it is in great shape. No cracks of any kind. In that time I would have paid ADS an additional \$600 for that trash can. The fact that ADS expects to reap additional recyclable materials by providing these containers, thus rewarding them with additional profits, makes this approximately \$5 additional fee preposterous. I also expect these recycle containers to be used only once or twice a month, thus doubling the life expectancy of the containers, and therefore our ultimate out of pocket cost for said container.
- Currently we participate in the blue bag recycle program offered by ADS. One of the benefits of the blue bag system is that I do not have a smelly container always sitting around or leaks in my vehicles from unbagged garbage and recyclables. Currently, all my garbage and recyclables go into a bag/liner. And what I do not recycle with ADS, I take to Latrobe Schools, Girl Scouts and the convenient recycling center on Latrobe Road.
- I would also add that I foresee a reduction in recycling in our area as many residents will use alternative methods rather than haul a large container 2 miles to a group pick-up area.
- Finally, I would like to remind the Supervisors of the counties responsibility for creating these conditions by not accepting the dedication of our roads when we were formed in 1977.

All in all, this proposal to mandate recycling carts for all residents obviously creates or exacerbates several safety issues. At the very least I expect to be offered a manageable container, being a 32-gallon maximum, if I am expected to transport my garbage and recyclables to a group pick-up. And I expect the cost for a 32 gallon recycle container to cost much less than an additional \$5 per month, especially since ADS believes the containers will lead to increased recycling and thus increased profits for ADS. Further, I expect to have the option to opt out of the program since many other options for recycling already exist and I utilize them.

Sincerely,

L. Dean Baker
8181 White Hawk Road
Latrobe, CA 95682
530-676-8788