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**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

Jason Craft  
Amador Disposal Service Inc  
6500 Buena Vista Road  
Ione, CA 95640

Re: Recycling Programs for the Amador Disposal Services Franchise Service Area

Dear Mr. Craft:

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 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 Amador Disposal Services (ADS) could implement a cart solid waste collection system in some of its residential franchise service area, and potentially eliminate can service in these areas. The Study also concluded that some regional public (free) yard waste and/or recycling collection drop boxes could also be used to help generate more diversion of waste from landfill in the ADS franchise area.

Please provide EMD with your written plan to roll out a multiple cart system (i.e., refuse cart, mixed recycling cart and green waste cart) for ADS customers currently on can service. The plan should include a timeline of no later than January 1, 2009, a 32 and 64 gallon cart rate (ADS already has a rate for a 96 gallon cart), rate analysis, tiered rate structure, and route information indicating where the implementation of cart service is practical and feasible. The plan should also include other potential options for enhancing recycling, such as central locations for green waste collection.

In order to meet submittal deadlines for the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, please remit ADS' 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 ADS' 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  
Jim Little, Waste Connections, Inc.  
Ron Middlestadt, Waste Connections, Inc.



**Amador Disposal Service Inc.**  
6500 Buena Vista Road  
Ione, CA 95640

September 16, 2008

Gerri Silva  
County of El Dorado  
2850 Fairlane Ct., Bldg "C"  
Placerville, CA 95667

**RE: Recycling Programs for the Amador Disposal Service Franchise Area Response**

Dear Ms. Silva,

This letter is in response to your letter dated August 22, 2008 requesting a written plan to roll out a multiple cart system for our customers currently on can service in the unincorporated area of El Dorado County.

As previously stated we agree with the New Point Group's study findings that we could implement cart solid waste collection and recycling for our residential service area and eliminate can service. We have considered the results of New Point Group's rate study as part of our review for our proposed rates for these services in this area, along with other municipalities in the area where we provide like service.

Amador Disposal proposes to eliminate can service and implement cart solid waste collection and alternating week cart recycling collection for our entire service area, approximately 1900 residential customers. We believe we can successfully implement this program operationally based on the fact that we currently already have customers on every residential route using a 96-gallon cart that we have provided to them. Each customer would receive a garbage cart (32/64/96 gallon) to replace their current garbage can, (unless of course they already have one of our 96-gallon containers) based on their current service level and all customers would receive a 64-gallon cart for alternating week recycling collection service. (Approximately 3550 containers, as we have approximately 100+ customers with one of our 96-gallon containers) We would add 9 new route days (4.5 per week) using existing equipment to provide the new single stream recycling collection.

For those customers that request 2 smaller carts, they will be allowed to use 2 carts on an exception basis. For those that cannot manage a 64-gallon recycling container, blue bags will be used as an option, again on an exception basis.

As far as a committed timeline and a January 1, 2009 deadline, once the board approves the rates, ADS will order the carts (8-12 week lead time), and then collection could occur approximately 4 weeks later after approximately a 3-week window for delivery. Outreach materials will accompany our cart delivery of acceptable recyclable materials, use of carts, and collection calendar for the alternating week recycling collection.

Our proposed monthly rates for this service listed below include; the addition of 4.5 new route days per week, an assumption of zero migration in current customer garbage service level to smaller cart sizes, an increase in 25 pounds per home of recyclables (and the equivalent benefit of this material), the equivalent savings in disposal of 25 pounds per home, the cost savings from eliminating the blue bags, the costs associated with delivering the new carts, and is predicated on us receiving our previously requested rate increase of 15% (submitted in April 2008) on all commercial and industrial customers with the new residential rates approved as follows:

Current Rates	Proposed Residential Rates for Cart Service and Alternating Week Recycling Cart Collection	
32-gallon cart	\$14.13	\$20.95
64-gallon cart	\$20.90	\$28.18
96-gallon cart	\$25.69	\$32.59

Note, the current rates for 32-gallon and 64-gallon is for equivalent size, as stated we currently only have a cart rate for 96-gallon.

As previously stated, this program and proposal is predicated on the approval of our 15% rate increase request for all commercial, and industrial customers we previously proposed earlier this year, and if this program is not approved we would expect our 15% rate increase implemented on all residential customers for the service that is provided today in lieu of the new proposed program. As previously discussed, and backed up in the results of the study done by the New Point Group, we believe a rate increase is not out of the question, and as shown in our 2007 financial results, our income from operations is currently negative. We cannot outlay additional capital and resources on a negative income from operations.

The proposed rate structure encourages recycling and discouraging the largest garbage cart.

Your letter also stated that some free yard waste or recycling collection drop off boxes could help to improve diversion, I believe we are already doing this. Each year we partner with the Grizzly Flats Fire Council, Emergency Response Team, and Organization to Reunite Community and Education to provide an annual clean up day. This community clean up is provided at no charge to the County or Community and includes roll off containers for green waste, recycling, metal, appliances, and trash. (In 2007 we collected 25 tons from this one-day event.) We would propose the idea of doing an identical type clean up in the Shingle Springs/Latrobe area to perpetuate additional diversion opportunities in this area of the County.

Amador Disposal is excited about partnering with the County to bring both garbage carts and improve diversion efforts through the use of recycling cart collection to 100% of our residential customer base in El Dorado County under this proposal, and we look forward to progressing on this program. Furthermore, we will begin inserting coupons into the newspaper on a quarterly basis for an entire year enticing new customers to sign for curbside collection by giving them 1-month service for free. (A credit will be applied to their third invoice after six months of service.)

Regards,



Jason Craft

District Manager  
Waste Connections Inc.  
Amador/Calaveras Disposal

cc: Greg Stanton, EMD, County of El Dorado  
Ron Mittelstaedt, WCN  
Jim Little, WCN  
Kevin Malone, WCN

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, seasonal, 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	<b>Yes</b>
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)	<b>Yes</b>
<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	<b>Yes</b>
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 ( <b>100%</b> )	27,248 ( <b>100%</b> )	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

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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.

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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<sup>®</sup>, 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.