



Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Co., Inc.

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Co., Inc. • P.O. Box 6479 • Tahoe City, CA 96145-6479 • Ph.: (530) 583-0148 • (530) 389-2367 • Fax: (530) 583-0804

September 2, 2008

Gerri Silva, M.S., REHS Director
El Dorado County Environmental Mgmt. Dept.
2850 Fairlane Court, Building "C"
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Recycling Programs for the Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Company
Franchise Service Area

Dear Gerri:

We are in receipt of your correspondence dated August 22, 2008, seeking response to EMD's suggested plan to provide "regional, free public yard waste and/or recycling collection drop boxes" in the franchise area this company serves. While we appreciate the intent of the suggestion, we must respectfully call to question its likelihood of success. To explain, we must simply say that we have "been down this road before" in adjacent jurisdictions that we serve. Similar programs in those areas were begun with the same earnest intent, but ultimately failed as a result of illegal dumping issues, bear protection and public safety concerns, and matters related to the fairness of existing paying customers.

If one is unfamiliar with the term NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard), one quickly becomes familiar with it when attempting to find a suitable location for placement of a community waste receptacle. Residents initially warm to the idea of a local dumpster may cool considerably when awakened at 2 a.m. while a bear marauds the dumpster, or worse, when a local contractor throws cement blocks into the glass recycling container. We've also experienced noise problems when persons pirating recyclables invade the dumpsters during the dark, but quiet evening hours. Drop-boxes for clean recyclables quickly become illegal dumpsites and unsightly blights to the community. What begins as one dumpster quickly invites the need for another and another again until all control is lost. We have only had one case of marginal success, when we placed a recycling dumpster in the local Sheriff's parking lot, forty feet across from the dispatch door. Yet they too ultimately requested that we remove the dumpster.

Bear issues are of increasing concern. Even in a perfect world where all residents placed their wastes within a secure dumpster, the odors provoking bear visitations become a concern for public safety. Moreover, most customers who arrive at a full dumpster, bag in hand, are more likely to place the bag beside the dumpster rather than try again later, after the dumpster is emptied. It becomes an open invitation for local wildlife.

As regards fairness to our existing paying customers, provision of a community waste receptacle essentially provides free waste service to the non-paying customers. Ultimately, the service rate for the paying customer goes up to provide for the non-paying customer. Those who subscribe to service are essentially treated unfairly to the unpunished abuser. Again, it is not a perfect world and we mustn't fool ourselves that a dumpster with signs terming them "Yard Waste Only" or "Recycling Only" will necessarily prevent illegal dumpers from contaminating the contents with putrescible or construction wastes.

Rather than provide community dumpsters, we would favor increasing public awareness of our current free curbside bluebag program. That program allows a more efficient and environmentally responsible use of our collection vehicles, which haul all wastes to our Materials Recovery Facility for processing and diversion.

We look forward to our meeting scheduled on Thursday, September 11th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the matter more fully. Should you have any questions in the meanwhile, please contact me at 530-583-0148 or via email at jeff@waste101.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jeff Collins
Manager