

12-04-08

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY

2008 DEC -4 PM 2:11

December 3, 2008

Dear Supervisor Ron Briggs,

Although you are not my supervisor, I believe you are the man to get the job done and I will get an honest response. Please share this packet with all the board members having their own copy.

I am sending this packet to the following people enclosing in each one an individual cover letter. I am seeking results.

1. California Senator David Cox
2. El Dorado County District Attorney Office (William Clark)
3. El Dorado County Planning Commission Office
4. El Dorado County Chief Executive Office (Michael Applegarth)
5. El Dorado County Judge Eddie Keller
6. California State Attorney General Office
7. Fair Political Practices Board Sacramento
8. El Dorado Hills CSD Board
9. Supervisor Elect John Knight
10. Supervisor Elect Ray Nutting
11. Sacramento Bee (Carol Locke)
12. Mountain Democrat (Mike Rafferty)

Respectfully,



Joan Amo  
4000 Bright Court  
Placerville, Ca. 95667

**RE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECEMBER 9, 2008 MEETING**

On December 9, 2008 the Board of Supervisor will be meeting. You need to address the matter with all the pertinent information before adding cost to our monthly bill. The fuel surcharge should be removed. With a failed economy and the county lay offs the Board of Supervisors need to act in behalf of their constituents. I have enclosed news articles documenting Waste Connections will still be a highly profitable company after removing the fuel charge and not again raising our rates. While other companies across the nation are having to bite the bullet, Waste Connections is reaping higher profits.

**RE: Waste Connections July 1, 2008 Rate Increase**

The documented time line indicates the rate increase passed by the Board of Supervisors was unwarranted and unfounded. In June, 2008, by Waste Connections own admission the eleven year old firm, became one of the nation's highest profitable businesses which included Anheuser-Busch, McDonald's, PepsiCo and Whirlpool. They experienced an 11% increase in quarterly revenue of \$267 million (over one billion dollars annual revenue not including the new rate increase) and a 4% increase per share increase. value which indicates their rates were more than sufficient. They operate in 23 states and use about 20 million gallons of fuel. Geri Silva, Environmental Management Department, report is misleading and in conflict with Waste Management Ron Mittelstaedt's report the company is experiencing higher profits in spite of the \$8 million increase in fuel expense. Silva did not do her homework. In October she wrote another misleading and bias report favoring Industrial Drive relocation site. Perhaps she needs to step down from her position. Her reports are a waste our time and money.

July, 2008 gas prices reached their peak. Waste Connections was only slightly impacted approximately 60 days by the rising fuel cost. During this same 60 day time period Waste Connections announced they were in the process of purchasing a Washington based company with an annual revenue of about \$100 million; while Sweeney stated Waste Connections needed a long term contract and Industrial Drive to get a \$8 million bank loan.

In August Waste Connections raised the rates in El Dorado Hills under the urging of Ron Mittelstaedt and CSD Planning Director, Dianna Hillyer. The following month Ron Mittelstaedt offered to match up to \$100,000 in contributions towards the construction of El Dorado Hills Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field. It appears Ron Mittelstaedt, a resident of El Dorado Hills, and Dianna Hillyer, key organizer of the Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field, will be the first to benefit from the collected fee increase.

October 30, 2008 oil prices have dropped more than 60% from \$147 to \$57 a barrel. The fuel prices are continuing to drop to less than \$2 per gallon.

These documented facts about Waste Connections raise the following questions:

Prior to the rate increase approval was the Board of Supervisors given all the pertinent facts and figures by Waste Connections and Jack Sweeney? was a financial sheet provided?

Does the contact agreement with Waste Connections provide for a fuel surcharge increase? If so what are the conditions; or were they just blindly given an unfounded surcharge increase? For documentation purposes a copy of the contact to be included and pertinent paragraphs to be highlighted.

With the fuel cost rapidly dropping since September and is now less than \$2 per gallon why hasn't the Board of Supervisors request the fuel surcharge be dropped? The Board of Supervisors has a responsibility to the people, to act in their best interest and recognize El Dorado County is in the same economic crunch as the rest of the nation.

Dealing with the high cost of living, the rising unemployment rate and inadequate social security checks you will force many to discontinue garbage service which translates into unlawful trash disposal, an added county problem and cost; or is Waste Connections going to finance the clean-up problem they created?

There are rules and regulations outlined in the Brown Act. Each of you has an individual responsibility to ask questions, to think for yourself, to see beyond the moment and unselfishly do what's right for the people.

The Brown Act entitles me to a response within a timely manner. A simple cover letter in layman's terms which I will forward to others will suffice. I want to know what are you doing in our best interest when we need you the most. Thank you,



Joan Amo  
4000 Bright Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

MID-DEMO JUNE 2008

# Garbage rates going up

## Fuel prices hit county's garbage provider hard, officials say

**By Noel Stack**  
City editor

Waste Connections customers in El Dorado County will pay more for garbage service come July, but not as much as the provider would have liked.

Tuesday the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved a 3.3 percent consumer price index increase and a 3.75 percent fuel surcharge increase to Waste Connections' rates. The garbage company asked the supervisors to

approve a 5.38 percent fuel surcharge increase. "There has been a substantial spike in fuel costs," said Sue Farris, Waste Connections' district manager.

➤ see **GARBAGE**, page A-4

## GARBAGE

contin

Last year Waste Connections spent about \$1 million on fuel, most of which is bought locally, according to Geri Silva, director of the county's Environmental Management Department.

Diesel rates continue to rise, Silva said, and soon other garbage providers in El Dorado County will follow suit, asking the county

to boost their fuel surcharge rates to balance out the cost.

The requested 5.38 percent increase "will not keep us whole," Farris told the supervisors. However, she explained, that rate would allow Waste Connections to continue its community programs, encouraging more customers to throw less in the garbage can and

more in the green waste or recycling bins provided.

Recycling bins are provided and emptied for free and residential green waste collection costs customers \$2 a month.

Waste Connections also provides community green waste bins to discourage burning, Farris said.

Aware of the rising fuel prices and cost of doing

business but also cognizant of the residents' needs, and in some cases limited means, the supervisors approved a 3.75 percent fuel surcharge increase, the same increase approved last year.

New rates will take effect July 1.

Residential customers with one 32-gallon garbage can will pay \$18.80; a 64-

gallon cart will cost \$28.18 and a 96-gallon cart will cost \$28.85.

The supervisors unanimously approved the CPI adjustment. Supervisors Jack Sweeney, Rusty Dupray and Norma Santiago favored the fuel surcharge increase. Supervisors Helen Baumann and Ron Briggs voted against it.

"I think it's a terrible deal for the people who can't afford it," Briggs said. "It's the public's money."

Waste Connections offer lower senior discounts to customers experiencing financial difficulty on a case-by-case basis, Farris said.

E-mail Noel Stack at [nstack@midemoco.com](mailto:nstack@midemoco.com) or call (530) 344-5000.

## Anheuser-Busch

The nation's largest brewer, Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc., reported a 1.8 percent rise in second-quarter profit Wednesday on higher sales of its main brands and the successful launch of Bud Light Lime.

Anheuser-Busch also said it would raise prices again starting in September, and the increases will affect the majority of its U.S. sales volume.

The St. Louis-based brewer of beers such as Budweiser and Bud Light said net income rose to \$689 million for the three months ending in June from \$677 million in the same period last year.

Earnings per share were 95 cents, up from 88 cents last year and above Wall Street's expectations of 93 cents. Revenue rose 4.1 percent to \$5.3 billion from \$5.1 billion.

The earnings come one week after Anheuser-Busch agreed to sell itself to Belgian brewer InBev SA for \$52 billion, or \$70 a share.

U.S. beer shipments to wholesalers were fairly flat in the quarter, up 0.5 percent, while sales to retailers were up 0.4 percent.

## McDonald's

Consumers helped bring McDonald's Corp. back to profitability in the second quarter by spending on breakfast biscuits, chicken sandwiches and drinks despite the tough U.S. economy.

But the nation's No. 1 hamburger chain also warned Wednesday it expects beef and chicken costs to rise substantially in the United States and Europe through the rest of the year, and is testing options that may change the makeup of its popular dollar menu.

"The way the dollar menu looks today won't be the way it's going to look next year," said McDonald's President and Chief Operating Officer Ralph Alvarez on a conference call with investors. "In this current environment, we've got to make sure we're pricing smart, not just pricing low."

McDonald's earned \$1.19 bil-

lion in the second quarter, including a gain from the sale of its stake in sandwich chain Pret A Manger, solidly besting Wall Street estimates. A year earlier, it posted a loss of \$711.7 million stemming from charges on the sale of its Latin American and Caribbean businesses.

The Oak Brook, Ill.-based company said revenue rose 4 percent to \$6.08 billion, also beating analysts' predictions.

McDonald's specifically credited its breakfast items, new chicken offerings and beverages with the sales increases. The chain introduced a new chicken biscuit sandwich for breakfast, a chicken sandwich for lunch and espresso-based coffee drinks in some locations.

Alvarez said the coffee drinks are selling ahead of the company's expectations so far.

## PepsiCo

American consumers shying away from bottled water and soft drinks hurt PepsiCo's bottom line, but growth in its international and Frito-Lay snack businesses was strong enough to lead the company to a 9 percent rise in second-quarter profit.

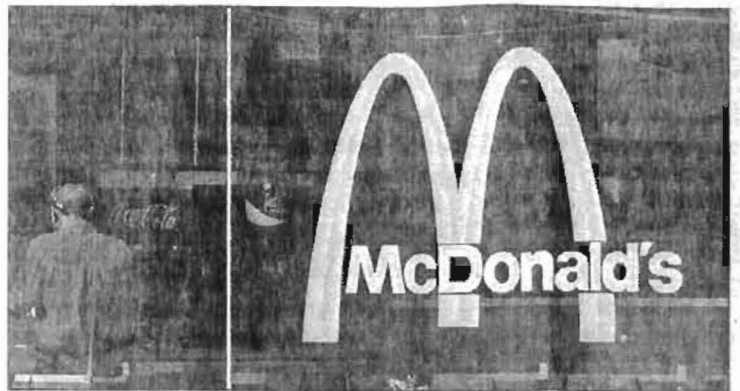
PepsiCo, which sells brands such as Mountain Dew, Aquafina, Lay's and Quaker, has also raised prices worldwide to offset higher costs for fuel and ingredients such as grains and cooking oil.

PepsiCo expects commodity costs to rise between 9 percent and 10 percent in 2008.

For the three-month period ending June 14, the Purchase, N.Y.-based company earned \$1.7 billion, or \$1.05 a share, compared with \$1.56 billion, or 94 cents a share, in the same period last year. Revenue rose 14 percent to \$10.95 billion. Excluding one-time items, the company earned \$1.03 per share.

Starting in the second quarter, Frito-Lay reduced the weight of some products, effectively raising prices without changing the cost that buyers see. It also raised some actual prices.

Chief Executive Indra Nooyi said U.S. soft drink sales were in an "unprecedented slowdown" that has also hit the company's



Seth Periman/Associated Press

**New chicken offerings helped McDonald's return to profitability, though it expects rising costs may require changes on its popular dollar menu.**

Aquafina bottled water, as consumers who want to save money and reduce waste switched to tap water.

## Waste Connections

Despite rising fuel costs for its fleet of nearly 3,000 trucks, Folsom-based Waste Connections saw gains in revenue and net income in the second quarter ended June 30.

The 11-year-old waste management firm reported revenue of \$267 million in the three-month period, up about 11 percent from \$241.1 million in the same period a year ago.

The firm reported quarterly net income of \$26.2 million, or 39 cents per share, compared with \$25.3 million, or 36 cents a share, last year - a gain of nearly 4 percent.

"We remain extremely pleased with our performance in the year considering the rapid escalation in fuel costs and weakening economic environment," said Ronald Mittelstaedt, the company's chairman and chief executive officer. "A 55 percent year-over-year increase in average fuel prices drove an approximate \$8 million increase in fuel expense in the quarter."

Waste Connections serves about 1.5 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in 23 states. It uses about 20 million gallons of fuel a year - most of it to power diesel trucks.

Diesel fuel prices have been significantly higher than gasoline costs. On Monday, AAA reported the average statewide

price of diesel at \$5.08 per gallon, compared with \$4.42 a gallon for unleaded regular gas. One year ago, diesel was selling for \$3.26 a gallon in California.

## Whirlpool

Household appliance maker Whirlpool Corp. said Wednesday its second-quarter profit fell 27 percent because of higher material and oil-related costs, and lower U.S. demand.

"This is a very serious, severe economic environment," said Jeff Fettig, Whirlpool's chairman and chief executive.

The company expects industry-wide demand in the United States to finish the year down 6 percent to 7 percent and down 2 percent to 3 percent in Europe. Its brands include Whirlpool, Maytag, Amana, KitchenAid and Jenn-Air.

Whirlpool reported its profit for the three-month period ended June 30 was \$117 million; or \$1.53 per share, compared with \$161 million, or \$2 per share, during the same period last year. Revenue of \$5.1 billion was up 5 percent from the \$4.9 billion reported in the second quarter of 2007.

Whirlpool's performance beat Wall Street's expectations; its shares closed at \$76.69 but dropped in after-hours trading.

Fettig said the company expects to pay \$600 million to \$650 million more for oil-related costs and raw materials such as steel during 2008, up from its estimate three months ago of \$450 million to \$500 million.

- Associated Press, Mark Glover

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# BUSINESS

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## IN BRIEF

2/6/8

### GARBAGE

#### Waste Connections buys Washington state firm

Folsom-based Waste Connections Inc. said Tuesday that it will purchase a solid-waste services firm in Washington state.

Financial terms for the acquisition of Harold LeMay Enterprises headquartered near Tacoma, Wash., were not disclosed. LeMay bills itself as the largest privately owned solid waste services company in the Pacific Northwest with annual revenue of about \$100 million.

The pending transaction is subject to regulatory approval and consent of municipal bodies.

Waste Connections also announced it will acquire the remaining interests of Pierce County Recycling, Composting and Disposal in Washington state. Waste Connections already has majority ownership.

— Mark Glover

# Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field gets big financial boost

Organizers hope that trash-hauling entrepreneur's generosity is contagious

By Mike Roberts

Mother Lode News

EL DORADO HILLS — Waste Connections CEO Ron Mittelstaedt has agreed to match up to \$100,000 in cash contributions toward the Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field.

His generosity provides a shot in the arm to fund-raising efforts for the \$1.2 million field that will memorialize slain Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Mitchell, and also

pay tribute to police, firefighters and all the behind-the-scenes public servants who contribute to public safety. Mitchell lived with his family in Serrano before he was shot to death during a routine traffic stop in October 2006.

Mittelstaedt is also an El Dorado Hills resident. The donation is coming from Mittelstaedt's El Dorado Disposal, a Waste Connections subsidiary that has the trash hauling franchise in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Placerille and other parts of El Dorado County. It comes one month after a contentious trash-hike negotiation with the El Dorado Hills Community Services District was resolved.

El Dorado Disposal joins Bank of America, Roebbelen and Land Architecture as a major contributor to Jeff Mitchell Field.

Reached by phone, Mittelstaedt said he anticipates the offer standing through November, but encourages donors to step up now to ensure that their contributions get matched.

"We're hoping that some of

the larger local business people who haven't gotten behind this project yet, the \$5,000 to \$50,000 donors, will take this opportunity to see their contribution doubled," he said.

Mittelstaedt said he's managed and coached Little League in El Dorado Hills for the last 11 years, adding, "My middle son is still active in Little League, and my oldest played for nine years."

The donation couldn't have come at a better time. After a high profile kickoff party in February that featured several professional baseball players who live in the area, donations slowed and plans for the first phase of the project were scaled back.

Mittelstaedt said he hopes that

his matching funds will carry the project through the remaining \$300,000 needed for the first phase.

"Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field will be a destination for families all over this area, and something that this community will be proud of," he said. "We'll be able to host regional tournaments, and spread awareness of Jeff Mitchell and the other public servants who risk their lives for our families every day."

El Dorado Hills Little Leaguers currently travel to Rocklin, Elk Grove and even Redding to play in tournaments because "those are the places with the facilities," Mittelstaedt added.

El Dorado Hills Community Services District General Manager Wayne Lowery is one of the organizers for the memorial field.

"The pledge from El Dorado Disposal Service is a huge financial boost to the

*"Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field will be a destination for families all over this area, and something that this community will be proud of."*

— Ron Mittelstaedt



Courtesy photo

**RON MITTELSTAEDT will match the next \$100,000 donated to Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field. Mittelstaedt is an El Dorado Hills resident and CEO of Folsom-based Waste Connections.**

project," he wrote in an e-mail. "This commitment should inspire additional contributions and bring us dramatically close to initiating construction."

CSD Planning Director Dianna Hillyer is also a key organizer, and made a special appeal to El Dorado Hills residents whose employers match tax-deductible contributions.

"With Ron's contribution, you could see your donation tripled," she said.

The CSD's Parks and Planning Committee recently recommended that \$20,000 to \$40,000 of leftover Proposition 40 Bertelsen Park renovation funds be directed to Jeff Mitchell

and entryway improvements came in lower than expected. The fund transfer will go before the full board at an upcoming meeting. Proposition 40 is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act, passed in 2002.

Tax-deductible contributions to Jeff Mitchell Field that will be matched by El Dorado Disposal Service can be made at [www.jeffmitchellfield.com](http://www.jeffmitchellfield.com), or send a check to El Dorado Hills Community Vision - Jeff Mitchell Field, 107 Investment Blvd., Suite 145, El Dorado Hills 95762.

To contribute supplies, materials or in kind services to Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field call



# Falling oil prices mean trouble for Iran, potential for Obama



Thomas L. Friedman writes for the New York Times.

I've always been dubious about Barack Obama's offer to negotiate with Iran - not because I didn't believe that it was the right strategy but because I didn't believe we had enough leverage to succeed.

Well, if Obama does win the presidency, my gut tells me he's going to get a chance to negotiate with the Iranians - with a bat in his hand. Have you seen the reports that Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is suffering from exhaustion? I know why.

Watching oil prices fall from \$147 a barrel to \$57 is not like counting sheep. It's the kind of thing that gives an Iranian autocrat bad dreams.

After all, it was the collapse of oil prices in the early 1990s that brought down the Soviet Union. And Iran today is looking very Soviet to me.

As Vladimir Mau, president of Russia's Academy of National Economy, pointed out to me, it was the long period of high oil prices followed by sharply lower oil prices that killed the Soviet Union. The spike in oil prices in the 1970s deluded the Kremlin into overextending subsidies at home and invading Afghanistan abroad - and the collapse in prices in the '80s helped bring down that overextended empire.

Under Ahmadinejad, Iran's mullahs have gone on a domestic subsidy binge - using oil money to cushion the prices of food, gasoline, and mortgages, and to create jobs - to buy off the Iranian people. But the one thing Ahmadinejad couldn't buy was real economic growth. Iran today has 30 percent inflation, 11 percent unemployment and huge underemployment. And now with oil prices falling, Iran is going to have to pull back spending across the board.

Fasten your seat belts.

The United Nations has imposed three rounds of sanctions against Iran since Ahmadinejad took office in 2005 because of Iran's refusal to halt uranium enrichment. But high oil prices minimized those sanctions; collapsing oil prices will now magnify them.

If prices stay low, there is a good chance Iran will be open to negotiating over its nuclear program with the next U.S. president.

That is a good thing because Iran also funds Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria and the anti-U.S. Shites in Iraq. If America wants to get out of Iraq

and leave behind a decent outcome, plus break the deadlocks in Lebanon and Israel-Palestine, it needs to end the Cold War with Iran. Possible? I don't know, but the collapse of oil prices should give us a shot.

But let's use our leverage smartly and not exaggerate Iran's strength. Just as I believe that we should drop the reward for the capture of Osama bin Laden - from \$50 million to one penny, plus an autographed picture of Dick Cheney - we need to deflate the Iranian mullahs as well. Let them chase us.

Karim Sadjadpour, an Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, compares it to bargaining for a carpet in Tehran.

"When you go inside the carpet shop, the first thing you are supposed to do is feign disinterest," he explains. "The last thing you want to suggest is 'We are not leaving without that carpet.' 'Well,' the dealer will say, 'if you feel so strongly about it ...'" The other lesson from the carpet bazaar, says Sadjadpour, "is that there is never a price tag on any carpet. The dealer is not looking for a fixed price but the highest price he can get - and the Iran price is constantly fluctuating depending on the price of oil." Let's now use that to our advantage.

Barack Hussein Obama would present another challenge for Iran's mullahs. Their whole rationale for being is that they are resisting a hegemonic American power that wants to keep everyone down.

Suddenly, next week, Iranians may look up and see that the country their leaders call "The Great Satan" has just elected "a guy whose middle name is the central figure in Shiite Islam - Hussein - and whose last name - Obama - when transliterated into Farsi, means 'He is with us,'" said Sadjadpour.

Iran is ripe for deflating. Its power was inflated by the price of oil and the popularity of its leader, who was cheered simply because he was willing to poke America with a stick. But as a real nation-building enterprise, the Islamic revolution in Iran has been an abject failure.

"When you ask young Arabs which leaders in the region they most admire," said Sadjadpour, they will usually answer the leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran. "When you ask them where in the Middle East would you most like to live," he added, "the answer is usually socially open places like Dubai or Beirut. The Islamic Republic of Iran is never in the top 10."

The BOSFOUR/PV/EDC  
Sent by: Terry L  
Gherardi/PV/EDC

12/03/2008 02:36 PM

To Cynthia C Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: disposal service fee increse 2009

Terry Gherardi  
Assistant, District IV  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
Ron Briggs, Supervisor  
530-621-6513

— Forwarded by Terry L Gherardi/PV/EDC on 12/03/2008 02:35 PM —



Jackson Cook  
<benny.3132@att.net>

12/03/2008 11:54 AM

To bosfour@co.el-dorado.ca.us

cc

Subject disposal service fee increse 2009

First let me say that I already recycle my trash(blue bag process).

The proposal to increase trash service charges by 115% for families that are already suffering the effects of a poor economy doesn't seem to be well thought out. An increase from \$302.24 to \$633.60 on a yearly bases will cause me, like many others difficulty. I like many others in this county am retired and our income is fixed. With the increases in water fee's, medical insurance premium's and grocery costs going off the charts there is little left for other living expenses. The fact that the State will be raiding our wallet's due to poor fiscal management is no help either.

The first thing I see happening is customers canceling their trash service ME!

Also I haven't seen any mention of the revenue stream that will be created by the sale of the recyclable material. Has this revenue been calculated into the cost of this program and been dedicated to reduce program costs? Or are these revenues ment to enhance profits of the disposal company?

It's a considered fact that this hearing, on this proposal, is only due to the fact that a hearing is a requirement. The increases are a given

Jackson A. Cook  
Greenwood