

Memo

To: South Lake Tahoe Basin Waste Management Authority

From: Katie Sheehan, Clean Tahoe Program

Date: June 23, 2020

Re: Clean Tahoe Proposed Surcharge Rate Increases

Background

A primary source of funding for the Clean Tahoe Program are the Clean Community surcharge fees levied by the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County via South Tahoe Refuse, as well as the parcel assessment fee which is levied by El Dorado County (details of the current City and County funding configuration is attached). Clean Community Fund rates for commercial and residential customers have not been increased since 1999, and Clean Tahoe has initiated a discussion with City and County staff about an increase.

The Program has been under-funded for many years, resulting in a financial situation that has become extremely challenging as the Program strives to continue to provide services. As basic expenses such as rent, insurance, employee taxes, dump fees, and vehicle fuel have increased over the past 21 years, the surcharge rate for City and County STR customers has stayed the same. The current budget does not allow for adequate operating reserves or for the purchase of new vehicles or field equipment. In addition, employee compensation is well below that of employees in similar positions at other agencies. In an effort to balance the budget, the Program removed all health, dental, and vision benefits in 2004, does not offer life insurance, or any other benefits and is not able to offer overtime or shift differential pay (even though employees are occasionally required to work shifts outside their regular schedules).

At the same time, the Program continues to provide exceptional services to the community, resulting in 504 cubic yards of litter and debris picked up from City and County areas in our last fiscal year. In addition, we issued 332 violation notices for animal-in-trash incidents, cleaned 236 illegal dumps, assisted nearly 700 residents with discounted disposal rates at Community Cleanup Day 2019, cleaned 60 homeless camps, assisted 160 residents in hauling bulk items to the transfer station, and engaged hundreds of volunteers to help clean litter from our neighborhoods.

Proposal

Clean Tahoe is requesting the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County increase the Clean Community Fund surcharge rates based on the attached budget which outlines Clean Tahoe's necessary expenses as compared to our FY 2018-19 budget.

Below are a few highlights of the draft budget expenses on which CTP is basing the requested increase amount:

- modest annual capital set-aside for future vehicle replacement.
- addition of one seasonal (June-Sept) Field & Outreach Assistant, 32 hours/week.
- modest increases for OSHA required PPE field supplies and uniforms.
- increase financial sponsorship of Tahoma Cleanup Day
- increase employee compensation to provide living wages as well as modest benefit package (employees currently receive no health, dental or vision insurance, or life insurance benefits).

- slightly increased budget for events, education, volunteer program supplies.

Based on the attached budget, the following increases to the Clean Community Fund are proposed:

City residential rates on STR bill would go from \$1.20/quarter to:	\$2.08/qtr
County residential amount on STR bill would go from \$.45/quarter to:	\$1.33/qtr
Total annual rate for all City & County residential customers (County collects \$3 from parcel assessment) will go from \$4.80 to:	\$8.32/year
City & County commercial surcharge rates would go from 1.34% to:	2.33%

The City Attorney and Director of Public Works have spoken with the JPA's attorney and propose the Clean Tahoe surcharge increase be considered along with South Tahoe Refuse's rate increase.