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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **EP-2**

Departmental Statement in Lieu of Testimony

June 11, 2024, Agenda, Item 4:

Hearing for Approval of the Annual Garbage Collection and Disposal Service Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25 in the Athens/Woodcrest/Olivita, Belvedere, Firestone, Lennox, Malibu, Mesa Heights, and Walnut Park Garbage Disposal Districts

My name is Mark Pestrella, and I am the Director of Los Angeles County Public Works.

1. The purpose of the action before you today is to seek your approval of an annual report to allow Public Works to continue collection of the annual garbage collection and disposal service fee on the property tax roll for Fiscal Year 2024-25 for the County's seven Garbage Disposal Districts.
2. The Garbage Disposal Districts were formed at various times from 1927 to 2003 to provide waste collection and disposal services to properties within their respective boundaries. The Garbage Disposal Districts currently service a total of approximately 58,000 parcels and a population of 363,000. Each District has its own fee structure, and rates vary based on the cost of providing service and the amount of ad valorem property tax revenue available. The Board established the service fees in 1980 to supplement ad valorem property tax revenues, which were inadequate to fund the cost of service.
3. No change associated with the service fees is being proposed for five out of the seven Garbage Disposal Districts. Since Article XIII.D., Section 6 of the California Constitution (Proposition 218) requirements only apply to fee changes, today's action for the annual approval of the report for these five Garbage Disposal Districts is not subject to its requirements that a notice be mailed to each property.
4. There will be an increase to the service fees for two of the seven Districts. The Board approved annual incremental increases over a period of five years, beginning Fiscal Year 2020-21 through Fiscal Year 2024-25, for the Lennox and Walnut Park at public hearings on May 26, 2020, and June 28, 2022, respectively. A notice was mailed to the affected property owners in Lennox on March 13, 2020, and in Walnut Park on May 7, 2022, in accordance with Proposition 218, to reflect these yearly increases.

Hearing for Approval of the Annual Garbage Collection and Disposal Service Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25 in the Athens/Woodcrest/Olivita, Belvedere, Firestone, Lennox, Malibu, Mesa Heights, and Walnut Park Garbage Disposal Districts
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Therefore, the notice requirements set forth by Proposition 218 have been satisfied for today's action for the approval of the annual report for Lennox and Walnut Park.

5. I am familiar with these proceedings for the preparation of the annual report to provide for the continued collection of the garbage collection and disposal service fees for the Athens/Woodcrest/Olivita, Belvedere, Firestone, Lennox, Malibu, Mesa Heights, and Walnut Park GDDs for Fiscal Year 2024-25. I have concluded that:
 - It is in the public's interest to continue to collect the garbage collection and disposal service fees on the tax roll since it provides for the most orderly, efficient, and cost-effective collection of the fees from the affected property owners.
 - As recommended, the continued collection of the fees for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is fair and necessary and complies with the requirements of State law.
6. I recommend that the Board adopt the report for all Garbage Disposal Districts for which there is no majority protest to the report. In the event of a majority protest at this hearing for any Garbage Disposal Districts, return the protested matter to Public Works.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 29, 2024.



MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director of Public Works