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Edward L. Lawson  
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LAKE FOREST PARK



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OFFICE OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. & TRANSP  
COMMISSION

July 1, 1994

Steve McLellan, Secretary  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: King County Dept. of Public Works, Solid Waste Division  
v. Seattle Disposal Company, Rabanco Ltd., dba Eastside  
Disposal and Container Hauling, Docket No. TG-940411

This letter is in support of the complaint filed by the King County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, in the above matter, before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).

Earlier this year, the City of Lake Forest Park approved annexations of several areas of unincorporated King County. These areas are served by Eastside Disposal.

The City of Lake Forest Park is entering into an Interlocal Agreement with King County that will cover county administration of solid waste disposal and recycling services to these newly annexed areas through 1996.

The City has an existing contract with Eastside Disposal through 1996, covering service of those areas within the city limits prior to the recent annexations. Under this contract there are variable rates for solid waste collection with incentives to separate recyclables and yardwaste from the wastestream.

The City's rates for single-family residential garbage service includes recycling and yardwaste collection service. The rate structure includes a service level for monthly collection of one can (32 gallons), with regular recycling and yardwaste collection, for \$4.45 and a service level for weekly collection of a mini-can (20 gallons), which also includes regular recycling and yardwaste collection, for \$6.50.

Residents who subscribe to the one-can, 60-gallon or 90-gallon toter levels of service can realize a monthly credit of \$1. if they compost and don't use the yardwaste collection service.

The mini-can and one-can once-a-month levels of service are subsidized by residents subscribing to the one-can (\$10.50), 60 gallon (\$14.40) and 90-gallon container (\$18.05) levels of service.

The City implemented this rate structure in 1992 when we negotiated our first contract for municipal solid waste collection service. Because of this rate structure, we have attained a diversion rate of 50 percent from the single-family residential wastestream. Additionally, we have realized a 21 percent increase in participation in recycling service and a 109 percent increase in participation in yardwaste service.

Lake Forest Park's level-of-service statistics clearly show a pattern of downsizing that is consistent with our rate structure:

Service Levels	778 Subscribers 1/92	821 Subscribers 3/94	% Change
90 gallons	254	174	- 31%
60 gallons	211	203	- 3%
one-can	258	353	+ 36%
mini-can	40	63	+ 57%
one-can once-a-month	17	28	+ 64%

The City has a strong commitment to the waste reduction and recycling priorities of RCW 70.95.010. The implementation of the new tariffs in the newly annexed areas will result in the customers in these areas having strong financial disincentives to reduce waste and recycle, as detailed in the King County complaint.

For the next two years, there will be two different rate structures operating within the City limits of Lake Forest Park. One rate will continue to encourage waste reduction and recycling through financial incentives, while the other will discourage waste reduction and recycling through financial disincentives.

RCW 70.95.010(10) states that, "Steps should be taken to make recycling at least as affordable and convenient to the ratepayer as mixed waste disposal." The new tariffs approved by the WUTC for Eastside Disposal in King County is a step in the wrong direction, contrary to the legislative intent of RCW 70.95.010.

Please notify Diane Yates of my staff of the date, location and times of any hearings on this matters. Her phone number is (206) 364-7711.



Roger T. Loschen  
Mayor

- c. Governor Mike Lowry  
Honorable Alice L. Haenle  
Kathryn A. Killinger  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Atty  
King County