



Island County Public Works

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MEMORANDUM

December 4, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners – Island County

FROM: James Sylvester, Assistant Public Works Director

RE: **Solid Waste Tipping Fee Increase**

The Solid Waste Division is funded through a user fee, known as a solid waste tipping fee, rather than through taxation. As an essential service, solid waste enterprise fund revenue must increase as expenses increase.

The current contract for solid waste transportation and disposal services expires on December 31, 2024. Notice of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for service provision was published on March 20, 2024. Proposals were due by June 14, 2024. Following interviews, ranking and negotiations, the contract was awarded to the low cost bidder on December 3, 2024. The low cost bid resulted in a 36% cost increase for solid waste landfilling and transportation services.

The cost increase is, to a significant degree, due in part to the last 18 years of contracted annual inflation adjustments for disposal being applied at only 70% of the Consumer Price Index, and transportation at only 95% of the Consumer Price Index. With rates now catching up with costs, it is estimated that the current inflation adjusted January 1, 2025 Island County solid waste base tipping fee will require an increase of 15.3%.

In order to ensure that that the solid waste enterprise fund revenue matches this increase in cost, and for continuity of essential services provision, it is recommended that the solid waste tipping fee be increased as per the attached Resolution.