



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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March 24, 2022

Shawn Humphreys, Director
Pacific County Department of Community Development
P.O. Box 68
South Bend, WA 98586
shumphreys@co.pacific.wa.us

RE: Pacific County 2022 Preliminary Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan Update TG-220156

Dear Shawn Humphreys:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Pacific County 2022 Solid Waste and Moderate Waste Management Plan Update (Plan).

The Plan forecasts that tip fees for municipal solid waste will increase each year during the Plan period, 2022-2027. These forecasted tip fees are based on the 2021 rates for municipal and private haulers and are escalated at 85 percent of the Consumer Price index, which is assumed to be 2 percent annually. As a result of the current forecasted tip fees, there will be a rate impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Pacific County. The table below illustrates projected disposal fees between 2022 and 2027 based on forecasted tip fees.

	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>2027</i>	<i>Total</i>
Projected Disposal Fees							
Pacific Solid Waste Transfer							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$122.04	\$124.11	\$126.22	\$128.37	\$130.55	\$132.77	
Per Ton Increase	\$2.04	\$2.07	\$2.11	\$2.15	\$2.18	\$2.22	\$12.77
Royal Heights							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$130.67	\$132.90	\$135.16	\$137.45	\$139.79	\$142.17	
Per Ton Increase	\$2.18	\$2.23	\$2.26	\$2.29	\$2.34	\$2.38	\$13.68

County solid waste activities, including waste reduction and recycling education, are funded by a combination of grants and revenues from tip fee surcharges. The county has three surcharges that are established for tipping fees at transfer stations. One for post-closure activities at the Rainbow Valley Landfill, an MRW surcharge that supports the MRW program and a Solid Waste implementation fee that supports other solid waste programs. The Plan does not state these fees will increase. The total for all three surcharges results in a per ton surcharge of \$13.03.

Existing collection services for recyclable materials consist primarily of drop-off stations, except for within the City of South Bend, where curbside collection is provided by Waste Connections d/b/a Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., on an every-other-week basis, but has very low participation. Curbside recycling is not offered in other parts of the county. The Plan does not indicate any mandated collection of recyclable or organic material.

There are seven multi-material drop-off collection stations for recyclable materials in Pacific County. They are located around the population centers of the County and are maintained by Peninsula Sanitation Service. The following materials are accepted at these facilities: cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, plastic #1 and #2, glass bottles and jars, and aluminum cans. The Royal Heights Transfer Station accepts cardboard, aluminum cans, scrap metal, other metals, and E waste, and the Long Beach Recycling Center, which is a subsidiary of Pacific Solid Waste Disposal, Inc., accepts all the above except for scrap metal.

Washington State law requires curbside recycling services to be provided in urban areas unless an alternative plan is approved by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). Solely for the purposes of solid waste services, all of Pacific County is being designated as rural. This is based on the criteria shown in State law and Ecology's planning guidelines, including the low population and population density throughout the county, distance from markets for recyclables, the relatively small volumes of recyclables that could potentially be collected in Pacific County, and limited future growth in both population and commercial activities.

The following list includes some of the recommendations the County has made for improving its recycling programs:

- Analyze avenues to expand recycling education outreach. Coordinate with WSU in promoting recycling for residents.
- Coordinate with haulers to provide recycling collection services for businesses.
- Evaluate waste characterization data from other sources to assess Pacific County's recycling potential.
- Continue the free County-sponsored appliance collection events.
- Consider implementing additional curbside recycling programs when the markets improve, and at that same time implement a rate structure in association with the curbside recycling program.

Shawn Humphreys
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Commission Staff has no further comments. Please direct questions or comments to Tiffany Van Meter at 360-664-1245 or by email at tiffany.vanmeter@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Olivia Carros, Department of Ecology, Regional Planner