

# ATTACHMENT

For Item

07

WEDNESDAY

May 1, 2024

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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# County of San Diego

## Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

Scott Snyder  
Chairman

Toby Roy  
Vice Chair

April 24, 2024

TO: Supervisor Nora Vargas, Chairwoman  
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair  
Supervisor Joel Anderson  
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe  
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Scott Snyder, Chair  
Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COST RECOVERY PROPOSAL**

On March 27, 2024, the Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board (EHQAB) took action to support the Department of Environmental Health and Quality's (DEHQ) cost recovery proposal for fiscal year 2024-25, as it is in compliance with the County of San Diego Board of Supervisor's Policy B-29, that directs departments to recover the full cost of services.

The members of EHQAB expressed appreciation with the comprehensive review and analysis of costs, services, and benchmarking that DEHQ staff conducted in preparing the cost recovery proposal. EHQAB values the department's continued commitment to identify opportunities to innovate and streamline programs to help contain costs and/or enhance service to customers, which is included in DEHQ's FY 2024-25 cost recovery proposal. EHQAB also expressed support for DEHQ's effort to significantly improve service delivery and reduce turnaround times for customers in the Septic and Discretionary programs. Although in these programs the average increase in fees is approximately 47% (or \$284), it is anticipated that there is an overall cost savings for projects due to the enhanced services these programs are now providing with these new fees, such as reducing the turnaround time from 6 months to guaranteed 30 days.

EHQAB encourages DEHQ to continue the practice of bringing forward an annual cost recovery proposal, which allows for smaller, more incremental cost increases and is preferred by businesses.

DEHQ staff are dedicated to protecting the residents and visitors of San Diego County and it is important to have the funding to continue to support their programs and services. For these reasons, EHQAB respectfully requests support of DEHQ's cost recovery proposal.

If I can be of further assistance, please call me at (858) 505-6794 or email [scott@snydergeologic.com](mailto:scott@snydergeologic.com).

Sincerely,



Scott Snyder, Chair  
Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board

Cc: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Dahvia Lynch, LUEG Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Amy Harbert, Director, Department of Environmental Health and Quality

# SDCDA

San Diego County Disposal Association

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Alpine April 18, 2024

Bonita

Bonsall

Borrego Springs

Bostonia

Boulevard

Camp Pendleton

Campo

Carlsbad

Casa de Oro

Chula Vista

Coronado

Crest

Cuyamaca

Del Mar

Descanso

El Cajon

Encinitas

Escondido

Eucalyptus Hills

Fallbrook

Granite Hills

Imperial Beach

Harbison Canyon

Hidden Meadows

Jacumba

Jamul

Julian

La Mesa

La Presa

Lake Henshaw

Lake Morena

Lake San Marcos

Lakeside

Lemon Grove

Lincoln Acres

Mount Laguna

National City

Oceanside

Pala

Palomar Mountain

Pauma Valley

Pine Valley

Potrero

Poway

Rainbow

Ramona

Rancho San Diego

Rancho Santa Fe

Rincon

San Diego

San Luis Rey

San Marcos

Santa Ysabel

Santee

Solana Beach

Spring Valley

Valley Center

Vista

Warner Springs

Winter Gardens

Chair Nora Vargas and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chair Vargas and members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Diego County Disposal Association, I am writing regarding the solid waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) fee increases that are included within the cost recovery adjustments proposed by the Department of Environmental Health and Quality. Our association has taken a **support position** on the cost recovery proposal, understanding that the increasing costs are primarily caused by rising salaries and benefits for County staff as well as the increasing complexity and time required for certain types of inspections.

Nonetheless, our association urges the Board and staff to set an expectation that future cost recovery proposals should return to a level similar to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase, rather than double or triple the CPI numbers that we have seen in recent years. It is important to understand that fees charged to the haulers must be passed on to customers in the form of higher rates, creating real economic impacts that ripple throughout the region. We have been assured by County management that bringing cost increases closer to CPI is a goal of the LEA, and that management is working hard to fine-tune staffing levels and other factors that affect the department's costs. We urge management to continue to prioritize all reasonable measures to further contain costs over the next year to return fee adjustments to more normal levels.

We appreciate the time dedicated by department leadership to meet directly with our members to discuss the fee increases and other issues of concern related to the LEA. Thank you for considering the perspective of the San Diego County Disposal Association.

Sincerely,



Jim Madaffer  
Executive Director