

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: NICK HARVEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR – ADMINISTRATION
SANTA ROSA WATER
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REVISED TRUCKED WASTE
PROGRAM TIPPING FEES

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities, by resolution: 1) adopt revised Trucked Waste Program tipping fees effective October 19, 2026; 2) approve the additional tipping-fee adjustments shown in the adopted schedule for July 1 of each year from 2027 through 2030; and 3) authorize the Director of Santa Rosa Water to implement the Board-approved adjustments on their respective effective dates. All other miscellaneous fees and charges adopted by Resolution No. 1332 would remain unchanged.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Santa Rosa Water collects miscellaneous water and wastewater fees and charges, as adopted by Board of Public Utilities (BPU) resolution, for services provided to customers. Miscellaneous fees and charges for water and wastewater related services were last updated in 2024 via BPU Resolution No. 1332. After holding a public hearing, the BPU will consider adopting revised charges for the Trucked Waste Program.

BACKGROUND

Santa Rosa Water's miscellaneous fees and charges reimburse the department for specific services for individual customers and include charges such as initiating water or sewer service, installing a new meter, charges for late payment of utility bills, deposits for construction meters, charges for wastewater discharge, and time and materials charges for various other services provided by City staff. These charges are collected from the customers who receive the service so that the costs for specific services are not spread to the entire ratepayer base.

Miscellaneous water and wastewater fees and charges are typically determined on a time and materials basis or through other methodologies that help define the reasonable

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cost of providing the specific services. Santa Rosa Water is recommending the escalation of certain miscellaneous fees for trucked waste based on consultant recommendations as published in the 2022 Trucked Waste Program Evaluation Report.

If the BPU adopts the attached resolution after the public hearing on August 20, 2026, the revised fees will take effect 60 days after adoption, on October 19, 2026.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

On October 17, 2024, the BPU, by Resolution No. 1332, adopted updated miscellaneous fees and charges for water and wastewater related services, effective December 16, 2024.

ANALYSIS

The proposed Trucked Waste Program tipping fees are based on the August 16, 2022, Trucked Waste Program Evaluation Report and updated analysis of the costs incurred to administer and operate the program. The consultant was hired through a competitive bidding process to evaluate the High Strength Waste Program. The analysis evaluated capacity, program expansion, market and regulatory conditions. The resulting fee schedule is based on the characteristics of the waste to be discharged while accounting for any offsetting benefits to the system (i.e.- electrical generation).

The proposed fees would be adjusted according to the schedule approved by the Board rather than through CPI-U escalation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the proposed fees is expected to improve Santa Rosa Water's recovery of the reasonable costs incurred in providing the applicable services, including administration and operation of the Trucked Waste Program. The proposed action would have no impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(a)(1). The Board finds that the revised Trucked Waste Program tipping fees are established for the purpose of meeting Santa Rosa Water's operating expenses, including the costs of administering and operating the existing Trucked Waste Program.

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In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(c), the basis for this finding is set forth in the August 16, 2022, Trucked Waste Program Evaluation Report, the staff report, and the proposed tipping-fee schedule, which are incorporated into the record of this proceeding. The proposed action concerns only the fees charged for existing services and does not approve or authorize a physical project.

Independently, the proposed action is not a “project” pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) because it is a governmental fiscal activity that does not involve a commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical effect on the environment. In the alternative, the proposed action is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that adoption of the revised tipping fees may have a significant effect on the environment.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On August 10, 2026, the Budget Review Subcommittee considered this item and recommended approval by the BPU.

NOTIFICATION

Santa Rosa Water has notified waste haulers that use the Trucked Waste Program at the Laguna Treatment Plant of the proposed changes to the tipping-fee schedule.

Notice of the public hearing was published in the Press Democrat on August 5 and August 10, 2026, in accordance with applicable notice requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Proposed Trucked Waste Program Tipping Fee Schedule
- Attachment 2 – Resolution No. 1332, adopted October 17, 2024
- Attachment 3 – Public Hearing Notice
- Resolution
- Exhibit A
- Exhibit B

PRESENTER

Nick Harvey, Deputy Director – Administration