

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT



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94924

NOTICE OF INTENT to Increase Maximum Allowable Charges for Solid Waste Services in the Bolinas Service Area Starting on May 1, 2025

February 28, 2025

The Bolinas Community Public Utility District (BCPUD) hereby gives public notice of its intent to **increase the maximum allowable rates that Recology Sonoma Marin (RSM) can charge customers in the Bolinas Service Area** for the collection, processing, and disposal of landfilled waste, recyclables, and organic materials. RSM is the exclusive waste collector of garbage, recycling, and organics in Bolinas. BCPUD is the franchise holder of the Bolinas service agreement and sets limits on the maximum allowable fees that RSM can charge. RSM sets the actual rates for their collection services and can charge up to the maximum allowable rate established by the BCPUD Board of Directors.

The Board will consider proposed rate increases at a public hearing on:

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at the Bolinas Fire House (100 Mesa Road Bolinas, CA 94924)

The proposed increased rates will replace the current rates, which have been in effect since January 1, 2024. If approved, the impact of this proposed rate increase will be an immediate **9-12% increase on residential and commercial rates taking effect on May 1, 2025**. Additionally, **rates will increase by an average of 9% over the previous year, every January 1 of each year from 2026 to 2029**. See page 2 of this notice for [Instruction for Filing a Formal Protest Prior to the Close of the Public Hearing](#).

Why is BCPUD considering approval of Recology's request to raise their rates?

The rates charged to RSM's customers must cover the cost of operating waste collection programs effectively in accordance with all State and Local Regulations. In September 2023, BCPUD formed a Detailed Rate Review Committee that examined RSM's request to amend BCPUD's existing contract to enable RSM to raise their rates. Over the past year, the Detailed Rate Review Committee has reviewed RSM's revenues and expenditures. The Committee also verified that Bolinas customers currently pay less than the average RSM customer and confirmed that RSM's rates are comparable to rates of other solid waste haulers in the Bay Area. During negotiations, RSM reported that they have been losing money serving Bolinas since 2018, and proposed that an increase in the solid waste collection rates is necessary to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs which have increased in recent years, primarily due to the following reasons: (1) high economic inflation, as measured by increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI); (2) RSM has added a union work force, implemented living wages and augmented employee benefits; (3) RSM has replaced trucks that are out of compliance with California Air Resources Board regulations and (4) RSM has implemented strong Safety and Environmental compliance regimes to ensure proper handling of materials, a safe workplace, and clean and safe collections. The proposed stepwise rate increases (from 2025-2029) are designed so that by the year 2029, customers in Bolinas are paying rates that are comparable to the average rates paid by RSM customers in the whole of Marin County.

How are proposed rate increases likely to impact the amount that Bolinas customers pay?

The yearly Maximum* Rate Increases that will be allowed under the proposed amendments to the franchise agreement are summarized in **Table 1**. Note that most residential customers in Bolinas have 32-gallon garbage carts and most commercial customers have a 96-gallon cart. If the new rate proposal is adopted, by the year 2029, the majority of residential customers will be paying 49% more (or an additional \$13.12/mo.) than they are currently paying; and the majority of commercial customers will be paying 57% more (or an additional \$48.76/mo.) than they are currently paying. However, it is important to note that the existing contract allows for

rates to increase over this same time frame (i.e. now until 2029), where yearly increases in rates track with the CPI.

Cart or Bin Size	Current Rate (Since 2024)	Proposed Monthly Rate (After 5/1/2025)	Proposed Maximum* Monthly Rates			
			(After 1/1/2026)	(After 1/1/2027)	(After 1/1/2028)	(After 1/1/2029)
20 gal. cart	\$20.13	\$22.30	\$24.62	\$27.01	\$29.47	\$32.01
32 gal. cart	\$26.88	\$29.27	\$31.83	\$34.48	\$37.20	\$40.00
64 gal. cart	\$56.28	\$62.92	\$69.99	\$77.26	\$84.76	\$92.48
96 gal. cart	\$85.71	\$94.62	\$104.15	\$113.96	\$124.06	\$134.47
1.5-yard bin	\$316.97	\$340.43	\$365.85	\$392.04	\$419.02	\$446.80
2-yard bin	\$459.29	\$493.28	\$530.12	\$568.07	\$607.16	\$647.42
3-yard bin	\$602.21	\$646.77	\$695.08	\$744.84	\$796.09	\$848.88
4-yard bin	\$745.26	\$800.41	\$860.19	\$921.77	\$985.20	\$1,050.53
6-yard bin	\$1,030.60	\$1,106.86	\$1,189.54	\$1,274.69	\$1,362.40	\$1,452.74

Table 1. Yearly Increases in Maximum* Rates which are being considered in the proposed amendments to the Bolinas franchise agreement.

*Note that although **Table 1** describes “**Maximum**” Rates, additional increases are possible if the CPI goes above 3.3%. The impact of the CPI on Maximum Rates is described in greater detail in the next section. The complete proposed amended contract can be viewed [here](#), or visit <https://bcpud.org/bcpud-board-of-directors-meeting-material-february-10-2025/> (see item 17). Exhibit C of the proposed amended contract includes a comprehensive list of all proposed increases to rates and fees; Exhibit C is reproduced on pages 3 - 4 of this notice.

How is the CPI proposed to impact Maximum Allowable Rates?

Note that if the CPI is greater than 3.3% in a given year, the **Maximum Allowable Rates**, as proposed in the amended contract, will be greater than the “Maximum Monthly Rates” indicated in **Table 1**. Specifically, the proposed amended contract states:

“In addition to the annual increases to Maximum Rates set forth in Exhibit C, in the event that the [CPI] increases by more than [3.3%], the Maximum Rates for the succeeding year and all subsequent years will be further increased by the percentage that is the difference between the increase in the CPI over the past year and [3.3%].”

The Detailed Rate Review Committee determined that the average CPI in the San Francisco Bay Area over the past 10 years equaled 3.3%. When considering the potential that the CPI could further increase Maximum Rates (should the CPI rise above 3.3%), it is important to keep in mind that language in the existing contract already allows for yearly rate increases to track with the CPI.

Instruction for Filing a Formal Protest Prior to the Close of the Public Hearing

You have the right to protest the proposed increase to rates and fees. The proposed rates cannot be adopted if written protests are received from a majority of affected parcels. Customers may file a written response, protesting the proposed maximum rate increases. Pursuant to California law, protests must be submitted in writing and must: a) Identify the affected property or properties, such as by address, Assessor’s Parcel Number, or customer account number; b) Include the name and signature of the property owner or customers submitting the protest; and c) Indicate opposition to the proposed waste, recycling, and organic rate increases.

Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile or other electronic means are not considered valid written protests. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Written protests can be mailed to: **BCPUD, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924**, or hand delivered to **270 Elm Rd. Bolinas, CA**. All protests must be submitted prior to the close of the Public Hearing on April 16, 2025. If you wish to protest the proposed rate increase during the public hearing, you

will be asked to provide the information above in writing, and the District will document that information as a formal protest. For more information, please email bcpud@bcpud.org or call 415-868-1224.