



# MEMORANDUM

Date: June 2, 2023

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information for the June 6, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting – Agenda Item No. 77 – Solid Waste Fee Schedule**

Attached is a memorandum from Department of Environmental Quality Interim Director Ursula Nelson with information regarding the Solid Waste Fee Increase in the above referenced agenda item.

Pima County's solid waste facilities are operated by Waste Management. Under the terms of the contract, Waste Management is entitled to an annual increase funded either through an annual increase to the current contract or through a fee increase collected from users at the solid waste facilities. The contract is funded by the County General Fund.

The Board is asked to approve the proposed fee ordinance increase. Alternatively, the General Fund could directly cover the contractual increase.

JKL/je

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Ursula Nelson, Interim Director, Department of Environmental Quality

A small handwritten mark or signature in a circle.

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**Date:** June 1, 2023

**To:** Jan Leshar  
County Administrator

**From:** Ursula K. Nelson  
Interim Director *UKN*

Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH  
Deputy County Administrator

**RE:** Board of Supervisors Meeting June 6, 2023 Agenda Item 77, Solid Waste Fees

At its June 6 meeting, the Board is asked to approve a proposed fee schedule for the County's Solid Waste (SW) facilities. The SW facilities, while owned by Pima County, are operated under contract by Waste Management (WM). The facilities consist of the Ajo Landfill, Sahuarita Transfer Station, Catalina Transfer Station, and Ryan Field Transfer Station. In accordance with the terms of the contract, in any year there is *not* an increase in the entry fees for the SW facilities, WMI is entitled to an increase in the contract, currently \$736,560 annually, by the Consumer Price Index. Funding for the contract comes from the County's general fund and any increase would be paid by that fund. To avoid adding to the County's expenses, the Board is asked to approve the proposed fee increase.

WM took over the operations on October 1, 2022. Since that time WM has made improvements in safety and operations protocols and increased the staffing and recycling opportunities. The employees retained by WM have benefited with an increase in wages, health insurance and other benefits while costs across the board continue to rise.

Transfer stations are a convenience for residents and commercial users. The waste they receive is transported to a landfill for final disposal. Diesel fuel alone increased approximately 20% from 2021 to 2022.

The Department of Environmental Quality conducted public consultation by newspaper notices, posting at all SW facilities, posting the information on the Department's website and asking for public comment. We received nine comments, all but one from residents of Ajo, generally expressing concern that the increase would be hard on low-income residents. There is a low-income fee discount available at all facilities. Entry fees for low-income households are \$2 per visit regardless of the posted fees and no increase is proposed for low-income residents.

c: Judy Tovar, Deputy Director