



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Windsor and Planning Commission Members

From: Amy Ainslie, Planning & Community Development Director 

Date: May 10, 2024

Subject: Waste Disposal for Housing Development

A public comment was made at the May 1st Commission meeting regarding the cost of waste disposal associated with rehabilitating, renovating, and demolishing homes. The Commission asked that this be added as a discussion item at the May 15th meeting.

Municipal solid waste is a utility managed as an enterprise fund, meaning that it has a separate account within the budget, and revenues are intended for debt retirement, construction, acquisition, operations, maintenance, repair, and capital improvements of the enterprise. In essence, enterprise funds are intended to be independent, self-sustaining operations. Rates (or fees) for enterprise funds such as solid waste are set annually by the Assembly based on the operating costs, equipment/supply purchases, and capital projects such as major repairs, replacements, or upgrades. In setting rates, there is a balance needed between offering services at the lowest rates possible for citizens and ensuring that the service is financially sustainable. A copy of the current disposal locations and rates is attached for reference.

This time is available for the Commission to discuss this particular use of solid waste services and rates. Staff will answer as many questions as possible about solid waste operations, rates, limitations, and budgetary processes. Depending on the questions received or interest in new proposals from the Commission, follow-up at a later meeting may be needed.