

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Prop 218 Notice - Solid Waste (Garbage) Collection Fee Increase

1. **What is this?** Due to increasing costs, the City's franchised waste hauler, Clearlake Waste Solutions, has requested that the City allow an increase in collection fees. The Franchise Agreement requires that the City Council approve such an increase. Typically, the City Council can approve such an increase, but because of the pending requirement for Universal Service, Proposition 218 requires a 45 day notification period and a protest hearing.
2. **What will it cost?** The cost of the service will depend upon the size of the garbage container. A typical 32 gallon cart will be \$19.99 per month but a smaller 20 gallon cart can be had for \$16.85 per month.
3. **When does it start?** The rates are in effect as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Universal Service is anticipated to begin in April, 2018.
4. **If I don't currently have garbage collection service do I have to pay this?** Only those households currently subscribed to solid waste collection service will be required to pay the fee increase until Universal Service is actually implemented. Then all required subscribers will be subject to the rates.
5. **What if I don't want this?** There is a protest hearing set for 6:00 p.m. on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Clearlake City Hall, located at 14050 Olympic Drive in Clearlake. You will need to either be present or send in a letter of protest. Emails are not accepted.
6. **Do I have to have solid waste collection service?** The City Council approved the first reading of the Universal Solid Waste Collection Ordinance and has set the second reading for July 27<sup>th</sup>. If it is approved at that meeting then there is a 30 day waiting period before it becomes effective. It is anticipated that the Universal Service, if approved, would go into effect in April, 2018.
7. **Why is this being required?** Universal solid waste collection is the standard in most cities and counties and Clearlake is behind in not implementing this. Lakeport implemented universal service in 2011. The State of CA is becoming much more stringent in their regulation of solid waste disposal and the City risks becoming non-compliant if we do not begin universal collection soon.
8. **What is included in the solid waste collection service?** Residential service includes a garbage cart, a recycling cart, and a yard waste cart. These three carts are emptied once a week by the franchised hauler, Clearlake Waste Solutions.
9. **Are there exemptions?** There are a few exemptions to the Universal Solid Waste Collection ordinance. Vacant parcels are exempt and properties that otherwise do not generate any solid waste can apply for an exemption. Vacation homes that are not the primary residence of the owner and that is not rented or used by anyone but the owner is eligible for an exemption.
10. **I'm a renter, does this apply to me?** It does if you are the current subscriber to the solid waste collection service. Once Universal Service is implemented, the property owner will be required to subscribe to the service.
11. **Why is the protest hearing after the July 1<sup>st</sup> rate increase?** Because the City does not yet require universal service, the July 1st rate increase is not subject to a protest hearing. However, the City has approved the first reading for universal service and has an obligation to set a maximum rate for service. This rate setting process is subject to the protest hearing which will be conducted on August 10th.