



**ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF REPORT

TO: Members of the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council
MEETING DATE: November 17, 2014
RE: Solid Waste Collection in the Castro Valley Canyonlands

GENERAL INFORMATION

Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) currently provides solid waste collection service to the Castro Valley Canyonlands outside of the boundary of the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan). Canyonland residents and businesses voluntarily subscribe to collection service provided by WMAC or self-haul their waste to a disposal facility. WMAC provides both solid waste and recycling services within CVSan's boundary through a franchise agreement with the district. Alameda County does not have regulatory or contractual authority to direct or control collection services in the Canyonlands.

The Canyonlands include portions of Crow Canyon Road, Cull Canyon Road, Dublin Canyon Road, East Castro Valley Boulevard, Eden Canyon Road, Grassland Drive, Norris Canyon Road, Oak Tree Lane, Old Dublin Canyon Road, Palo Verde Road, Palomares Road, Redwood Road, and Sunnyslope Avenue. A search of county records found approximately 550 parcels that have frontage on these county roads and lie outside of the boundary of the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan). The Assessor's Use Codes for these properties indicate that roughly 270 of the 550 parcels have some type of development, such as a residence or business, that is likely to generate solid waste. The rest of the 550 properties appear to be vacant or part of larger agricultural operations that occupy more than one parcel.

In June of 2014, WMAC informed their Canyonland customers that, as of July 1st, 2014, rates would increase by approximately 300 percent; increasing the monthly rate for a 32-gallon can from \$17.68 to \$45.99. The Castro Valley MAC held a meeting to discuss the rate increase on June 16th where they heard from many canyon residents who strongly opposed the increase. In August of 2014, WMAC notified customers that the rate increase would be rolled back by 50 percent retroactive to July 1st, reducing the monthly rate for a 32-gallon can to \$31.84. WMAC also informed their customers that the company will discontinue service to the Canyonlands as of January 1st, 2015. Since receiving notification that service would be discontinued, Supervisor Miley and his staff, members of the MAC, County Community Development Agency (CDA) staff, CVSan staff, Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) staff, and representatives from StopWaste have been working to find an alternative way to provide uninterrupted collection services in the Canyonlands.

STAFF ANALYSIS

After considering a number of options, County staff has concluded that annexation of the Canyonlands to CVSan would be the most beneficial for residents of the area. CVSan already has the staff and expertise to manage the provision of collection services. There would be no need for county staff to duplicate this function. The agreement between CVSan and the hauler would ensure the continuation of a consistent level of service through the term of the contract. In addition, the agreement would establish rates, and would prescribe how often and by how much rates could be increased. The owners of vacant or unoccupied properties would not be charged for collection service since no service would be provided to these parcels.

The annexation process would require an application to LAFCo; and the commission would hold a hearing to take public comment and consider the application. The application would specify that the annexation is for the provision of solid waste and recycling collection services only. No sewer service would be available in the Canyonlands as a result of the annexation; and no fees associated with sewer service would be charged to Canyonland property owners. LAFCo staff can provide additional information about this process. CVSan staff recently surveyed Canyonland property owners regarding the proposed annexation and will report on the results of the survey separately.

CONCLUSION

County staff believes that annexation of the Canyonlands to CVSan would be the most efficient way to provide consistent solid waste and recycling collection service at predictable rates to Canyonland residents.

PREPARED BY: Liz McElligott, Assistant Planning Director