



City of San Marcos

Special Meeting - Final City Council

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Due to COVID-19, and as long as the State Disaster Declaration is in effect, this will be a virtual meeting. To view the meeting please go to www.sanmarcostx.gov/videos or watch on Grande channel 16 or Spectrum channel 10.

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a Staff update and hold a discussion regarding the agreement with Texas Disposal Systems, Inc. for collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials, and provide direction to the City Manager.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOTE: The City Council may adjourn into Executive Session to consider any item listed on this agenda if a matter is raised that is appropriate for Executive Session discussion. An announcement will be made of the basis for the Executive Session discussion. The City Council may also publicly discuss any item listed on the agenda for Executive Session.

2. Executive Session in accordance with Section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters - To discuss the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.

ACTION/DIRECTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Consider action, by motion, or provide direction to Staff regarding Executive Session item in accordance with Section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters - To discuss the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.

III. Adjournment.

POSTED ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 @ 12:00PM

TAMMY K. COOK, INTERIM CITY CLERK

Notice of Assistance at the Public Meetings

The City of San Marcos does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its services, programs, or activities. Individuals who require auxiliary aids and services for this meeting should contact the City of San Marcos ADA Coordinator at 512-393-8000 (voice) or call Texas Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 7-1-1. Requests can also be faxed to 855-461-6674 or sent by e-mail to ADArequest@sanmarcostx.gov



Legislation Text

File #: ID#20-655, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

Receive a Staff update and hold a discussion regarding the agreement with Texas Disposal Systems, Inc. for collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials, and provide direction to the City Manager.

Meeting date: September 29, 2020

Department: Neighborhood Enhancement, Greg Carr, Director (by Lynda Williams, Purchasing Manager)

Amount & Source of Funding

Funds Required: \$22,799,478 (over 5 years)

Account Number: 24006350.52285, 10001280.52255, 21006322.52255, 22006335.52255

Funds Available: FY 2020 Budget

Account Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Fiscal Note:

Prior Council Action: September 15, 2020 - Council authorized staff to negotiate a contract with TDS for 2 years.

Res. 2008-076R: Contract Award; Res. 2013-152: Amendment to the Agreement; Res. 2015-104R: Amendment to the Agreement; Res. 2016-145R: Amendment to the Agreement

City Council Strategic Initiative: [Please select from the dropdown menu below]

Sustainability

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element (s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]

Economic Development - Choose an item.

Environment & Resource Protection - Pro-active policies that encourage recycling, resource, and energy efficiency

Land Use - Choose an item.

Neighborhoods & Housing - Choose an item.

- Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.
- Transportation - Choose an item.
- Core Services
- Not Applicable

Master Plan: *[Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]*

Solid Waste Master Plan

Background Information:

Texas Disposal Systems has provided residential and city facility garbage service since 2003. In 2009, curbside single-stream recycling service was added. In 2010, multifamily single-stream recycling service was added. In 2015, curbside green waste services were added. In 2015, the annual contractual rate increase was changed to a fixed 3% from a variable Consumer Price Index.

Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Alternatives:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Recommendation:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-476R

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS APPROVING A CHANGE IN SERVICE TO THE AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS (CONTRACT NO. 215-221) TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS AT AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCREASE OF \$400,000.00; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGE IN SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS:

PART 1. A Change in Service to the agreement with Texas Disposal Systems, Inc. for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials (Contract No. 215-221) to extend the agreement for five years at an estimated annual increase of \$400,000.00 is approved.

PART 2. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to execute the appropriate documents to implement the Change in Service.

PART 3. This resolution will be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage.

ADOPTED on September 29, 2020.

Jane Hughson
Mayor

Attest:

Tammy K. Cook
Interim City Clerk



TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, INC. TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS LANDFILL, INC.

P.O. Box 17126
Austin, TX 78760-7126
512.421.1300
www.texasdisposal.com

September 22, 2020

Bert Lumbreras
City Manager, City of San Marcos
630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Dear City Manager,

I am writing this letter in response to discussions at the City Council meeting on September 15, 2020 concerning the contract between the City of San Marcos (City) and Texas Disposal Systems, Inc. (TDS). I request that the City approve the available five year contract extension and rely upon the contract provisions and the longstanding positive relationship the City and TDS have enjoyed for many years to negotiate any proposed contract revisions going forward.

Overview and History

The City and TDS have a longstanding partnership that dates back some twenty years. We certainly appreciate the opportunity extended to us to serve the City and its residents in our partnership. We have accomplished many goals together and TDS certainly has always appreciated the trust the City has placed in our hands to work with you to achieve your goals.

San Marcos was the first city to have single stream recycling in the Austin MSA area. TDS was the only provider with a single stream recycling facility at that time and this was a joint effort to launch this program. TDS had made a large investment for the future of our customers to divert more types of waste items from the landfill. San Marcos, at that time, wanted to lead the way and be on the forefront of innovation. Additionally, San Marcos wanted to divert even more from the landfill stream than it could several years ago. The City was only the second city in the Austin MSA area to have three carts, adding the third cart for green waste. TDS has a multi-million dollar active windrow composting facility on site to process the green waste from the City. We also operate Garden-Ville outlets to market the compost and related soil blend products. This partnership is another example of maximizing material diverted from the landfill.

This three cart collection program may seem to be the standard for all communities since it has been the standard in San Marcos for many years and since it has such a high level of acceptance from the community. I can assure you it is not the norm for most communities. The City of San Marcos is ahead of most communities in the area of landfill diversion. TDS serves over 200 communities with residential service and only two of those communities have a third cart for green waste. None of the other potential private service providers in the Austin MSA area offer this level of service, and none of them have the facility to process green waste.

In addition to the City, TDS services all the schools in Hays County with a similar program. TDS provides three containers for each school that match the three cart residential program in the City. TDS actively teaches and trains the students and staff in how to maximize diversion at each school. TDS provides free reporting and TEKS approved curriculum for Elementary school students to learn about handling their waste in the most environmentally responsible manner.

After the residential services and school services were established, the City added single stream recycling to every multi family unit in the City. San Marcos was the first and remains one of the only communities in the area to do so. TDS also works very closely with City Staff to make the public gatherings in the City as green as possible.

This has given the City a comprehensive landfill diversion plan for residential, multi family, schools, and City sponsored events that is like no other city in the state of Texas that I am familiar with. These are cohesive and complementary programs that have highlighted the core values of San Marcos.

San Marcos Values

Historically, San Marcos has actively sought more options to maximize landfill diversion because of the high commitment the City has to environmental stewardship. Because of this San Marcos leads the area in almost every category.

TDS has been a partner who owns not just the trucks and containers to service your citizens at the curb, but all the facilities needed to process the landfill, recyclable, and compostable materials as well. TDS was excited to hear how our partnership in this contract, during the last five years with the third cart and the green waste cart has been successful and has made a difference in landfill diversion. According to the presentation made by City Staff at the September 1, 2020 City Council Workshop, the tonnage in the compost cart increased from 137 tons in the first year of this renegotiated contract (2015) to 1700 tons in 2019. That is more than a twelve-fold increase in the diversion from the addition of this service to the current contract.

Also, the overall diversion increased from 22% in the first year of this contract (2015) to 34% in 2019.

The partnership with the City of San Marcos and TDS increased the overall residential landfill diversion rate (including recyclables) by over 54%.

TDS is proud to partner with San Marcos for this unique success story in helping create a cleaner, greener, more sustainable San Marcos.

Compare Similar Services to Evaluate the Value of TDS as a Contractor

It was alarming to me to hear the statement by one of our competitors at the City Council meeting stating they could offer the same services to the City, even though, to my knowledge, they do not have one customer who composts, have no experience in educating residents in these type services in Texas, and have no facility to compost any of the materials.

Additionally, this same person commented on the recent RFP with the city of Luling. It was stated that TDS provided a much lower charge for services to Luling for the "same services". His comment was misleading and his insinuation that the city of Luling receives a better deal than San Marcos was also false. The representative from CTR stated (transcript is attached) "just because we don't offer green waste service does not mean we are incapable". He added an RFP process would give "an oranges to oranges comparison". Those two sentences contradict themselves unless the City desires to go backwards in diversion programs or unless the City is interested in entering into an experiment with a service provider with no area experience and no control over a processing facility to handle close to 2,000 tons per year of compostable materials.

In regard to the recent RFP the city of Luling issued for services and mentioned by this same individual, the city of Luling has no recycling in the city and no composting in the city at this time. Five companies responded to the RFP including TDS and CTR, the company represented by the speaker at the last City Council meeting. TDS was the choice of the Luling staff. TDS was the choice of the Luling Evaluation Committee. TDS was also the

unanimous choice of the Luling City Council. This was an RFP process where TDS was chosen over four other companies to provide the best value to Luling for the rate quoted. The staff talked about all the additional components TDS brought to the table that none of the other respondents did, which apparently made the value proposition by TDS the obvious choice.

The requirements in the RFP for Luling are dramatically different than the San Marcos contracted requirements.

- Luling included all the commercial business accounts in the city to be serviced exclusively by TDS, which San Marcos does not. This typically lowers the cost for residential service.
- Luling has far fewer city services included in the contract than the San Marcos contract does.
- Luling has less overall service - two carts instead of three carts as San Marcos does.
- There are several other differences that all are weighted in favor of San Marcos in related to the provisions of additional services.

I am enclosing a residential rate comparison chart of the only three cities in the Austin MSA who have a three cart compost residential system. The City of San Marcos is well ahead of most cities in the area in diversion as is in keeping with the values of the people of San Marcos. This rate comparison shows the citizens of San Marcos have the lowest rate of any of the three cities. Additionally, San Marcos has more bulky call-ins and more free city services included in the rate from the contractor than any of the other cities. The contractor rate for San Marcos is less than half of the Austin rate. As an additional value, all residents can come to the TDS landfill and drop off up to 5 cubic yards of waste each month.

These are very different services and they are priced accordingly. If the City of San Marcos would like to amend services, TDS is always open to adding or reducing services (and the corresponding rates for those services) in order to help provide the best overall value to San Marcos.

Reasons for the Contract Terms of 5 years

In regards to the contract extension, this is a capital intensive business and TDS has invested millions of dollars in order to be a high performing partner with the City. Some trucks used in servicing the City each cost over \$400,000. Labor costs and health care costs for employees servicing the City have increased over the years. TDS has never approached the City with an unexpected rate increase for any reason. TDS has never approached the City with a landfill disposal cost increase. TDS has never approached the City with proposed service changes to decrease acceptable recycling materials as many of our competitors have with other cities. TDS has never approached the City with rate increases to offset lower commodity values in the City's single stream recycling program as some of our competitors have done. TDS has diligently worked with the City to be a good partner.

I am enclosing an article from only a few days ago illustrating how one of our competitors, Waste Management, Inc., will be landfilling recyclables because they have not invested in a recycling facility in that area and are dependent on third party processors who will no longer accept them. The article also mentions the possibility of a rate increase to reinstate the recycling services.

I have also enclosed an October 21, 2019 story of one of our competitors, CTR, landfilling recyclables.

In order to respond to the question posed by the mayor in the September 15, 2020 City Council meeting, as to the reasons why the contract was not submitted for an RFP process 18 – 24 months ago, it perhaps should be noted that this contract was renegotiated only 5 years ago. This new contract was negotiated with a 5 year term and two 5 year renewal option terms. Often when long periods of negotiation occur for a new contract it

is unusual for the contract to be prepared for an RFP only a couple years later. It is typical to exercise the renewal terms if the quality of the services and rates continue to be agreeable to both parties.

The current contract was negotiated in good faith by both parties. There are reasons for five-year terms and even longer in these types of agreements. TDS has a capital investment in only the trucks and containers to service the City in excess of \$5 million. This does not come close to the investment in processing facilities that handle the materials collected and delivered to TDS from the City. TDS has continued to invest large sums of money into equipment in order to maintain the high standards within the City. The longer-term contract is a way to incur the lowest overall cost to the citizens.

TDS was surprised to hear of the question of an RFP due to the fact this had been on two previous agenda items with no mention of anything related to concern about value to the citizens. Additionally, on the September 1, 2020 presentation by City staff, the mayor (transcript enclosed) commented that “y’all have negotiated in recent years adding way more value to that monthly fee, that monthly fee is not that bad”. There was no mention of any issue of concern with TDS service or rate in that or any other meeting prior to the most recent council meeting.

Acceptance of the 5 year Contract Extension and the potential Negotiation of Changes going forward is the Best Way to Achieve the City’s Goals

TDS is always willing to negotiate lower rates with the City for removal or decrease of services, removal of free city services included in the contract, or adding additional services to the contract such as the exclusive service of commercial accounts within the City that could lower the residential rate.

These discussions and negotiations do not have to happen in an RFP. They can occur at any time during the course of the contract provided five-year extension.

TDS will continue to offer a freeze on the current rate for a period of one year in the new five year extension provision in the contract. This is, and has been, an effort of good faith extended on behalf of TDS to continue to foster our relationship with the City.

TDS is not agreeable to a two-year extension. This is not an option in the current contract and was only mentioned in the most recent council meeting, just two weeks prior to the expiration of the current five-year contract term.

TDS will continue to service the City without interruption until October 31, 2020 unless the renewal term in the contract is renewed.

We are available to meet with anyone on the City Council or City Staff in order to discuss these items or any other issue the City would like to discuss. If the City would like to explore the numerous options related to potential changes in service, as the City’s needs may have evolved over time, we are available to do so at any time.

Sincerely,

Rick Fraumann
Director of Sales
Texas Disposal Systems, Inc.

EXHIBIT B
AUTHORIZATION OF CHANGE IN SERVICE

CONTRACT NUMBER / CONTRACT NAME:	215-221.A Collection & Disposal of Solid Waste	
CITY REPRESENTATIVE:	Amy Kirwin	
CONTRACTOR:	Texas Disposal Systems Inc.	
CONTRACT EFFECTIVE DATE:	October 1, 2015 thru September 30, 2020 w/two (5) year renewal options	
THIS AUTHORIZATION DATE:	August 18, 2020	AUTHORIZATION NO.: 5

DESCRIPTION OF WORK TO BE ADDED TO OR DELETED FROM SCOPE OF SERVICES:

Pursuant to the terms of the contract and all subsequent amendments, the City of San Marcos chooses to extend this contract exercising the renewal option of five-years. This five-year renewal begins October 1, 2020 and continues through September 30, 2025 at the annual estimated increase of \$400,000.

All remaining terms and conditions of the contract including subsequent amendments will remain in full force and effect for the duration of this agreement.

Texas Disposal Systems Inc. agrees to maintain insurance for the duration of the renewal period in compliance with the requirements of the original contract. Please email a current Certificate of Insurance to email address to CSingleton@sanmarcostx.gov to complete renewal process.

CONTRACTOR: Texas Disposal Systems Inc.

Signature

Date

Print Full Name / Title (if not in individual capacity)

CITY:

Signature

Date

Bert Lumbreras

Print Name

City Manager

Title

City Department Use Only Below This Line (PM, etc.).

Account Number(s):	Amount	Date
#	\$	



MEMO

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
via: Bert Lumbreras, City Manager
FROM: Chase Stapp, Director of Public Safety
DATE: September 22, 2020
RE: TDS Contract Renewal

During the September 15, 2020 regular Council meeting, there was a resolution considered by Council for a 5-year renewal of the City's contract with Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) for residential solid waste disposal, recycling and related programs which is the first of the two five-year extensions approved by City Council in Amendment No. 5 on August 15, 2015. The current contract expires on September 30, 2020. Council amended the resolution and approved a 2-year contract extension with wording added that required agreement by TDS in order for this resolution to take effect. On Wednesday, September 16, staff spoke with TDS management via telephone and learned that they are not agreeable to a 2-year extension and are only agreeable to the 5-year extension specified in the original contract. The purpose of this memo is to provide the staff recommendation for how to move forward along with necessary background information in advance of a special meeting on September 29, 2020.

Accompanying this memo are several attachments: A letter from Texas Disposal Systems and several referenced attachments to that letter and the current contract between the City and TDS.

Staff Recommendation

The services provided by TDS are critical to the safety and quality of life for San Marcos residents. Given the critical nature of these services, staff recommends that Council approve a resolution on September 29, 2020 granting the 5-year contract extension. Staff is also very sensitive to the concerns expressed by Council about the need to begin a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to ensure open competition for the best value for our residents. As part of this recommendation, staff will immediately work with TDS to evaluate the products and rates currently provided by this contract to look for opportunities for potential savings within the life of this extension. If changes are recommended, those will be brought back to Council as a change in services resolution before the termination of the contract.

Additionally, staff (Neighborhood Enhancement and Purchasing & Contracting) will begin the RFP process during the term of this contract extension. The current contract with TDS includes a cancellation clause that gives the City the ability to terminate the contract for any reason deemed necessary by the Council by providing TDS at least 30 days' notice. This will

allow the City to conduct an RFP process for these services during the life of this contract extension. It will also give the City the ability to commence operation under a new contract before the end of this five-year contract extension.

During our conversations with TDS management, they were clear to express their hope that the City would not terminate the contract early. They also expressed a belief that there could be opportunities for savings that could be passed on to our residents during the life of this contract. The recommendation to study programs and rates during the first few months of this contract would be an attempt to address those concerns. In the event that Council directs staff to conduct the RFP process, we are prepared to begin that process immediately.

Council guidance required

The current contract only addresses residential solid waste disposal, multifamily recycling and City facility services. Prior to initiating an RFP process staff would need to have council's guidance on staying with the current contracted services or adding multi-family trash, construction waste, and commercial business components to a contract. Adding additional components to the contract would determine how the RFP would be written and the amount of public input required.

RFP Process

During the discussion with Council at the September 15 meeting, staff mentioned the anticipated time needed to conduct an RFP process for these services to be approximately 18 months. There are several components included in that time estimation, some of which are outside the scope and strict timeline of the actual procurement process. Procurement processes for these types of services are complicated and complex. When done correctly, it may involve a healthy amount of public engagement and Council direction for scope and needs assessment. There are many variables which effect the solicitation timeline including the number of proposals received, sufficient time for evaluations, interviews with shortlisted vendors, and contract negotiations. Staff envisions the aforementioned 18-month timeline to encompass the following components:

Program evaluation, public outreach and needs assessment	60-90 days
Council direction	30 -60 days
Solicitation/Evaluation/Selection	180-210 days
Negotiation	30-60 days
Council award	30 days
Vendor Term/Implementation plan development	30 days
Mobilization of new contract	45 days

City of San Marcos City Council Meeting

September 1, 2020 Resource Recovery Program Presentation

Questions from City Council (Beginning at 44:30):

- Mayor Hughson:** Thank you very much. That was a great presentation. And thanks for reminding us of ALL those good things that are going on with resource recovery. So, y'all do a great job. Thank you.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Yeah, I just had a couple of questions, but I too wanted to say I'm always so impressed with how much y'all do with trash and recycling and all these programs, and TDS is a better community partner than I thought they were. I didn't know they were even helping us out with those awful donation boxes and everything else they do so kudos to y'all and to them. I did have a question. Why are they waiving the 3% and saving us so much money? How did we get that waiver?
- Ms. Kirwin:** They value our partnership a lot and I'm working really close with them on how we can look to expand the program within the next five years, like with the multi-family pilot program for to-go pizza boxes...
- Councilmember Derrick:** I LOVE that!
- Ms. Kirwin:** ...and then just knowing how the circumstances we have right now with COVID and everything else.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Okay, and then also, Easter Seals, I thought they did seven days a week. They only do four days a week, and one of those days being Saturday?
- Ms. Kirwin:** Yeah, it's Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Okay, and then are they the sole entity for hauling the trash out from the parks in the summer?
- Ms. Kirwin:** No, the parks during the summer is a different thing. That's going to be the parks crew. They work their 7:00 – 4:00 shift. And then the Easter Seals comes in, in two other shifts, to end their last shift ending at 11:00 p.m. when the parks close. So they actually do the river parks, only during the tubing season.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Okay, so it's kind of in tandem over the summer then that they're trying to take care of that.
- Ms. Kirwin:** Yeah, we saw that problem with the buzzards and everything, critters pulling everything out, so that why we realized there was this disconnect with the timing.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Right, right. Well, I'm really glad that we were able to save that money, because the partnership, and it sounds like you guys have really (inaudible) the first city this, the first city that, and you requested this, you know, it sounds like you've got a great partnership, so I'm looking forward to being able to continue that.
- Ms. Kirwin:** Thank you.

Councilmember Gonzales: Oh, thank you, Mayor. You mentioned earlier that, or Amy did, that we're pretty competitive with other cities, but I didn't see the number of what they pay versus what we're paying. I know what we're paying, but I don't know what Austin, and Seguin, and New Braunfels. What's the price difference for residents?

Ms. Kirwin: There was a spreadsheet that was attached hopefully...

Mayor Hughson: It's on Page 40 of the current packet.

Councilmember Gonzales: Yeah, well, we're at the high end, or we're pretty much medium? I'm just kind of curious.

Ms. Kirwin: We're right there with everybody else. \$26 with what we provide is very much in line. Austin has four different sized carts, and so they have this weird, variable-sized, you'll see their rate, garbage rate, has a wide range. But when it comes to all the other cities, we're really, we're not, if anything, if we're a little bit more, it's only because we offer so much more to our residents.

Councilmember Gonzales: I see it. I apologize. I missed it. But yes, I think we're...

Mayor Hughson: Yeah, like Ms. Kirwin said, it's not just the monthly rate, it's the four bulky pickups a month, seeing that others get what we're getting. So those extra services that y'all have negotiated in recent years really add way more value to that monthly fee, that still, that monthly fee is not bad.

Councilmember Gonzales: I agree. They're doing a great job. Thank you.

Ms. Kirwin: And really, kudos should be do Tom Tiger, because he negotiated the first contract.

Councilmember Gonzales: Good for him!

Mayor Hughson: Okay. I remember when TDS first approached us. That was a LONG time ago, when Dr. Mihalkanin and I were on the council before and I was unsuccessful in getting council to consider going outside, and we missed that year. But, successful the second time around, and so it was good to look at what TDS had at that time. I've had the privilege of touring their facility, oh I don't know, maybe a dozen times over the years, to hear the story about how they got started is always interesting. And the services that they are adding, because that's what customers want are all really, really good. So, thanks to all who have made this happen. And also thanks to Green Guy, who have been providing these recycling services to us for many, many, many, years. Are there any other questions? If not, thank you very much. And we will move on to out Consent Agenda.

88°

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Video captures Round Rock Refuse failing to separate curbside garbage and recycling



kxan
10:04 65°

MIKE LAVENGCO
GENERAL MANAGER, ROUND ROCK REFUSE

88°

It comes after a man caught on camera the simultaneous collection of both trash and recycling in the same curbside pick-up.

In a viewer video obtained by KXAN, a dump truck labeled Round Rock Refuse, pulls up to a curb and picks up garbage. The truck then drives forward and also collects the recycling, delivering it into the same chute as the garbage.

Doug Rice, who lives in Round Rock, shot the video. He said his family is very careful to separate their trash from their recycling. He was frustrated to see his trash collection service fail to separate the two during curbside pick-up.

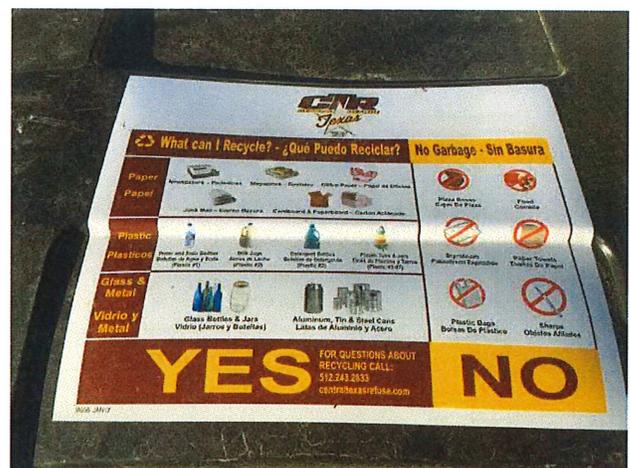
“It’s almost ritualistic around here to make sure we recycle. I was as shocked as anyone,” Rice said. “We have to pay every single month for a service that should be dependable.”

Mike Lavengco, the general manager of Round Rock Refuse, said the driver saw wood in the container, an item considered a “contaminant” and non-recyclable.

Lavengco said the driver thought that trashing the wood would both help the Rice family and eliminate the contaminant.

Doug Rice said he was not attempting to recycle wood. He also challenged the driver’s story, saying the bins were closed and there was no way to ascertain the contents of the containers without physically examining them.

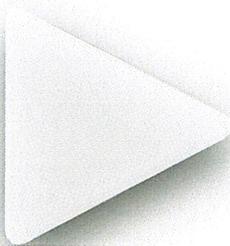
Lavengco said a supervisor went to investigate on Friday after seeing Rice’s video posted on social media. He said that there were no other instances of both garbage and recycling being improperly collected that day.



(KXAN/Alex Caprariello)

88°

Video appears to show dump truck improperly dispos of waste



“The driver thought he was giving excellent customer service and made a bad judgement call,” Lavengco said. “We have re-educated and disciplined the driver. We don’t take it lightly. We are dedicated and committed to recycling.”

Officials with the City of Round Rock also chimed in, saying this isn’t what they expect from their contractor of more than 20 years.

Our contract with Round Rock Refuse explicitly states that trash will be taken to the landfill and recycling will be delivered to a single-stream facility. Recycling is an essential service we provide and we believe that our third party contractors have a clear understanding of our expectations.

- CITY OF ROUND ROCK

88°

should be placed in a separate green container.

“Recycling at home is easy and convenient with the City’s single-stream curbside recycling program. Toss your [recyclables](#) in your green recycling container, no sorting necessary, then place at the curb on your [scheduled pick-up day](#),” the website says.

Shift in thinking

A shift in global recycling has caused a number of cities to rethink things. Last year, China, enacted an anti-pollution program. Essentially the country no longer buys recyclable materials unless it is almost a hundred percent free of contaminants.

China was long the world’s leading buyer of recyclables. That means it costs some programs more to recycle than previously.

Proper recycling

To help out your recycling program, clean out your recyclables. Remove food and liquids, and rinse them.

Detach items that are not alike. Remove metal lids from glass jars. Take off foil from yogurt tubs. Not all facilities can handle and properly separate such materials.

Double check with your specific program. When non-recyclable items are thrown in with reusables, they ultimately have to go to the landfill anyway. That results in another cost of transport fee for the service.

Tonight on KXAN News at 9 and 10 p.m., [Alex Caprariello](#) will visit with both Round Rock Refuse and the homeowner to determine how the trash collection service will proceed in customer collections.

Texarkana Gazette

Waste Management to landfill Texas-side recyclables

TEXARKANA, Texas -- Waste Management will temporarily dispose of recyclable materials collected curbside in its New Boston, Texas, landfill, the company announced Friday.

by Karl Richter Sep. 14 2020 @ 4:25pm



This March 2018 file photo shows material collected by Waste Management's curbside, single-stream recycling service awaiting transport to a Shreveport, Louisiana, sorting facility at a Caraustar Industries plant in Texarkana, Texas. Photo by Karl Richter

TEXARKANA, Texas — Waste Management will temporarily dispose of locally curbside-collected recyclable materials in its New Boston, Texas, landfill, the company announced Friday.

Pratt Industries Inc. — the company that has been accepting unsorted, or single-stream, recyclables collected by WM in Texarkana — will no longer process them at its Shreveport, Louisiana, facility, and WM has no other place to sell them.

"Unfortunately, there is no other available market for the materials at the current time. Please continue to use your recycling cart and place it out for collection as you normally do as we research options," a news release stated.

The company's commercial cardboard recycling program is not affected.

During a City Council meeting Monday, a WM spokesman apologized for the short notice and said the company is working with Texas-side officials to find a solution that allows the company to continue curbside recycling services.

"We were not given verbal notification until Thursday and written notification Friday," WM Public Sector Manager Doug Sims said. "Hopefully this is very temporary."

WM pays \$95 dollars per ton for transport and processing of the approximately 120 tons of recyclables it collects in Texarkana per month, Sims said.

Possible options include transporting recyclables to WM facilities in Little Rock or Arlington, Texas; changing to curbside service that collects cardboard and paper only; or discontinuing curbside recycling altogether, Sims said, adding that he should be able to provide the city with pricing estimates within two weeks.

City of San Marcos - Service Comparison

City	San Marcos	Kyle	Austin
Est. Population (2018)	63,509	46,874	964,254
# of Homes Serviced	10,408	11,481	190,594
Service Provider	TDS	TDS	City
Expiration Date	9/30/2020	3/31/2031	N/A
Includes Commercial Waste Collection	No	Yes	No
City Bills Residences	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rates	Rates	Rates	Rates
65 gal. Trash Contractor Rate	\$21.78	N/A	N/A
65 gal. Trash Retail Rate	\$26.09	N/A	\$29.65
96 gal. Trash Contractor Rate	\$21.78	\$22.14	N/A
96 gal. Trash Retail Rate	\$29.09	\$26.92	\$48.20
96 gal. Recycling	EOW	EOW	EOW
Green Waste Cart**	EOW	EOW	Weekly*
Leaf/Yard Trimmings Pickup		Up to 10 kraft bags for compostable leaves and brush.	Yard trimmings in kraft bags/reusable containers collected weekly
Bulky/Brush Pickup	Four call-in bulky pickups per year	Two call-in bulky pickups per year	Two scheduled bulky pickup days and two scheduled large brush pickups days. *Bulky pickups currently suspended
Service Notes	36-40 roll offs for city- wide clean ups annually + Landfill drop off of 5 cubic yards waste for each resident monthly	10 roll offs for city-wide clean up annually + Landfill drop off of 5 cubic yards for each resident monthly	*Green Waste Cart currently only available for 75% of Austin households. Retail rate includes \$4.70 Clean Community Fee Extra bag w/sticker fee: \$4.00 Extra bag w/o sticker fee: \$9.60

**Only three cities within the Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area have this level of residential service (3 carts).

Transcript of Public Comments by Alfonso Sifuentes of Central Texas Refuse

San Marcos City Council Meeting/ September 15, 2020

Good Evening. Honorable Mayor Hughson and City Council, my name is Alfonso Sifuentes and I'm the Director of Public Sector Services and Community Rel. for Central Texas Refuse. CTR has been servicing residential and commercial customers in Central Texas for the past 39 years. Thank you for allowing me the time to address agenda item 21, which deals with the upcoming contract extension for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials. It is worth repeating that the solid waste disposal and collections market, including recycling, composting, and all its subcomponents has changed in this area. By having a disposal site, a single-stream recycling facility, a hauling company, and being a full-integrated business, CTR is now competitive in this regional market. And for the record, we are on target to open on the first quarter of next year. Listening to the resource recovery program presentation at the last council meeting, a few questions come to mind. It was mentioned that the RFP process would take "18 months." Why wasn't the option presented 18 months ago? The Council would have been in a better position to assess this complex contract and have the time to objectively compare contractors in the marketplace. And as for the transition taking six months? If there is cooperation with the exiting contractor, it can be done in a matter of weeks. Also, staff presented a chart with comparable rates from cities that are mostly serviced by the same contractor that services San Marcos. Looking through that same lens does not present an objective comparison to other capable contractors that can offer solutions to your city's specific needs. Just because we don't offer "Green Waste Service," does not mean we are incapable, if that is one of your specific needs. Not all municipality needs are the same, which is why not all RFP's are the same. Also, looking at the residential trash and recycling rates for smaller communities like Wimberley and Buda and others that are not on the list, the rates seem cheaper and some with bigger, 96 gallon carts. And just recently, the City of Luling, which is a fraction of the size of San Marcos, and farther from their disposal site, was getting a significantly lower rate for the same services. Are you really getting the best rate? Just like your current contractor, we also provide good service and good overall value to the communities we serve, Like Round Rock, Cedar Park and Lockhart, for decades. However, through an RFP process, an oranges to oranges comparison can quantify the best return on your investment, also key offerings, or values, answers to crucial questions, solutions to specific needs, along with firm pricing come to light. In ending, ask yourselves: Are you really getting the best deal? On the alternative, should you decide to still award a contract extension, consider minimizing it to a two to three year term, so you may still explore your options.

Resource Recovery Program Update 2020- Supplemental

The City of San Marcos Resource Recovery division manages contracts and programs for single-family residential, multifamily recycle, and various other programs to help with landfill diversion. We also man booths at events encouraging our residents to change their behavior, including with single-use plastic.

Residential

Single-family curbside service: 65-gallon or 96-gallon trash cart serviced once a week; 96-gallon recycle cart serviced every other week (residents can put out extra recycling in cardboard boxes or paper bags; and 96-gallon green waste cart serviced every other week (residents can put out extra green waste in paper yard bags); bulk pickups; TDS brush drop off 5 cubic yards per month

Multi-family recycling: carts or dumpster is on-site; located next to the landfill dumpster. No diversion numbers because we don't manage the landfill contract for commercial.

Brush Drop Off: available monthly to all single-family residents; City contractors and crews can dispose of brush any time.

Green Guy Recycling: Drop Off facility- plastic, glass, paper, cardboard, metal (24/7); Scrap metal purchasing; e-waste; white goods; tires; batteries

Community Clean Ups: 2-40-yard roll offs for metal, appliances, and electronics; caged trailer for tires and TVs; 10-40-yard roll offs for landfill material; HHW trailer; and brush drop off

DATA:

Residential Curbside Tons:

Year-fiscal	Landfill	Recycle	Compost	Diversion	Active House Unit-Year Total	Active House Unit-Avg Monthly
2015	7778.04	2192.5	137.37	22%	97,866	8,155
2016	7723.94	2225.43	250.58	25%	101,088	8,424
2017	7092.47	1629.4	1350.47	29%	105,464	8,769
2018	7151.64	1565.87	1281.78	29%	110,399	9,200
2019	7826.09	2249.84	1700.06	34%	117,148	9,762

Annual Recycling Audit: contamination

Year	% Contamination
2015	20.64
2016	14.48
2017	12.97
2018	13.78
2019	14.19



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Legislation Text

File #: ID#20-673, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

Executive Session in accordance with Section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters - To discuss the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Legislation Text

File #: ID#20-674, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

Consider action, by motion, or provide direction to Staff regarding Executive Session item in accordance with Section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters - To discuss the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.