

Frequently Asked Questions
October 2017
Commercial Solid Waste Bin Collection Services - Franchise System Analysis

The City of Glendale recently initiated a study to modernize trash, recycling and yard trimming collection services to help comply with new statewide mandates and regulations. The following frequently asked questions regarding this process are offered below.

Has the City already changed its collection services?

No. The City recently completed a study of its current permit system for commercial bin collection services. Commercial bin collection services include businesses and multi-family properties (5 units or more). Currently, private waste haulers must have a permit to legally operate in Glendale but the amount of these permits issued by the City is not controlled. A Request for Proposals (RFP) process is being conducted for commercial solid waste collection services using a franchise zone system (1 sole waste hauler in each collection zone). The zone system would reduce truck traffic, improve collection efficiency, allow the City to establish a maximum rate and rate cap on collection rates, and meet State recycling mandates. Following the RFP process, the City Council will review proposals, take public input and provide further direction. It is expected that this will take place in April 2018.

Why is the City considering a change to its current collection system?

The existing permit system was adopted in the early 1990s. Since this time, the State legislature has adopted new regulations to enhance sustainability and reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills. Updating the existing permit system will allow the City to comply with the State's new regulations.

What are other cities doing about this?

According to a recently published study by LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy); out of 88 cities in Los Angeles County, 4 cities (4.5%) use City staff to collect commercial solid waste, 64 cities (72.7%) use an exclusive franchise system, 12 cities (13.6%) use a non-exclusive franchise system and 8 cities like Glendale (9.1%) use an open permit system.

What types of services are included?

Two alternatives are being studied with this RFP. One will include franchising commercial accounts only. This would include properties that are mixed use (have residential dwellings combined). A separate bid will take place for multi-family accounts.

Will there be meetings to provide input on this process?

The City published notices for public outreach meetings regarding this effort. Additional public outreach meetings will be held in 2018.

Will the City discontinue its own commercial bin collection services?

This is not known at this time. The City Council will consider the current cost of providing these collection services, future unfunded mandates and cost proposals from private solid waste haulers prior to making a decision.

Will my rates increase?

This is not known at this time. City solid waste rates have not been adjusted since 2010 and it is expected that costs will increase as a result of new State sustainability regulations. Rate adjustments will likely have to be considered in response to these expected increased costs. It is the City's goal to ensure that the future collection system provides responsive services, reasonable rates and meets statewide recycling mandates.

How does this impact Scholl Canyon Landfill?

This is not known at this time. Many private solid waste haulers have built processing facilities to maximize material diversion from the landfill. Further, many private haulers have established agreements with other landfills, including privately owned sites and sites in other jurisdictions. A new franchise system could reduce the amount of materials taken to Scholl Canyon Landfill.