

**Annual Garbage Collection
and Disposal Service Fee Report
Fiscal Year 2025-26**

Lennox Garbage Disposal District



Prepared By:
County of Los Angeles
Public Works
Environmental Programs Division

Enclosure A

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
ANNUAL GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICE FEE REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025-26
LENNOX GARBAGE DISPOSAL DISTRICT**

INTRODUCTION

Section 5470, et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code requires that, if existing garbage collection and disposal service fees are to be continued and collected on the property tax roll, a report shall be prepared each year and filed with the Executive Officer of the County of Los Angeles (County) Board of Supervisors (Board).

The report must contain a description of each parcel receiving such services and the amount of the fee for each parcel for the year. The Executive Officer shall file a copy of the report with the Auditor-Controller on or before August 10 of each year, with a statement that the report has been finally adopted by the Board, and the Auditor-Controller shall enter the amounts of the fees against the respective parcels of land as they appear on the current assessment roll.

This report documents the methodology and cost basis for increasing the Annual Garbage Collection and Disposal Service Fee (Service Fee) per refuse unit in the Lennox Garbage Disposal District (GDD or District) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26. The Lennox GDD provides refuse, recyclable material, green waste, and abandoned waste collection services to approximately 3,000 parcels with an estimated population of 20,000 residents. The District encompasses only County unincorporated territory, as shown in Exhibit 1. It is essential that operation of the refuse collection and disposal services within the Lennox GDD be continued without interruption to protect the health and safety of the District's residents, businesses, and the general public. The necessary funds must be available to pay the cost of refuse, recyclable material, green waste and abandoned waste collection services, and administration of the District's contract.

ANNUAL GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICE FEES

In 1980 and 2003, the Board adopted ordinances establishing the Service Fee to supplement property taxes for the collection and disposal of refuse, recyclables, organic waste, and illegal dumping in the Lennox GDD. The collection of the Service Fee on the property tax roll is the most cost-effective mechanism for the billing and accounting of the fees.

The current Service Fee for the Lennox GDD is established in Title 20, Division 4A, Chapter 20.90, Part 15 of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code). The Service Fee is levied annually upon each parcel of real property within the District and is calculated by multiplying the fee per refuse unit by the number of refuse units assigned

to each parcel according to the parcel's property use classification pursuant to Table 1 in Section 20.90.740 of the County Code. The number of refuse units per parcel varies from one-half unit for a vacant parcel to 18 units for a community shopping center. A parcel containing a single-family residential unit is assigned one refuse unit.

On July 3, 2018, the Board approved and awarded a service contract to provide solid waste collection services, as well as monitoring and removal of illegal dumping, for the Lennox GDD. The contract reflected a significant cost increase from previous years due to enhanced service requirements, including, but not limited to, daily monitoring and removal of illegal dumping and implementation of an Organic Waste Collection Program in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383. SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to provide source-separated collection of refuse, recyclables, and organic waste, and to divert organic waste from landfills. Additional drivers of increased costs include inflationary pressure and increased overhead costs.

The current Service Fee for the Lennox GDD, as indicated in Section 20.90.720 of the County Code, is \$545 per refuse unit. This is the District's only source of revenue used to fund its operations unlike the other six GDDs that collect ad valorem taxes in addition to the annual service fee. The estimated revenues from the Service Fee at the current rate are insufficient to finance the District's projected annual operating costs. District reserves are stable in alignment with the current fee structure and is estimated to be \$1,670,000 as of June 30, 2025. Continuing to collect the Service Fee at the existing rate would exhaust reserves and jeopardize services.

Public Works made a preliminary estimate of annual expenses for the Lennox GDD and calculated the necessary Service Fee to finance those expenses by projecting anticipated costs for refuse collection and related services for the upcoming fiscal year. To determine the Service Fee required for financial sustainability, an analysis was conducted on these projected expenditures in relation to the total refuse service needs of the District. The resulting Service Fee was established to distribute the cost of service incrementally over a five-year period which factored operational considerations and cost projections. This approach ensures that the fee structure reflects actual service demands and anticipated costs, supporting the District's long-term financial stability while minimizing ratepayer impact, as detailed in the table below.

The projected expenditures, revenues, and reserves for the Lennox GDD beginning in FY 2025-26 are set forth in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Lennox GDD Projected Annual Expenditures, Revenues, and Reserves Beginning FY 2025-26.

	FY 2025-26 Projection	FY 2026-27 Projection	FY 2027-28 Projection	FY 2028-29 Projection	FY 2029-30 Projection
Number of Refuse Unit	5,524	5,524	5,524	5,524	5,524
Proposed Annual Service Fee per Refuse Unit	572	601	623	647	671
Operating Revenue ⁽¹⁾	3,248,000	3,406,000	3,531,000	3,660,000	3,794,000
Reserves ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	44,000	17,000
Total Financing Sources	3,248,000	3,406,000	3,531,000	3,704,000	3,811,000
Labor	161,428	166,271	171,259	176,396	181,688
Equipment	3,537	3,643	3,752	3,865	3,981
Miscellaneous	1,376	1,417	1,460	1,504	1,549
Task 1 Customer Service	2,684,197	2,764,723	2,847,665	3,132,431	3,226,404
Task 2 County Service	340,111	346,914	353,852	389,237	397,022
Total Cost	3,191,000	3,283,000	3,378,000	3,704,000	3,811,000

Notes:

- (1) Operating revenue includes the annual Service Fee (proposed annual service fee multiplied by number of refuse units) and other revenue such as interest.
- (2) When operating revenue is insufficient to cover the total cost of the District, reserves are used to supplement funding. When operating revenue is sufficient, any additional revenue will be transferred to reserves.
- (3) Estimated Public Works labor costs are determined based on the positions needed to perform the service. The calculation applies FY 2024-25 System Employee Benefit and Overhead rates and cost of living adjustment (COLA); and is made by multiplying the estimated number of hours required for each position by the fully loaded hourly rates. For each Fiscal Year, an estimated 3 percent COLA is added.
- (4) Estimated equipment such as contract monitoring vehicles are calculated based on prior year actual costs, adjusted for CPI. For each Fiscal Year, an estimated 3 percent annual CPI is added.
- (5) Estimated miscellaneous charges including costs for outreach material and services from other County departments are calculated based on prior year actual costs, adjusted for CPI. For each Fiscal Year, an estimated 3 percent annual CPI is added.
- (6) Task 1 Customer Service cost is calculated by multiplying the number of refuse units by the monthly unit waste hauler cost from FY 2023-24 for 12 months, plus a 5 percent annual rate increase to determine estimated costs for FY 2024-25. For the estimated Task 1 Customer Service costs for each year, a 5 percent annual rate adjustment is added.
- (7) Task 2 County Service cost is calculated using the average of the last two fiscal years actual cost for waste hauler illegal dumping monitoring/collection and public receptacles, plus a 2 percent annual rate increase to determine estimated costs for FY 2024-25. For estimated Task 2 County Service costs for each year, a 2 percent annual rate adjustment is added.

Based on this calculation, Public Works held community meetings on the proposed fee increases on June 7, 2025 and June 12, 2025, and provided written notice of the proposed fee increase to the record owners of all identified parcels within the GDD by U.S. Mail on May 5, 2025, in accordance with article XIII D, section 6 of the California Constitution. The notice included the maximum proposed Service Fee to be collected in FYs 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, and 2029-30; the basis for calculating the increased fee amounts; the reason for the proposed increases; and the date, time, and location of the public hearing on this matter.

Upon the Board's approval, the annual Service Fee for the Lennox GDD will increase to: \$572 per refuse unit for FY 2025-26; \$601 per refuse unit for FY 2026-27; \$623 per refuse unit for FY 2027-28; \$647 per refuse unit for FY 2028-29; and \$671 per refuse unit beginning in FY 2029-30.

COMPLIANCE WITH PROPOSITION 218 AND PROPOSITION 26

The Service Fee for the Lennox GDD is allocated uniformly per refuse unit. Each parcel within the District pays only its proportional share of the District's cost of service, in accordance with Article XIII D, section 6, subdivisions (b)(3) and (4). Revenues from the fee will not exceed and may not be used for purposes other than the District's solid waste collection and disposal services. (Cal. Const., art. XIII C, § 1 3 (2).)

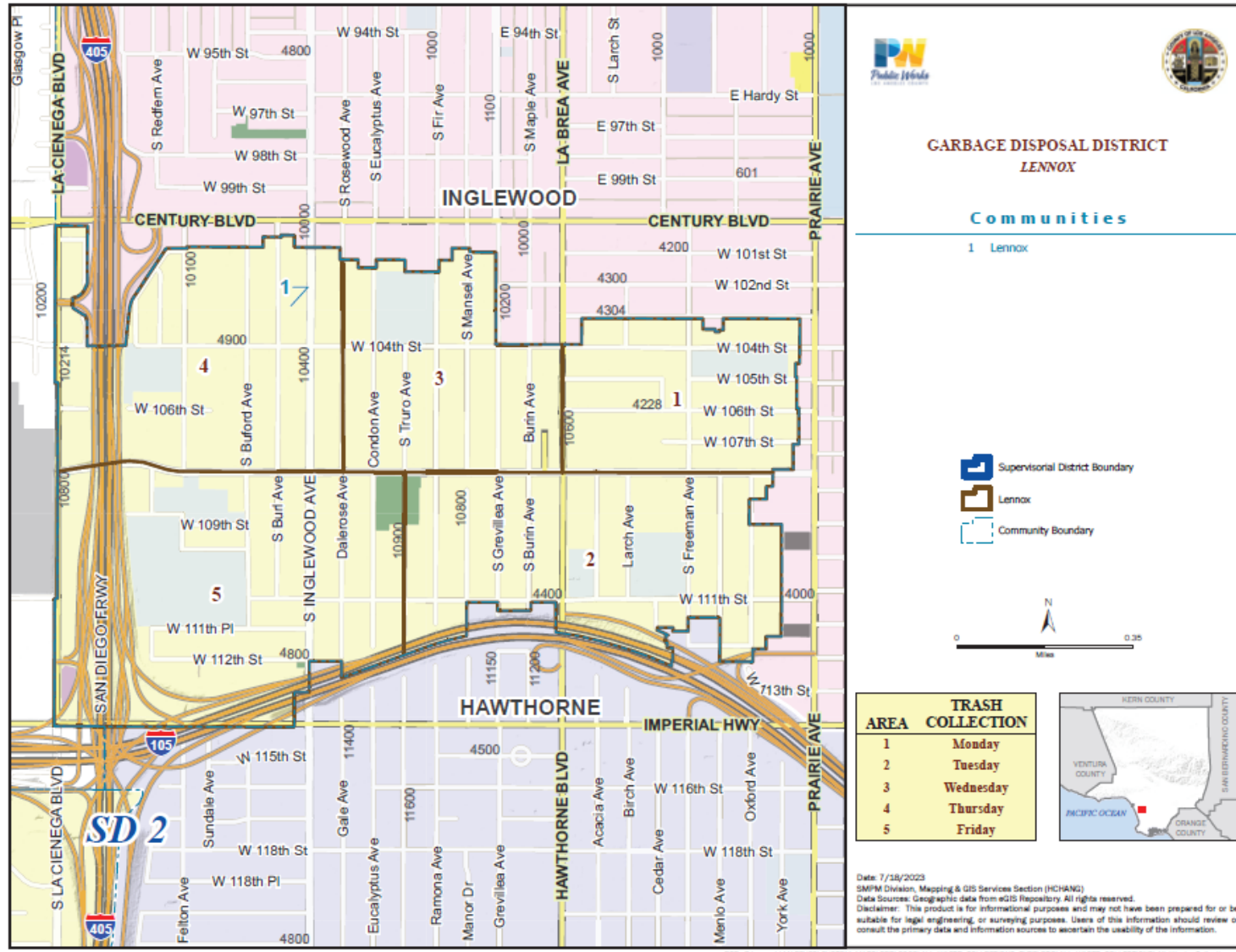
Written notice of the proposed increases to the Service Fee was provided to the record owners of all identified parcels within the District at least 45 days prior to the public hearing on this matter. The increases will not be adopted if written protests are received from a majority of affected parcel owners.

IDENTIFICATION OF PARCELS TO BE CHARGED

Exhibit 2 lists the tax rate areas for the Lennox GDD for FY 2025-26. Parcels within the District are further described in maps on file at the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office. Each parcel within the District will be charged a Service Fee in the amount of its proportionate share of the District's total cost of service.

EXHIBIT 1

Lennox Garbage Disposal District Map



Enclosure A

EXHIBIT 2

LENNOX GARBAGE DISPOSAL DISTRICT

ACCOUNT NO.	ANNUAL FEE PER REFUSE UNIT	TAX RATE AREA
3371	\$572	05237