



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SOLID WASTE RATE ADJUSTMENTS**

**Ukiah, CA. December 15, 2017.** – The Ukiah City Council will discuss the proposed solid waste rate adjustments for a second time on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The public hearing, continued from the December 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, is scheduled for 6:15 PM or as soon thereafter as possible at 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah.

Market conditions have changed considerably since the current rate schedule was adopted in 2016, altering the financial model used to support solid waste collection, processing, disposal and recycling. Therefore, recommendations have been made for revisions to the contracts with the garbage hauler and transfer station operator, as well as modifications of the current rate schedules for curbside solid waste collection and transfer station operation.

As a requirement of Proposition 218 and the City's own proprietary rate setting requirements under Code section 3953, the City, in establishing revised rates for the mandatory collection of residential solid waste, must notify customers of the proposed rates, provide a period of time for them to submit written protests, and hold a public hearing to receive potential protests from affected rate payers and comments from the community.

A detailed report, additional information, and information requested by the City Council at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is available on the City of Ukiah's website, [www.cityofukiah.com/rate-restructure-notice/](http://www.cityofukiah.com/rate-restructure-notice/).

Recommendations that will be discussed at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting include, but are not limited to:

- A slight reduction in fees for collection of the 32-gallon containers;
- Elimination of the 10- and 20-gallon service rates;
- Development of a discounted rate for qualifying low-income seniors;
- Increase of the access rate (fee for opting out of collection service) from \$5.25 to \$10;
- Expanded public awareness campaign for recycling; and
- Adjustment of transfer station rates by 5.80%.

  
Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

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