

Refuse Rates Hearing Officer  
c/o Public Works  
City Hall, Room 348  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

April 10, 2017

Dear Hearing Officer:

Although I am president of a San Francisco neighborhood organization, I am writing this protest as a single ratepayer, without any input from my local association.

While I believe that Recology (Recology-Sunset Scavenger/Golden Gate) is entitled to a rate increase, I firmly believe that the proposed rate increases that are being requested are excessive. I understand that the proposed rate increases are to cover increased costs and improvements in services and for facility upgrades. I further understand that the proposed rate increases include charges the City has requested to pay for costs incurred by certain City departments for solid waste management.

The rate increases being proposed would mean an increase in excess of 22% over the next three years (July, 1, 2017 to July 1, 2020), while also seeking annual cost of living adjustments similar to those approved in prior rate orders.

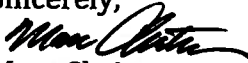
I have attended, listened to testimony, and spoken at a technical workshop at City Hall on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and again at a March 15<sup>th</sup> hearing, both regarding the rate increases. I have offered several suggestions that, if implemented by Recology, could save several million dollars each year. One proposal would be to better secure their blue recycling bins, to educate the public on recycling theft, including the overall financial loss to Recology, and to work with City agencies to prosecute those individuals who daily pilfer curbside recyclables from the blue bins. A second proposal would have Recology work with residents to suggest placement of all three bins on the sidewalk next to a neighbor's bins to allow for less truck stops, faster loading, and thus savings of pickup time and fuel.

I agree that the pick-up of recyclables should be from one truck and that a combination of 60% compost/40% trash truck pick-up is cost effective, leading to an eventual zero waste goal.

A more palatable solution for rate increases, and one that gradually increases the rates over a three-year period would be: 6% in July, 2017, 5% in July, 2018, and 5% in July, 2019, with a cumulative rate increase of well over 16%. This suggestion is reasonable and gradually implements the rate increases for the ratepayers.

Furthermore, Recology must do a better job of educating their customers on why the rate increases are justified.

Sincerely,



Marc Christensen, Act. #152276152