

5/19/18

Public Works  
Rate increase for  
garbage / refuse pick up

1 protest rate increase

To City Administrator  
City Controller  
Manager IF PUC

Jeanne Schlotz

RECEIVED

MAY 22 REC'D

CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE

May 22, 2017

Mr. Mohammed Nuru, Director, SF Public Works  
Rate Board  
City Administrator, Room 362  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Ref.:

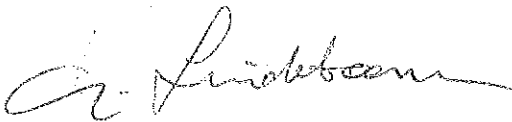
Dear Mr. Nuru:

I wrote before to the Hearing Officer how strongly my husband and I object to the original rate increase. It looks like you reduced the increase to 14.42%. This is still too high! We've been customers of Recology Sunset Scavenger for 45 years, always paying on time. We are a household of two elderly people who don't consume much and only put our bins out every three weeks. I appeal to you to lower the increase.

You realize that it is us, the customers, who do the recycling and make an effort to put each item of refuse in the proper bin. Instead of an increase we should get a discount for doing the job of recycling or go back to one garbage can per customer and have your employees do the sorting.

As I said in my previous correspondence, I'd like to bring to your attention that we voted for your company to remain as the San Francisco Refuse Collection company instead of putting that job up to bids in the last election. Should you go ahead with the increase I can assure you that we will change our vote next time the proposition comes up on the ballot.

Sincerely,



Mimi & Robert Lindeboom

Copy to: Recology Sunset Scavenger  
250 Executive Park Blvd  
Suite 2100  
San Francisco, CA 94134-3306

LOU ANN BASSAN

May 25, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Johnston  
Chair of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Objection to City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Works Notice of Recommended Orders on Residential Refuse Rates / Director's Report and Recommended Orders on the 2017 Rate Application of Recology San Francisco, Recology Sunset Scavenger, and Recology Golden Gate (collectively "Recology")

Dear Ms. Jennifer Johnston,

I object to the increased rates for residential refuse (garbage) collection and disposal rates recommended by the Director of Department of Public Works, dated May 12, 2017.

The application by Recology proposes rate increases "to cover increased costs and improvements in services and facilities.... The rates are intended to reimburse Recology for the costs of collecting, processing, and disposing of refuse from residential customers and to provide Recology with a reasonable return on its investments."

My objections to any increase in residential refuse (garbage) collection and disposal rates are as follows:

1. **OVERALL RATE OF INCREASE IS TOO HIGH.** The Director's total increase is only slightly less than what Recology originally requested. Recology originally requested a 22% increase over 4 years (16.40 + 4.98 + 0.0% + 0.62%), plus annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). The Director recommends a 20.12% increase over 4 years (4.42% in the first year, 5.46% in the second year, a decrease of 0.55% in the third year, and an increase of 0.79% in the fourth year (before application of a COLA)). However you slice the cake, the rate increases are too high, and are not "just and reasonable" and violate the City's Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.
2. **TOTAL MONTHLY CHARGES ARE TOO HIGH.** My current basic garbage service is **\$25.47** per month, for base service charge per dwelling unit of \$5.16 per month; plus weekly collection of 20 gallon trash (black bin) at \$16.19, 32 gallon recycle (blue bin) at

\$2.06, and 32 gallon compost (green bin) at \$2.06. [ $\$5.16 + \$16.19 + \$2.06 + \$2.06 = \$25.47$ .] (In fact, I have 3 bins that are the same size (32 gallons) but the black bin has an insert in it that reduces the space to 20 gallons.)

- a. The Director's recommendation is to charge \$15 per month base service charge per dwelling unit (nearly triple what I now pay); plus \$6.26 per 16 gallon black bin and each 32 gallon bin of blue recycling and green compost. That would bring my monthly bill to **\$33.78**. [ $\$15 + \$6.26 + \$6.26 + \$6.26 = \$33.78$ .] This represents an increase of \$8.31 per month, or a **25% increase** overall, in total charges. This is a much higher increase than Recology published in its notice, which said "there would be an average increase of 16.40%, or about \$5.70 a month for an average single family home." In fact, the "average increase" for me is almost 1.5 times higher than 16.40% – a 150% increase. And the monthly amount increase isn't "about \$5.70" – \$8.31 is a 46% increase for me.
- b. An increase of 25% in total charges for my single family home is not "just and reasonable" and violates the City's Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.

c.

	base service charge per dwelling unit	black bin - trash 20-gal	blue bin - recyclables 32-gal	green bin - compostables 32-gal	TOTAL
My current charges	\$5.16	\$16.19	\$2.06	\$2.06	\$25.47
Recology's request	\$20.00	\$10.44 (32-gal)	\$5.22	\$5.22	\$40.88
Director's recommendation	\$15.00	\$6.26 (16-gal)	\$6.26	\$6.26	\$33.78

3. **BASE SERVICE CHARGE PER DWELLING UNIT:** The base service charge per dwelling unit is currently **\$5.16** per month. It would increase to **\$15.00** per month per unit for single family homes and residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units. This is almost three (3) times higher than the current amount. This charge, just for stopping in front of my house to collect garbage, is excessive – especially when you consider that the truck usually parks in between 2-3 houses, and the garbageman collects first from one house, then the next, then the next, before he needs to move the truck again. Tripling the monthly basic service is outrageous and completely unjustified for my single family home and is not "just and reasonable" and violates the City's Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.

4. **UNFAIR BURDEN ON SINGLE FAMILY HOMES AND SMALLER RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS:** The base service charge per dwelling unit unfairly places the cost burden on single family homes and residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units. The base service charge per dwelling unit on apartment buildings with 6 or more units is proposed to be \$5.00 per unit. That means an apartment building with 6 units will pay a base service charge for the 6 dwelling units of only \$30 – which is only twice what I would pay for my single family home with two residents. Why should I subsidize apartment buildings with multiple units and who knows how many occupants? This is not fair!

- a. This means that my single family home, with only two residents and very little trash / recyclables / compost, will have to pay \$15 for base service charge per month, while a 6-unit apartment building that could have as few as 6 people or as many as 25-30 people would only pay \$30 per month for the base service charge. It is unfair to penalize single family homes and smaller buildings with outrageous rates and thereby forcing them to subsidize larger buildings with more people generating more trash. Larger buildings and their populations should pay their proportionate share and not expect single family homeowners and owners of small apartment buildings to pay for them and the trash they generate.
- b. A letter by Recology to SF Public Works dated 12/13/16 describes the proposed rate application beginning July 1, 2017. It states, "... we recommend increasing the fixed cost component of the residential rates (defined as buildings with less than six units)." This is fundamentally unfair to single family homes and residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units.
- c. The proposed rates are very, very inequitable. Forcing single family homes and residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units to subsidize larger buildings with larger populations is not "just and reasonable" and violates the City's Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.

5. **RECYCLING (BLUE BIN) AND COMPOSTING (GREEN BIN) COLLECTION BY VOLUME:** I currently pay \$2.06 per month for 32-gallon recyclables blue bin, and another \$2.06 per month for 32-gallon compost green bin. The Director's recommendation for single family homes and residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units is \$6.26 per month for 32-gallon blue bin and another \$6.26 per month for 32-gallon green bin – an increase of \$4.20 per month for each bin (blue and green). This more than triples the charge for each bin (blue and green). This represents a 67% increase for each blue and green bin – more than triple (3x) the current rate. This means instead of the current \$4.12 that I now pay for blue and green bins, I would have to pay \$12.52 per month for the blue and green bins.

- a. I am aware that the San Francisco Chronicle reported on 05/24/17 ("S.F. bins runneth over with special-delivery trash") that Recology is blaming special

delivery trash from Amazon boxes and meal kits as justifying its rate increase request. Since the culprits are so easily identifiable, you should target those companies for the trash they are generating – and not single family homes.

- b. But: this is **more than** Recology requested (their proposal was \$5.22 per month for each 32-gallon blue bin and another \$5.22 per month for each green bin). So it appears the Director gives with one hand (reducing the base charge from \$20.00 to \$15.00) while taking with the other hand (increasing the cost of blue and green bin collection).
  - c. There is absolutely no justification for this outrageous increase to owners of single family dwellings and small residential buildings. More than tripling the collection rate for the blue and green bins is not “just and reasonable” and violates the City’s Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.
  - d. Recology is trying to force single family homeowners and owners of small residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units to subsidize its proposed “pilot program to test new methods for recovering recyclable and organic material from the black bin stream.” This means sorting out the black garbage bags (that contain everything) from office buildings and other large institutions, which regularly fail to properly separate the streams of garbage. It is extremely unfair to place the burden of this cost on owners of single family homes and small residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units. Instead, Recology should focus on those customers who fail to properly separate their streams of garbage, and not penalize those exemplary citizens who already sort their garbage.
  - e. Forcing single family homes and residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units to subsidize Recology’s proposed “pilot program to test new methods for recovering recyclable and organic material from the black bin stream” is not “just and reasonable” and violates the City’s Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.
6. **CONSUMERS ARE BEING CHEATED OUT OF CRV MONIES:** When California enacted the “California Redemption Value” (CRV) charge on bottles and cans, consumers were told they could redeem the recyclables at their neighborhood stores, essentially meaning at the store where the product was bought. This is no longer the case.
- a. First, San Francisco got rid of the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Recycling Center, where we could easily take our recyclables to redeem for cash back to refund to us the monies originally spent on the CRV.
  - b. Next, San Francisco allowed the big chain stores such as Safeway to get rid of their trailers that acted as redemption facilities. So the neighborhood stores are no longer available for easy redemption. The only redemption facility left is the city dump by Daly City.

- c. That leaves two options for consumers: 1) store bags and bags and mounds and mounds of recyclables in their homes (attracting pests, insects and rodents) until such time as you can make a trip all the way to the dump at the outskirts of San Francisco; or 2) put the recyclables in the blue bin and let Recology take them and make money – while you now have to pay even more for blue bin service. Forcing consumers to use the blue bins means we are paying twice: first for the CRV, then for garbage service and being denied the opportunity to recoup our costs – as originally promised by politicians. This is just another example of the consumer and taxpayer being ripped off by politicians and their cronies.
7. **“COLA” INCREASE ON TOP OF OTHER RATE INCREASES:** On top of these proposed rate increases, Recology also wants annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) using a formula that was not disclosed in the notice. There is no justification for COLA increases on top of other rate increases. This is not “just and reasonable” and violates the City’s Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.
8. **SENIOR EXEMPTION / RATE REDUCTION IS TOO LIMITED:** The Director has recommended a low-income discount for seniors on fixed incomes and low income households, by raising the income requirement to qualify for the discount to 200% of federal poverty guidelines. That is very nice for low income people. But my husband and I are both seniors on a fixed income that does not qualify for the suggested discount. Therefore, under the Director’s recommendations, our fixed income status is being ignored and there is NO acknowledgment that seniors are on a fixed income, consume less, generate less, recycle and compost more, and are not contributing to black bin waste and landfills with disposable diapers. We are being forced to pay a huge increase for garbage collection – yet we hardly generate any trash at all! This is patently unfair to every senior on a fixed income – regardless of the amount of income. The Director’s recommendation is deficient in failing to include a senior exemption regardless of income. Forcing seniors to pay full rates is not “just and reasonable” and violates the City’s Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, codified in the Appendix to the San Francisco Administrative Code.
9. **ZERO WASTE BY 2020 vs. 15 YEAR LANDFILL CONTRACT:** The City’s policy is Zero Waste by 2020. That is three (3) years from now. Given that, why is Recology establishing a 15-year landfill disposal agreement? Why are consumers expected to pay for something that should be obsolete in 3 years?
10. **NO COMPETITIVE BIDDING:** It appears that the City and County of San Francisco has failed to engage in competitive bidding for the refuse collection contract. Recology’s proposal appears to be a slam-dunk deal awaiting an administrator’s rubber stamp. This proposal appears to be a *fait accompli* – a done deal.

11. **GARBAGE SERVICE IS MANDATORY:** Every property is required to have a garbage service. Homeowners cannot opt out of garbage service, even if we don't have any garbage. If we fail to pay for garbage service, a lien will be attached to our property. San Francisco Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance, Department of the Environment, states that "Residents and businesses are required to subscribe for adequate recycling, composting, and trash service and use them properly... Fines may be given in cases of non-compliance." While mandatory garbage service is probably a good thing (otherwise people would just throw their garbage on the street), it is unfair to place the bigger burden of cost on owners of single family homes and small residential buildings with 1-5 dwelling units. As such, we are hostages to this monopoly by Recology.
12. **UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES:** Recology's notice states it will continue "to offer customers the option to subscribe to current or different bin sizes. Collection rates will vary with different bin sizes." And: "Minimum service per dwelling unit for both single family and multi-family buildings is 16 gallon trash, 16 gallon recyclables, and 8 gallon compostables." If the rates increase as proposed, people will have the option of switching to the smallest possible bins to save money – even if the bins are not adequate for the amount of garbage and refuse they generate. The unintended, but entirely foreseeable, consequence of higher rates is that it will encourage more dumping as people will choose the smallest bins and smallest prices to avoid paying anything more than required. At the very least, the smallest possible bins should only be allowed for households that can certify that there is only one person, or two at most, who are not going to generate more garbage than can fit into the smallest bins.
  - a. The preferred method for dumping is to bag the garbage, go to a bus stop, put the bag down while waiting for the bus, get on the bus and leave the garbage. Another preferred method is to dump bags of household refuse at public garbage cans. My neighborhood is already plagued by this problem. "No Dumping" signs mean nothing. Educational fliers in multiple languages are ineffective. While the City can investigate dumping and issue fines, it does not seem to be having any effect as the problem of dumping continues uncurtailed and unabated.
13. **CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY MORE MONEY FOR PEOPLE WHO ILLEGALLY DUMP THEIR GARBAGE AND IT IS ILLEGAL UNDER PROPOSITION 218 TO CHARGE INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS FOR THIS:** The notice states, "The proposed rates also include charges the City has asked Recology to include in the application to pay for costs incurred by certain City departments for solid waste management. " What is this? For Department of Public Works cleaning up dumpings all over San Francisco, and then passing along more costs to innocent taxpayers? Taxpayers already pay plenty of money to the City and for DPW to clean up the filthy streets. Why should Recology customers have to pay even more for the City to clean up dumpings? As noted above, the increased rates, and option for very small bins, is only going to lead to more dumping in our neighborhoods.
  - a. As Kermit Kubitz, attorney, noted in his June 24, 2013 letter of opposition:



“Moving abandoned materials collection to the Recology portfolio is not permitted by Proposition 218, and does not present any savings at all to San Francisco residents. I object to this illegal transfer of a general public costs, previously borne by and provided through the Department of Public Works, to Recology at cost, which will provide no savings to the public.” So not only will San Francisco residents have to pay millions to Recology for illegal dumping, they also will not see any savings or decrease in the DPW budget. “This is unconscionable, illegal under Proposition 218, and should be either eliminated or reduced.” Mr. Kubitz quoted David Pipel’s May 25, 2012 protest, that “DPW’s Litter Control Costs are more properly City General Fund costs.” Mr. Kubitz continued in his protest letter: “Thus clearly the common perception of this issue is that litter control and abandoned property pickup are general city costs, not allocable to individual residences or homeowners.”

- b. Mr. Stuart Gardiner objected to the 2013 proposed rate increases. His letter dated June 24, 2013, made the following points: It appears that the Department of Public Works (DPW) has shifted two of its programs from its budget to Recology’s residential ratepayers. These two programs are the Abandoned Materials Collection Program (AMCP) and public litter can maintenance (PLCM). By shifting the costs of these programs to individual ratepayers, Proposition 218 is being violated. More specifically, California Constitution Article XIII D, Sec. 6 (“Proposition 218”) is being violated by requiring property owner ratepayers alone to pay for a municipal service available to residents through payment of taxes, and these taxes pay for general government services. Proposition 218, section 6(b)(5) provides that certain fees and charges can be imposed on parcels, “but that the amount of a fee or charge imposed cannot exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to that parcel.” Including costs of public cleanup in individual ratepayers bills is arbitrary and capricious and therefore unlawful as a matter of administrative law because they are not based on factual record evidence. The costs of these activities, which benefit the general public and not property owners specifically, should continue to be covered by the City’s general budget.

14. **WHAT ARE RECOLOGY’S TRUE COSTS?**: “The rates are intended to reimburse Recology for the costs of collecting, processing, and disposing of refuse from residential customers.” But customers have been provided no information on Recology’s costs. For example, gas is cheap now. And Recology’s trucks run on natural gas now. So perhaps Recology’s costs are actually less than they were a few years ago.

- a. Where is the information for customers? In addition, Recology makes money from collecting and selling recyclables, and from collecting and selling compost. Where is the information about the revenue that Recology is generating from our refuse? For example, Recology pressurizes organic material and the end product is used to generate energy at an East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) facility. Those revenues should be applied back to customers, and our rates should be lowered across the board, not increased.

15. **GARBAGE GESTAPO and MICROMANAGING**: A letter by Recology to SF Public Works dated 12/13/16 describes the proposed rate application beginning July 1, 2017. On page 2, it discusses installing Route Management Systems (RMS) in all collection vehicles, to communicate services in real time, and “The system will also be an excellent tool to identify possible sources of contamination as drivers can photograph improperly sorted material and share the findings with customer service and the Waste Zero Specialists to advance customer education efforts.” This is outrageous! The City cannot keep its streets free of debris, filth, human waste, or dumping – yet you want to approve a contract that calls for inspecting and photographing garbage cans. This is repugnant. And while I diligently sort my garbage, once my bins are curb-side by 6pm the evening before collection, I have no control of who puts what in my cans. For example, I have had prior incidents of the tenants of my neighbor using my bins to dispose of their excess waste. They don’t care about sorting – just dumping. So why should I get penalized or fined because someone violated my bins? And putting locks on the bins is not an option – Recology’s monthly charges for locks and keys are excessive – **LOCKS SHOULD BE FREE!**

- a. Further, it will be easy for Recology to photograph the bin contents from single family homes and target those owners. Whereas, if bin contents are improperly mixed up in multi-unit buildings, there will be no way to assign responsibility or penalties to the wrong-doers. This unfairly targets and penalizes single family homes – because how are you going to determine liability in multi-unit buildings with common shared bins?.

Thank you for your consideration of my arguments.

Very truly yours,



Lou Ann Bassan

cc: Supervisor Katy Tang, District 4, City Hall Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 office: 415.554.7460, fax: 415.554.7432; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org

# Refuse Collection and Disposal Rates (Garbage Rates)

Under the 1932 Refuse Collection and Disposal Initiative Ordinance, the City and County of San Francisco approves and sets residential refuse (garbage) rates. The Director of San Francisco Public Works is charged with reviewing applications for adjustments in residential refuse rates, holding public hearings, and issuing a report and recommended order on whether rates are just and reasonable.

## Latest Information

Notice of Recommended Orders on Residential Refuse Rates -- 2017

Director's Report and Recommended Orders on the 2017 Rate Application of Recology San Francisco, Recology Sunset Scavenger, and Recology Golden Gate -- May 12, 2017

2017 Refuse Rate Application -- Staff Report -- April 14, 2017

Any person may file an objection to any part of the Director's Report and Recommended Orders. The Rate Board must receive your objection in writing no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, 2017. Objections must be stated clearly and specifically and be based on evidence already in the record. Objections should be addressed to:

Ms. Jennifer Johnston

Chair of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Rate Board

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362


San Francisco, CA 94102

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSITION 218

NAME: Joseph Wong  
HOME ADDRESS:  
REASON TO REJECT:

Increase too much. Not reasonable,  
also 2013 already increase high percentage.  
Only few year increase again over double.

SIGNATURE:



# Refuse Collection and Disposal Rates (Garbage Rates)

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Ms. Jennifer Johnston

Chair of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Rate Board

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362

San Francisco, CA 94102

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSITION 218

NAME: PATTY SINN

HOME ADDRESS:

REASON TO REJECT:

THE PERCENTAGE IS TOO HIGH! PLEASE DON'T PUSH  
SAN FRANCISCO RESIDENTS TOO HARD AND TOO FAR!

SIGNATURE:

May 23, 2017

To: Refuse Rate Board

From: Carol Damm

As a landlord subject to San Francisco's punitive rent control regulations, I STRONGLY OBJECT to your proposed rate increases.

They are just one more thing for us to absorb.

Carol Damm

RECEIVED

MAY 20 REC'D

CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE

21<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Subject: Rate Payer Advocate - Directors Report

Dear Sir,

Firstly, I appreciate all the work and time spent to create this report. I would like to comment on a few items in the Directors Report and appeal one item.

#### Section 6.1 Residential Rates

**APPEAL:** While I appreciate the adjustment to the base charge I personally will experience an increase of 36%. You have noted later in the same section that apartment buildings (> 6 units) represent 65% of accounts. It would have been most helpful if that information was made available for both single family homes and 2-5 dwelling unit buildings. Are 2-5-unit building owners being discriminated against because they represent a small number of customers? I am appealing that a 150% increase in the base cost for 2-5 unit buildings is not fair and justified. I appeal to the board to reduce this and propose a 100% increase to a new base charge of \$10 per dwelling unit for 2-5 unit buildings.

#### Comments:

##### Recology Requested Rates:

16.40% in the first year, a 4.98% increase on the second year, a 0% increase on the third, and an additional 0.62% increase in the fourth year.

Total Increase (before COLA) = 22% over 4 years.

##### Directors Report Recommended Rates:

The Director's Report has made a number of recommendations that would change the proposed rates to an effective increase of 14.42% in the first year, 5.46% in the second year, a decrease of 0.55% in the third year, and an increase of 0.79% in the fourth year (before application

of a COLA).

Total Increase (before COLA) = 20.12 % over 4 years.

While every little bit helps, after numerous meetings, lots of objections being received the net result is that the ratepayer will be paying 1.88 % less over 4 years, a paltry adjustment of 0.47% less per year - Hardly an effective result for the ratepayers of San Francisco after all this work and time spent.

#### Section 4 - COST DRIVERS FOR THE 2017 PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

*In 2015, the Rate Board approved the use of \$12 million to cover the incremental cost of the new landfill agreement from January 2016 through June 2017. In addition, a portion of the unearned ZWI was used to offset the cost -of -living adjustment (COLA) that would have gone into effect on July 1, 2016. By combining these offsets together, the City deferred a 5.70% annual rate increase, but these costs must be added back to future rate years, resulting in a higher rate increase in the first year than would otherwise have occurred (Ex. 69).*

**Comment:** I don't understand this - you are saying that the city provided **\$12 Million**, to support ZWI for 18 months and part of this \$12M covered COLA, so yippee ratepayers were not hit with an increase that year for COLA but now we pay it. This sounds very dubious, it looks like the rate payer is paying for the COLA increase twice, once as part of the \$12 Million awarded for ZWI and a second time with a refuse rate increase. Its like a game of find the lady (illegal I believe).

#### Section 13.3 Minimum Service

**Comment:** I am glad to see bin size options available for minimum service as personally I NEVER fill my 32G black trash bin on a weekly basis and always have a full blue recycle bin and most of the green compost bin. I notice that SF Planning and Dept. of Health are quoted as support for the minimum requirement. I would like to request a review of the impact of SF ZWI on both the planning and health departments. A ZWI impacts health and planning as well as trash collection and disposal and as such all 3 departments should review their requirements - no point in the Dept. Health ruling that trash must be picked up each week if residents have no trash to pick up. Big picture thinking is required.

16. 2 Disproportionate Impact

Ratepayers raised the concern that the increase in the fixed charge had a disproportionate impact on low waste generators and individuals living in 2 to 5 -unit buildings. While I understand that the increase will affect some ratepayers more than others, the rates I have recommended keep the majority of customers closest to the average increase.

**Comment:** However, the minority are being discriminated against because they are good citizens and have a small trash footprint (my 2-unit building has one resident per unit).

16.7 Improved Outreach on the Rate Application

I agree that outreach efforts were made and you must also realize that these efforts were not effective for the most part, otherwise you would not receive negative comments on outreach. If the object is to notify ratepayers then I suggest the ratepayer is notified via a Recology bill insert. That way every ratepayer will receive the notice with their bill. The mail shot had the appearance of junk mail and most of my neighbors treated it as such before I drew their attention to the subject matter.

Thank You for the opportunity to comment on the Director's Report.

Regards,



Marian Laffan



RECEIVED

30 May 2017

MAY 30 REC'D

CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE

Attention: Ms. Jennifer Johnston  
Chair of the Refuse Collection & Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Appeal Letter to Director's Ruling on Recology Rate Increases

For Address:

Dear Rate Board:

We are writing to submit our strong objection to the DPW Director's Ruling on the Proposed Recology Rate Increases for the address noted above. The revisions to the rate changes proposed are still substantially unfair, unjust, and not justified for the following reasons:

- Base Rate Reduction per unit: the Director has only reduced this rate from 287% down to 191%. Please do the math. 191% is still outrageous.
- Base Rate Bias: the base rate for each unit discriminates against owners of 2-5 unit buildings. It penalizes this group of people by enormously increasing the unit cost by 191%. There are alternatives to this means of measurement that are fair and just which the City has not done its due diligence to research.
- Conflicts with other City Legislation: the Director's ruling does not recognize that owners of 2-5 unit buildings which have been constructed prior to 1979, will not be able to pass on these rate increases to tenants due to the City's rent control legislation. However, Tenants in 2-5 unit buildings constructed after 1979, not under City rent control legislation, will experience the rate increase, which most certainly will be passed on to them.
- Black Trash: the Director's ruling increases Recology's rate for black trash from \$5.22 to \$6.26 for 16 gallon containers. The problem with the Director's proposal is that black trash is not recognized, as the commodity that under normal market conditions, should go up in price but not necessarily by container size. Recology and the City has not performed their due diligence to research readily available technology to provide a just and fair pricing system.
- Green and Blue Refuse: the Director's ruling increases Recology's rates for blue and green refuse from \$5.22 to \$6.26 for 32 gallon containers. The problem with the Director's proposal is that green and blue refuse is supposed to generate income. It has been well publicized, with both the City and Recology noting this income producing commodity as shown in the DVD documentary entitled "Trashed" available through Netflix. The City and Recology owes the public an

explanation to justify their proposal.

- **Present Monopoly Pricing:** Recology is a privately owned Corporation, for profit, and it is a well-known fact that the company has a monopoly on Refuse Service. In spite of Prop A last year, requiring competitive bidding for such services not passing, the Rate Board has the authority and the responsibility to compensate for the public good, to control inflationary prices. With the percentage increases conspicuously indicated above, the need for intervention by the Rate Board is essential.
- **Hidden Costs:** as stated in DPW's initial hearing description: "the proposed rates also include charges the City has asked Recology to include in the application to pay for costs incurred by certain City departments for solid waste management". The Rate Board should demand full disclosure to determine what these costs are and who really is accountable.
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We respectfully submit this request for your careful consideration. The Recology Rate increase should be restructured to be fair and equitable to all citizens of the City with the above points in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bronwen Lemmon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bronwen Lemmon

30 May 2017

RECEIVED

MAY 26 REC'D

CITY ADMINISTRATORS

OFFICE

RE: Appeal Letter to Director's Ruling on Recology Rate Increases

Attention: Ms. Jennifer Johnston  
Chair of the Refuse Collection & Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Rate Board:

We are writing to submit our strong objection to the DPW Director's Ruling on the Proposed Recology Rate Increases for the address noted above. The revisions to the rate changes proposed are still substantially unfair, unjust, and not justified for the following reasons:

1. **Base Rate Reduction per unit:** the Director has only reduced this rate from 287% down to 191%. Please do the math. 191% is still outrageous.
2. **Base Rate Bias:** the base rate for each unit discriminates against owners of 2-5 unit buildings. It penalizes this group of people by enormously increasing the unit cost by 191%. There are alternatives to this means of measurement that are fair and just which the City has not done its due diligence to research.
3. **Conflicts with other City Legislation:** the Director's ruling does not recognize that owners of 2-5 unit buildings which have been constructed prior to 1979, will not be able to pass on these rate increases to tenants due to the City's rent control legislation. However, Tenants in 2-5 unit buildings constructed after 1979, not under City rent control legislation, will experience the rate increase, which most certainly will be passed on to them.
4. **Black Trash:** the Director's ruling increases Recology's rate for black trash from \$5.22 to \$6.26 for 16 gallon containers. The problem with the Director's proposal is that black trash is not recognized, as the commodity that under normal market conditions, should go up in price but not necessarily by container size. Recology and the City has not performed their due diligence to research readily available technology to provide a just and fair pricing system.
5. **Green and Blue Refuse:** the Director's ruling increases Recology's rates for blue and green refuse from \$5.22 to \$6.26 for 32 gallon containers. The problem with the Director's proposal is that green and blue refuse is supposed to generate income. It has been well publicized, with both the City and Recology noting this income producing commodity as shown in the DVD documentary entitled "Trashed" available through Netflix. The City and Recology owes the public an explanation to justify their proposal.
6. **Present Monopoly Pricing:** Recology is a privately owned Corporation, for profit, and it is a well-known fact that the company has a monopoly on Refuse Service. In spite of Prop A last year, requiring competitive bidding for such services not passing, the Rate Board has the authority and the responsibility to compensate for the public good, to control inflationary prices. With the percentage increases conspicuously indicated above, the need for intervention by the Rate Board is essential.
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Sincerely,



Martin and Grace Turkis

30 May 2017

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MAY 30 REC'D

CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE

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Chair of the Refuse Collection & Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362  
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Sincerely,



Kathleen and Thomas Soper (Owners)

39-44

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30 May 2017

MAY 30 REC'D

CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE

Attention: Ms. Jennifer Johnston  
Chair of the Refuse Collection & Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Appeal Letter to Director's Ruling on Recology Rate Increases

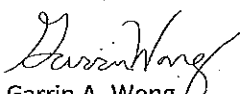
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We respectfully submit this request for your careful consideration. The Recology Rate increase should be restructured to be fair and equitable to all citizens of the City with the above points in mind.

Sincerely,

  
Garrin A. Wong

(45-49)

**GIDEON Y. KRAMER**

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May 25, 2017

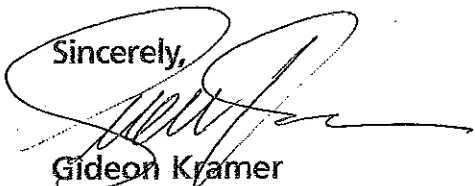
Jennifer Johnston  
Chair, Refuse Collection and Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Objection to proposed Recology rate hike

Dear Ms. Johnston:

This letter is to register my very strong objection to the proposed Recology rate hike on refuse collection in San Francisco. After studying the proposed rate increases, I believe they are unjust and unjustified, especially those for 2-5 unit buildings. The rate hikes of up to 51% for 2-unit buildings are not only way out of bounds; they have been obscured from the public. The advertised rate hike of 16.4% the first year applies only to single-family homes. This is a clear case of obfuscation and attempt by Recology to hide the truth from ratepayers. The rate hike for my own 4-unit building would go up by an astonishing 48.5%! There is simply no way that such a huge rate increase can be justified.

Sincerely,



Gideon Kramer

Recology rate payer since 1977

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MAY 30 REC'D  
CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE



# The SPOSF Institute

THE SMALL PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAN FRANCISCO INSTITUTE

May 25, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Johnston  
Chair, Refuse Collection and Disposal Rate Board  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Objection to proposed Recology rate hike

Dear Ms. Johnston:

I am writing to you on behalf of the owners of small rental unit buildings in San Francisco. We strongly objection to the proposed Recology rate hike on refuse collection in San Francisco. After studying the proposed rate increases, we believe the hikes are unjust, especially those for 2-5 unit buildings. The rate hikes of up to 51% for 2-unit buildings are not only way out of bounds; they have been obscured from the public. The advertised rate hike of 16.4% the first year applies only to single-family homes. The rate hikes for 3 to 4 units buildings is obfuscated and hidden from ratepayers. We call for a new hearing and adjustment in these rates.

Sincerely,

Noni Richen, President  
Small Property Owners of San Francisco Institute

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CITY ADMINISTRATORS  
OFFICE

STANDING UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF SAN FRANCISCO SMALL PROPERTY OWNERS THROUGH OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND LEGAL CHALLENGES

SPOSFI AFFILIATES

