



MEMORANDUM

TO: RESIDENTS

FROM: ALLAN RIGG, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NEW RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION CONTRACT

DATE: JULY 2, 2012

The City Council recently awarded a new contract with Athens Services (Athens) to continue to provide refuse and recycling services for single-family homes in our City. Much of scope of the contract is the same, with a few exciting new changes.

Backyard trash collection of single family residences in Palos Verdes Estates is mandated by the Municipal Code. Trash, recycling and green waste are all to be kept in a trash yard, accessible to the collector, in a concealed location complying with requirements contained in the City Code.

Historically, the City's trash contract has provided for the following:

- Weekly trash and green waste collection, with recyclables collected every other week.
- No limit on the amount of waste collected per week, within reason.
- Annual bulky trash pick-up day, allowing residents to dispose of larger items such as furniture and appliances.
- Exclusive right and responsibility to provide dumpsters for single family residences, including those for construction debris.
- Annual collection of Christmas trees.

Some of the major changes to the contract are as follows:

- The monthly rate drops from \$35.50 to \$34.48.
- **Residents will now be able to comingle the recycling and refuse together.** Athens will transport the comingled waste to their Material Recover Facility, and remove the recyclable materials for reuse. This will increase the amount of materials that can be recycled and reused, and decrease what goes to a landfill. Residents can place the comingled waste in the existing "blue" containers or in their private containers for pickup.
- **As the recyclables are combined with the waste, recyclable collection is increased to weekly from the current biweekly collection of recyclables.**
- Athens will provide an annual "shred day" where residents can bring documents to be shredded and recycled.
- Athens will provide a fleet of new trucks powered by natural gas.

We have received questions from our residents regarding the revised specifications and we would like to provide the following list of **Frequently Asked Questions**:

Q: Where do I put the combination of recyclables and refuse?

A: You may use cans you have used in the past for refuse and the blue cans used in the past for recyclables.

Q: What happens with my existing blue recyclable cans after July 1st?

A: They will remain at your home. Blue cans will be removed by Athens over time as they deteriorate.

Q: Will Athens provide new blue cans?

A: No

Q: Will Athens provide new green cans for greenwaste?

A: Yes, up to a total of four cans. Please call 1-888-336-6100 to order additional containers.

Q: When will the shred day be?

A: September 22nd from 10 am until 1 pm at City Hall during our first ever Disaster Fair.

Q: The whole idea of combining trash with recyclables such as cans and paper does not seem right. Why do we think this will increase the recycling from our City?

A: Many people in our City are excellent at separating recyclable items from their refuse, but many do not separate at all. As a test we sorted what a random group of residents had dumped as refuse and found that 50% by weight could have been recycled. Also, Athens has had great success increasing recycling in other cities with the same program.

Q: I live in a multi-family building, such as an apartment or condominium. How does this impact me?

A: The contract with Athens is only for houses, so the contract does not include your home.

Q: Is there a limit to the amount of combined recyclables and refuse that can be picked up each week?

A: No. The contract provides that there is no limit, within reason. If for example a resident had a large party that created an enormous amount of waste, the hauler would need to arrange for a separate pickup of the waste in order to still have capacity in the truck to service other residents on their regular pickup day.