

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Approving a Rate Adjustment)
for the Columbia County Transfer Station and) Order No. 6-2010
a Pass-Through Rate Adjustment for Curbside)
and Drop-Box Collections)

WHEREAS, Section 5.01(A) of the Columbia County Solid Waste Management Ordinance authorizes the Board of County Commissioners, upon its own recommendation or the recommendation of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, to approve and establish rate adjustments; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.01(A)(4) of the Columbia County Solid Waste Management Ordinance authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to increase or decrease rates based on the cost of doing business; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.04 of the Columbia County Solid Waste Management Ordinance authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to approve the passing through to customers (for curbside and drop-box collection) on a proportional basis any changes in disposal site and transfer station rates that are authorized by governmental bodies; and

WHEREAS, the last rate adjustment for the Columbia County Transfer Station occurred in 1998; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2008, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee unofficially recommended an interim fuel surcharge pending a complete rate review to be conducted with one (1) year, and on September 17, 2008, the Board approved Order No. 76-2008, authorizing an interim fuel surcharge until the County conducted a rate review; and

WHEREAS, the County then contracted with Bell and Associates to analyze revenues and costs associated with waste-disposal operations, and provide recommended rate adjustments for collection routes and disposal at the Columbia County Transfer Station; and

WHEREAS, Bell and Associates gathered and analyzed data on the revenue and costs of the waste-disposal operations and prepared a report, "Solid Waste Disposal Fee Study for Columbia County"; and

WHEREAS, the Bell and Associates report concluded that the costs associated with waste-disposal operations currently exceed revenues and recommended that the transfer station tipping fees and pass-through rates for curbside and drop-box collection be increased; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee considered the Bell and Associates' report, and at its meeting on October 19, 2009, the Committee recommended that the Board approve an increase in transfer station tipping fees and pass-through rates for curbside and drop-box collection, as identified in the Bell and Associates report; and

WHEREAS, at its October 19, 2009 meeting, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee also recommended that the Board adopt a \$15.00 fee for unrestrained loads to encourage the securing of waste-disposal loads, which would prevent debris from falling out of vehicles and onto city and county roads, and to defray the costs of cleaning such debris from the roads; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners held a hearing on the proposed rate adjustments; and

WHEREAS, after deliberating on the proposed rate adjustments, the Board of County Commissioners determined that rate increases are necessary to cover the costs of the waste-disposal program without reducing services to the public and that to continue to cover the costs of the waste-disposal program, the fees must be adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the evidence submitted and received into the record on this matter, the Board of County Commissioners makes the following findings:

1. The Board of County Commissioners finds that an increase in transfer station tipping fees and pass-through rates for curbside and drop-box collection are just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient to provide proper service to the public.
2. The Board further finds and an annual adjustment to the fees based on the Consumer Price Index is just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient to provide proper service to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, as follows:


1. The Board adopts increases in transfer station tipping fees, including the unrestrained load fee which shall be considered a tipping fee, as identified in the Solid Waste Disposal Fee Schedule, attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. The Board adopts the pass through rates for curbside pickup as follows:

\$1.20 per month for one can weekly curbside service;
\$16.01 per month for one 2 cubic yard drop box container;
\$24.02 per month for one cubic 3 yard drop box container;
\$32.02 per month for one 4 cubic yard drop box container;
\$8.00 per cubic yard for drop box containers over 4 cubic yards.
3. The rate increases set forth in paragraph 1 and 2, above, shall be effective April 1, 2010.

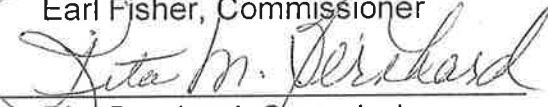
4. The fees identified in the Solid Waste Disposal Fee Schedule, Exhibit "A", shall be adjusted annually on July 1, beginning July 1, 2011, in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as identified in the "All Urban Consumers, West Urban Index" published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics over the twelve month period ending sixty days prior to the date of annual adjustment. The franchise hauler pass through tonnage rate increases set forth in paragraph 2, above, shall thereafter be adjusted annually beginning July 1, 2011, based on the Solid Waste Disposal Fee CPI adjustments.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2010.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: 
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel

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EXHIBIT A

**TRANSFER STATION FEE SCHEDULE
Effective April 1, 2010**

*** PER TON RATE INCREASES AT THE TRANSFER STATION**

<u>Rate Category</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Rate Increase</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
Comm Haulers per Ton	\$65.18	\$11.82	\$77.00
Self Haul per Ton	\$102.00	\$12.00	\$114.00
Self Haul Min Charge	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$19.00
Self Haul (Senior Rate)	\$6.00 (up to 120 lbs.)	\$6.00	\$12.00 (300lbs)
	\$9.00 (120 lbs to 200 lbs.)	\$3.00	
Yard Debris per Ton	\$38.00	\$7.00	\$45.00
Unsecured Loads	A fee of \$15 may be charged for unsecured loads		

* Rates to be adjusted annually. The rates shall be adjusted July 1st of each year beginning July 1, 2011 based upon the All Urban /Consumers, West Urban Index as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics over the twelve month period ending sixty days prior to the date of annual adjustment