



TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Department of Solid Waste
3095 114th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

January 31, 2022

Barry A. Burton, County Administrator
Pinellas County
315 Court Street, 6th Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756

RE: Solid Waste Technical Management Committee's Recommendation for Disposal Rates for Fiscal Year 2023

Dear Mr. Burton,

A meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the Epi-Center on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. The TMC voted 9-3 to increase the solid waste tipping fee by 5.5% beginning, October 1, 2022. As a result, the tipping fee would be increased from \$44.70 to \$47.15 per ton.

Per County Ordinance 106, the TMC Rate Review Subcommittee performed an annual review of the third-party rate study, conducted by Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. The rate study included projections through fiscal year 2052 of anticipated costs and revenues. This rate study also included all currently known information related to both the Solid Waste Master Plan and post-existing Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Duke Energy.

Fiscal year 2022 represents the last of year of a three-year recommendation to raise tipping fee rates annually by 6% (FY20-22). This years' rate study is consistent as to results revealed last fiscal year in that a significant revenue decrease will occur after December 2024, the expiration of the existing PPA. Based on this years' rate study, staff recommended a 6.8% rate increase, which would increase the tipping fee from \$44.70 to \$47.75 per ton.

The TMC recognizes the identified impending revenue shortfall, but only a minority of members supported the 6.8% increase. The TMC Chair entertained a motion for the subcommittee's recommendation of 3.4%, which failed by a vote of 5-7. Another motion of 6% was accepted, but the vote was deadlocked at 6-6. Finally, a motion of 5.5% was accepted and passed with a vote of 9-3.

The TMC will continue its prescribed practice of reviewing rates each year and providing future annual rate recommendations to you and the Board of County Commissioners.

Sincerely,


Earl Gloster, Chair
Technical Management Committee