



Adam Hanks
Interim City Manager
20 E. Main St
Ashland, OR 97520

May 26, 2021

Adam,

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners (BOC) recently approved a 17.99% rate increase for Dry Creek Landfill effective July 1, 2021. Dry Creek Landfill is where Recology Ashland's collected trash from customers is landfilled. Additionally, the BOC approved future annual increases of 3.65% effective July 1, 2022 and beyond.

I indicated that I expected to return to the City Council in May or June for a potential rate increase to coincide with the effective date of July 1 on the landfill increase. After consideration, I would like to defer a discussion and specific request at this time to better understand impacts from not only the landfill increase, but also our pandemic recovery.

The pandemic has impacted our operations in a number of different ways, and we were quick to respond to the unknowns by making cost cutting decisions that have been very helpful in reducing operating costs, at least in the short run. With something as important as requesting a rate increase, I would like to see how the pandemic recovery and new disposal increase impacts our business over the near future. I'm hopeful that we may be able to absorb some of the disposal increase and only ask for what we absolutely need from ratepayers.

I will communicate progress and reach out when I think it's time to have a meaningful conversation.

Sincerely,

Gary Blake, General Manager
Recology Ashland