

# Septic Receiving Station Receipt of Domestic and Commercial Septic Waste and Tipping Fees

Public Works Department

City Council  
November 5, 2024

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## BACKGROUND

- City of Riverside, Public Works Department, Wastewater Division is responsible for the collection, conveyance, and treatment of wastewater for over 93,000 customers within City limits. The Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) treats an average of 27 MG day.
- RWQCP operates and maintains a septic receiving station which receives an average of 1.06 MG a month or 35,000 gallons per day. This station is a regional facility, accepting domestic septic waste with no service area restrictions.
- Environmental Compliance staff identified instances of liquid waste haulers bringing commercial septic waste to RWQCP in violation of 14.12.295.
- Staff met with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 8) discussed receiving non-industrial and non-automotive commercial waste.



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# ACCEPTANCE OF COMMERCIAL WASTE

- Commercial septic waste accounts for 15% of the total septic waste received.
- Commercial septic waste is different from domestic septic waste in that commercial waste is typically stored in an underground holding tank (no leach lines) and includes an upstream control device, such as a clarifier and/or grease interceptor.
- Commercial septic waste has a higher potential of introducing pollutants that may upset the wastewater treatment system. RWQCP will implement safeguards in the liquid waste hauler permit to limit these exposures.
- One liquid waster hauler has entered into a Compliance Order with the City to bring commercial septic waste to RWQCP. The Compliance Orders will be rescinded upon adoption by City Council.
- Upon approval, the City of Riverside will operate the only wastewater treatment plant in the region accepting non-industrial and non-automotive commercial septic waste.



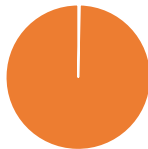
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# WASTE TYPE AND LOAD ORIGINATION

Load Origination - Commercial Waste



Commercial Waste: City (0.4%) Commercial Waste: non-City (99.6%)

Waste Type Received



Septage Waste (85%) Commercial Waste (15%)

Load Origination - Septage Waste



Septage Waste: City (13.5%) Septage Waste: non-City (86.5%)

## RWQCP – A Regional Facility

14% of all septic waste originated within the City  
86% of all septic waste originated outside City limits



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## STAFFING

Two staff members are required to operate the septic receiving station. These staff members will cover the 7 day a week operation and duties will include, logging deliveries, unloading trucks, receiving & documenting manifests, taking samples and verify each sample is in compliance with permit regulations.



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## TIPPING FEE STUDY

- To accommodate the change to start receiving commercial septic waste, RWQCP retained Carollo Engineers to analyze the septic receiving station influent loading characteristics and tipping fees.
- Carollo issued a technical memorandum, dated September 2024, entitled "Septic and Commercial Waste Tipping Fees."
- The completed study calculated tipping fees by determining the City's unit cost to treat septic waste – flow, BOD and TSS, operations & maintenance and staffing.
- The current septic waste tipping fee of \$30.00 per 1000 gallons is over 19 years old and was established June 2005 by Resolution 20976.
- Septic and Commercial waste Tipping Fee's are not subject Proposition 218



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# STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

## Proposed Tipping Fees \$/1000 gallons

	Septage Waste	Commercial Waste
Flow	\$1.85	\$1.85
Treatment of BOD	\$35.56	\$26.34
Treatment of TSS	\$41.41	\$30.71
Operations & Maintenance	\$0.19	\$0.19
Staff	\$21.97	\$21.97
Tipping Fees	\$100.98	\$81.06
<b>FY 24/25 Tipping Fee (rounded to nearest \$0.10)</b>	<b>\$101.00*</b>	<b>\$81.10</b>
<b>FY 25/26 Tipping Fee (3.9% escalation)</b>	<b>\$104.90</b>	<b>\$84.30</b>

\*Smoothed Fee Implementation

## Smoothed Fee Implementation \$/1000 gallons

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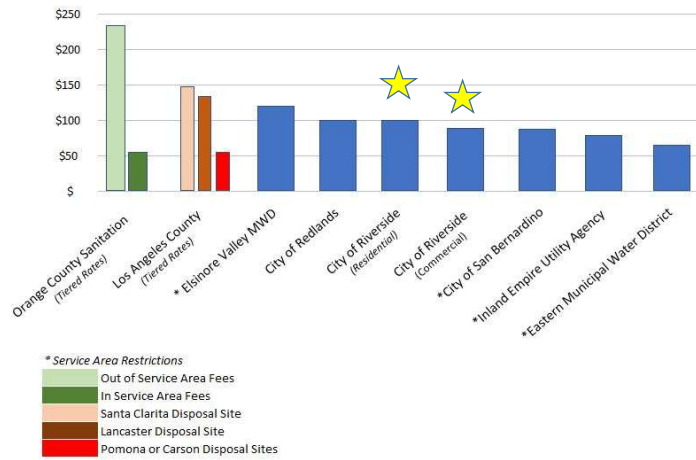
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# SEPTIC RECEIVING BENCHMARKING

Tipping Fees Per 1,000 Gallons



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Receive and file an update on the Liquid Waste Hauler Program and Septic Receiving Station;
2. Adopt an Ordinance to amend the Riverside Municipal Code Title 14, Public Utilities, and Discharge of Wastes into the Public Sewer and Pollutants into the Storm Drain Systems, Section 14.12.120 Definitions, to include definitions for Commercial Septic Waste and Commercial Wastewater;
3. Adopt an Ordinance to amend the Riverside Municipal Code Title 14, Public Utilities, and Discharge of Wastes into Public Sewer and Pollutants into the Storm Drain Systems, Section 14.12.295 (M) Liquid Waste Haulers, to include Commercial Septic Waste; and,
4. Adopt a Resolution to amend the Septic Receiving Station tipping fees and amend Resolution 20976.



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