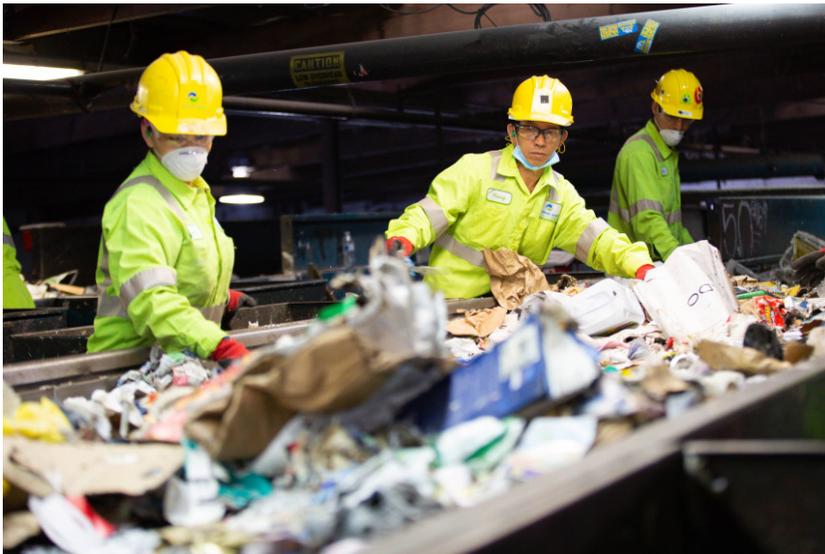


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# San Ramon aims to reduce trash, hires new garbage provider, will increase rates

Alameda County Industries is selected; by 2029, 90 percent of trash collected won't end up in landfill.



Workers sort out trash from recyclable material at California Waste Solutions in San Jose, Calif., on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019. (Randy Vazquez/Bay Area News Group)

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Area News Group

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SAN RAMON — Starting this fall, San Ramon residents and businesses will have a new garbage hauler and more recycling options — with a steep rate hike, up to about 29 percent for many residences, beginning next year.

San Ramon current garbage rates will remain in effect until next Jan. 1, with most customers seeing a rate increase in 2020, according to a city news release. Currently, the rate for a 35-gallon garbage cart — which most customers living in houses use — is \$32.20 a month and will rise \$9.36 to \$41.56 a month in 2020, or 29 percent.

Alameda County Industries has been selected as the city's garbage provider for the next 15 years. Under terms of the contract, ACI will substantially reduce the amount of trash that ends up in landfill, according to a city news release by the city.

The new contract with ACI, approved by the San Ramon City Council last Nov. 13, begins Oct. 1. It calls for 90 percent of materials ACI collects in San Ramon to be diverted from the landfill by 2029.

All California cities are required to implement programs to help meet statewide goals of 75 percent recycling and a 50 percent reduction in the amount of organic materials in a landfill by 2020. According to CalRecycle, an additional 23 million tons will need to be recycled, reduced or composted in 2020, based on an estimated 80 millions tons of solid waste generated in 2020. CalRecycle states the current recycling and composting efforts will account for the same recycling volume in 2013, about 37 million tons.

“We believe that ACI offers the most environmentally conscious and comprehensive level of service for San Ramon residents and businesses,” said David Krueger, San Ramon's Solid Waste and Recycling Program manager. “San Ramon is committed to be as ‘green’ as possible, and ACI will provide more services that reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill each year.”

San Ramon residents and businesses will have more opportunities to recycle and reduce garbage, especially for organic materials such as food scraps and food soiled paper products such as pizza boxes, paper cups and napkins.

The additional collection services include color-coded and labeled solid waste, recycling and organics containers for all customers and food scrap and food-soiled paper recycling services for all customers. Larger items such as furniture, appliances and mattresses will be accepted on neighborhood cleanup days three times a year; and an annual event will be scheduled where recyclables, organics, electronics, fluorescent lights, batteries and reusable items such as clothing and toys can be dropped off.

San Ramon selected ACI, a privately owned San Leandro company, from four solid waste companies including Waste Management, whose contract with the city expires on Sept. 30. The city has had a contract with Waste Management since Oct. 1, 2006. ACI provides service to the cities of Alameda and San Leandro, and will begin servicing the Castro Valley Sanitary District on May 1.

Current Waste Management drivers will have the option to continue working in San Ramon for ACI, the city's release said.

Garbage carts will be available 20-gallon, 35-gallon, 64-gallon and 96-gallon in size.

The city said that the amount of the increase will vary, depending upon the amount of garbage service. Customers can reduce their monthly charge by using a smaller cart. A 20-gallon garbage cart currently costs \$26.06 a month. That will go up \$7.59 to \$33.65 a month, in 2020, also a 29 percent increase.

All four proposals that San Ramon received for garbage and recycling services were significantly higher than current garbage rates, according to the news release. Factors that contributed to the increase include higher labor costs, increased recyclables processing costs and reduced revenues from the sale of recyclables because of Chinese import restrictions, and new services required by the state.

Beginning in January, state law requires businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week to have organic waste recycling services.

For more information on the new services and 2020 garbage rates, go to [www.sanramon.ca.gov/Sanramonrecycles](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/Sanramonrecycles)

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**Jon Kawamoto** is a reporter covering the Lamorinda area, Danville and San Ramon. He was the Hills weeklies editor, in charge of the Alameda Journal, Berkeley Voice, El Cerrito Journal, The Montclarion and The Piedmonter. He previously worked as an editor with the Los Angeles Times, the Contra Costa Times and the Oakland Tribune. Kawamoto is a central California native and a graduate of Fresno State University.

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