

# **SUMMARY OF SOLID WASTE PARCEL FEES**

## *Mono County Solid Waste Program*

### *Why do we have solid waste parcel fees on our tax bill?*

Solid waste parcel fees were established by Mono County in the late-1980's to pay expenses related to State-mandated requirements for all municipal solid waste landfills. These requirements include installation and quarterly monitoring of environmental detection equipment and the installation and maintenance of perimeter fencing, locking gates, signs, a gate house, and other improvements at each site. A portion of the revenues generated by parcel fees are specifically set aside each year to ultimately pay for final cover construction once a landfill is permanently closed. Site surveying, geotechnical testing, and preparation of design plans, specifications, cost estimates, and other engineering documents are also required well in advance of closure for planning purposes. Even when a landfill is permanently closed, the County is required to monitor and maintain the site and submit related quarterly and annual reports to State regulatory agencies for *30 more years!*

### *Then why do we also pay gate fees when we dump our trash?*

The County's Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is not a part of the County's General Fund and is required to rely solely on user fees to offset program expenses. The revenues generated by parcel fees cover roughly one-third of the overall expense to operate the County's solid waste program. Therefore, gate fees assessed on loads delivered to County disposal sites pay all remaining operating costs such as personnel, equipment, fuel, maintenance, site infrastructure, quarterly and/or annual reporting to *four* State agencies, and all other activities related to the program. This program consists of six landfills, six transfer stations, countywide recycling, and management of household hazardous waste.

### *Who is assessed solid waste parcel fees?*

Solid waste parcel fees are imposed on all *developed* parcels within Mono County, including the Town of Mammoth Lakes, according to land use. In most cases, the landowner is assessed the fee, which the County collects through the property tax billing system. If a parcel generates waste but is not subject to property taxes (e.g., state or federal lands, or customers from outside Mono County), the customer is charged an equivalent "non-participant" fee.

### *How much are the solid waste parcel fees?*

For a single-family dwelling, the fee is \$60 per year. Businesses and other non-residential land uses are each charged a "residential equivalent," or multiplication factor based on an average waste generation rate for that use. One fee is assessed for each waste-generating *use* on a parcel. When a business operates more than one type of waste-generating use in a single building, a fee is assessed on the basis of the use which has the highest "residential equivalent factor."

### *What if my home is only in use seasonally?*

If it can be sufficiently verified that the residence is used fewer than 90 days each year, the owner can petition the County to reduce the fee to one quarter of a "residential unit," or \$15 per year, and if it can be verified that the residence is only used between three and six months in a year, the owner can petition the County to have the fee reduced to one-half of a "residential unit," or \$30 per year.

### *What if I have more questions about my solid waste parcel fee?*

The program is administered by the Mono County Department of Public Works, which can be contacted by telephone at (760) 932-5440, by fax at (760) 932-5441, in person at 74 North School Street, Bridgeport, or by mail at P.O. Box 457, Bridgeport, California 93517.