



**Adoption of a Resolution
Setting Rates for Overall
Solid Waste Services
and Annual Clean-up
Campaign in the
Exclusive Franchise
Area (Continued from May
19, 2026)**

Public Hearing

Item #5, RTC 26-603

June 9, 2026

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Solid Waste Rates

- Services
 - Garbage
 - Yard Trimmings
 - Residential Recycling
 - Clean-up Campaign (CUC)
- Rates for each service that a customer subscribes to are combined into a bundled rate

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POST MEETING MATERIAL



Compensation Adjustments

- Agreements specify cost of living adjustments
 - Primary reason for rate increases
- Effective July 1, 2026
 - MTWS increase @ 4.70% (WST Index)
 - GWR increase @ 3.04% (Bay Area CPI)
 - Recology increase @ 5.09%
 - 0.39% (Route growth); 4.70% (WST Index)
- Rates based on 4.5% increase to WST
 - BLS revised the 2025 change to 4.7% after Prop 218 notices were developed

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City Program Costs

- Solid Waste Program portions of City's Cost Allocation Plan and Technical Services increases
 - Cost Allocation Plan - \$100k
 - Technical Services - \$290k
- Costs are incorporated into FY 2026/27 rates

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Bundled Solid Waste Rates



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Monthly Component Increases

% of Subscriptions	Service Type	FY 2025/26 Rate	FY 2026/27 Rate	Change in Rate
14%	20-gallon garbage cart	\$20.90	\$21.60	\$0.70
51%	32-gallon garbage cart	\$28.92	\$29.86	\$0.94
30%	64-gallon garbage cart	\$53.75	\$55.48	\$1.73
5%	96-gallon garbage cart	\$78.46	\$80.95	\$2.49
	Yard trimmings	\$16.37	\$17.09	\$0.72
	Recycling	\$8.39	\$8.65	\$0.26
	CUC	\$6.62	\$6.94	\$0.32

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Monthly Bundled Rate Changes

Garbage Cart Size	FY 25/26 Bundled Rate	FY 26/27 Bundled Rate	Change in Rate	% Change
20-gallon (SF)	\$52.28	\$54.28	\$2.00	3.8%
20-gallon (TH)	\$35.91	\$37.19	\$1.28	3.6%
32-gallon (SF)	\$60.30	\$62.54	\$2.24	3.7%
32-gallon (TH)	\$43.93	\$45.45	\$1.52	3.5%
64-gallon (SF)	\$85.13	\$88.16	\$3.03	3.6%
64-gallon (TH)	\$68.76	\$71.07	\$2.31	3.4%
96-gallon (SF)	\$109.84	\$113.63	\$3.79	3.5%
96-gallon (TH)	\$93.47	\$96.54	\$3.07	3.3%

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Bin Charges Increase Over Current Rates

	1/week	2/week	3/week	4/week	5/week	6/week
1 CY	5.6%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%
1.5 CY	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
2 CY	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
3 CY	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
4 CY	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
6 CY	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
8 CY	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%

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Rate Stabilization Reserve

- Target balance of 10% of annual expenditures (\$4.5 M)
- Preliminary estimate is \$2.9 M (6.4% of annual expenditures)
- \$483k allocated in FY 2026/27
 - \$68k to cover for BLS revision of WST from 4.5% to 4.7%
 - \$415k to fund street sweeper amortization costs
 - Increase from \$134k in FY 2025/26 shift to electric sweepers

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O&M Reserve

- Target balance of 25% of annual expenditures (\$11.3 M)
- Preliminary estimate is \$7.3 M (16.2% of annual expenditures)
 - \$400k allocated in FY 2026/27 for emergency backup and collection systems enhancement for closed landfill CIP project

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Countywide Rate Analysis



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Residential Cart Rate Comparison

	20-gallon	32-gallon	64-gallon	96-gallon
FY 2025/26 countywide average	\$42.56	\$50.99	\$88.98	\$131.21
FY 2026/27 Santa Clara single-family rate*	\$47.34	\$55.60	\$81.22	\$106.69
FY 2026/27 Santa Clara townhouse rate* ^	\$30.25	\$38.51	\$64.13	\$89.60

* Excludes CSC Cleanup Campaign Cost

^ No other city offers reduced townhouse rates

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Garbage Bin Rate Comparison

	1 CY Bin 1 time per week	1 CY Bin 3 times per week	1 CY Bin 5 times per week	3 CY Bin 1 time per week	3 CY Bin 3 times per week	3 CY Bin 5 times per week
FY 2025/26 countywide average	\$198.15	\$582.27	\$963.20	\$478.95	\$1,420.90	\$2,358.32
FY 2026/27 Santa Clara rate	\$194.10	\$572.79	\$942.08	\$491.83	\$1,437.16	\$2,352.85

- Most jurisdictions have a separate charge for organics collection service
- Most jurisdictions anticipate rate increases in FY 2026/27

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Public Hearing

- Solid waste customers may submit oral or written protests until the close of the Public Hearing
- At close of Public Hearing, protests are tabulated
 - 35,984 notices were sent on March 27, 2026
 - If protests tabulated are 50 percent plus one (17,993), the proposed fees cannot be imposed
- If there is not a majority protest, Council can make and act on a motion to increase fees

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Recommendation

Conduct a public hearing, tabulate protest votes, and if less than a majority protest is tabulated, adopt a Resolution setting the overall rates to be charged to rate payers for the collection and disposal of garbage, refuse, yard trimmings, recycling, and annual Clean-up Campaign in the exclusive franchise area, including increases in rates and other adjustments effective for the utility bills issued for services rendered on and after July 1, 2026.

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Questions



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Santa Clara History – MWP vs Split Cart

- Year Long Pilot Program.
- Cart issues (heavy, breaking, parts availability, etc).
- Many residents not using split cart.
- Some cutting inside of cart to remove split cart barrier.
- Loss of garbage space.
- Food waste smell and leakage.
- Survey data showed majority not in favor of split cart.
- Survey showed majority willing to spend a little more per month for MWP.
- Council directed staff to move forward with MWP.
- MWP is higher level of service, does not require residents to self-sort.

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Santa Clara Rate vs Milpitas/Sunnyvale Rates

- Cannot make a direct comparison with these rates.
- Milpitas/Sunnyvale carts have about 30% less space for garbage per container size
- Santa Clara TH rate (20% of cart subscriptions) are less than Sunnyvale/Milpitas for almost all subscription levels.
- Sunnyvale runs their own solid waste facility, it is unclear how revenues factor into their solid waste rates.
- Santa Clara rates include services such as street sweeping, leaf vac, holiday tree collection, and the closed landfill.
- Unclear how Sunnyvale/Milpitas fund their programs including any use of franchise fees or general funds.

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Other Considerations

- MWP through GWR contract is recovering more organics and recyclables from landfill.
- MWP ensures organics removal.
- Split Cart organics & recyclables can still end up in landfill.

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Milpitas Split-Cart Structure Details (2026)

Cart Size Category	Garbage Component	Scraps Component	Total Capacity
Supersaver	N/A		
Small	19-gallon	19-gallon	38-gallon total
Special Capacity	26-gallon	19-gallon	45-gallon total
Medium	45-gallon	19-gallon	64-gallon total
Large	67-gallon	29-gallon	96-gallon total

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Sunnyvale Split-Cart Structure Details (2026)

Cart Size Category	Garbage Component	Scraps Component	Total Capacity
Supersaver	N/A		
Small	27-gallon	12-gallon	39-gallon total
Medium	43-gallon	18-gallon	61-gallon total
Large	64-gallon	27-gallon	91-gallon total

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Santa Clara vs. Milpitas (2026)

Cart Size	Milpitas	Santa Clara	Santa Clara Lower/Higher By
Supersaver (20–24 Gal)	\$47.60	\$47.34	(0.55%)
Small (32–35 Gal)	\$55.99	\$55.60	(0.70%)
Medium (65 Gal)	\$64.31	\$81.22	26.29%
Large (95 Gal)	N/A	\$106.69	

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Santa Clara vs. Sunnyvale (2026)

Cart Size	Sunnyvale	Santa Clara	Santa Clara Higher By
Supersaver (20–24 Gal)	\$43.24	\$47.34	9.48%
Small (32–35 Gal)	\$49.84	\$55.60	11.56%
Medium (65 Gal)	\$57.67	\$81.22	40.83%
Large (95 Gal)	N/A	\$106.69	

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Santa Clara vs. Sunnyvale (2026/2027)

Cart Size	Sunnyvale	Santa Clara (Townhouse)	Santa Clara Lower/Higher By
Supersaver (20–24 Gal)	\$43.24	\$30.25	(30.04%)
Small (32–35 Gal)	\$49.84	\$38.51	(22.73%)
Medium (65 Gal)	\$57.67	\$64.13	11.20%
Large (95 Gal)	N/A	\$89.60	

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Santa Clara vs. Milpitas (2026/2027)

Cart Size	Milpitas	Santa Clara (Townhouse)	Santa Clara Lower/Higher By
Supersaver (20–24 Gal)	\$47.60	\$30.25	(36.45%)
Small (32–35 Gal)	\$55.94	\$38.51	(31.22%)
Medium (65 Gal)	\$64.31	\$64.13	(0.03%)
Large (95 Gal)	N/A	\$89.60	

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Bundled Rate Comparison Without Processing & Disposal Included

City	20-Gallon	32-Gallon	64-Gallon	96-Gallon
Milpitas (FY 2025/26 Rates)	\$43.79	\$47.60	\$55.99	\$64.31
Sunnyvale (FY 2025/26 Rates)	\$41.98	\$48.39	\$55.99	N/A
Santa Clara (FY 2026/27 Rates) ^	\$42.14	\$47.28	\$64.56	\$81.71

^ Does not include \$6.94/month CUC charge

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Countywide Rate Comparison

City	20-Gallon	32-Gallon	64-Gallon	96-Gallon
Campbell	\$42.55	\$52.68	\$95.61	\$138.54
Cupertino	\$43.48	\$46.24	\$89.00	\$131.75
Gilroy	N/A	\$45.52	\$65.11	\$85.22
Los Altos	\$49.89	\$53.75	\$107.47	\$161.23
Los Gatos	\$45.94	\$57.22	\$104.46	\$151.71
Milpitas	\$43.79	\$47.60	\$55.99	\$64.31
Mountain View	\$37.55	\$50.05	\$100.10	\$150.15
Palo Alto	\$27.81	\$50.07	\$100.15	\$150.22
San Jose	N/A	\$54.51	\$109.02	\$163.53
Saratoga	\$46.98	\$58.33	\$106.41	\$154.47
Sunnyvale	\$41.98	\$48.39	\$55.99	N/A
Average (Current)	\$42.56	\$50.99	\$88.98	\$131.21
<i>Santa Clara (SF)</i>	<i>\$47.34</i>	<i>\$55.60</i>	<i>\$81.22</i>	<i>\$106.69</i>
<i>Santa Clara (TH)</i>	<i>\$30.25</i>	<i>\$38.51</i>	<i>\$64.13</i>	<i>\$89.60</i>

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Residential Cart Customer Rates

Customer %	Garbage cart size	MTWS collection	Processing and disposal	City program costs	Garbage rate component
~14%	20-gallon	\$8.77	\$5.20	\$7.63	\$21.60
~51%	32-gallon	\$11.74	\$8.32	\$9.80	\$29.86
~30%	64-gallon	\$23.22	\$16.66	\$15.60	\$55.48
~5%	96-gallon	\$34.56	\$24.98	\$21.41	\$80.95

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Santa Clara Garbage Rates

How our rates stack up against Milpitas & Sunnyvale (2026/2027)
Please note both Milpitas and Sunnyvale use split bin garbage carts

Residential cart service • Monthly rates

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Santa Clara vs. Milpitas (2026)

Cart Size	Milpitas	Santa Clara	Santa Clara Higher By
Supersaver (20–24 Gal)	N/A	\$47.34	—
Small (32–35 Gal)	\$43.79	\$55.60	26.97%
Medium (65 Gal)	\$55.99	\$81.22	45.06%
Large (95 Gal)	\$64.31	\$106.69	65.90%

Santa Clara residents pay up to 65.90% more than Milpitas for the same cart size.
Milpitas Seniors above 62 yrs old only pay half of above rates.

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Santa Clara vs. Sunnyvale (2026/2027)

Cart Size	Sunnyvale	Santa Clara	Santa Clara Higher By
Supersaver (20–24 Gal)	N/A	\$47.34	—
Small (32–35 Gal)	\$43.24	\$55.60	28.58%
Medium (65 Gal)	\$49.84	\$81.22	62.96%
Large (95 Gal)	\$57.67	\$106.69	85.00%

Santa Clara's Large cart costs 85% more than Sunnyvale's — the widest gap in the comparison.

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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Key Takeaways

\$106.69

Santa Clara Large cart rate

85.00%

Higher than Sunnyvale (95 Gal)

65.90%

Higher than Milpitas (95 Gal)

What this means:

Across every comparable cart size, Santa Clara residents pay materially more than residents in Milpitas and Sunnyvale. Additionally, Milpitas seniors above 62 years pay only 50% of their regular rates.

Past bad policy decision by council is costing our residents millions in garbage rates.

Source: Published 2026/2027 residential rate schedules

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