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New Solid Waste Fees Effective March 31, 2007

SOLID WASTE FEE SCHEDULE		
Type of Service	Units	Fee
Self Haul by weight	Ton	\$260.00*
Self Haul per can	Each	\$7.00
Town of Friday Harbor	Ton	\$175.00
San Juan Sanitation	Ton	\$175.00
Garbage by Volume	yard	\$35.00
Appliances	Each	\$17.00
Refrigeration Unit (Residential)	Each	\$44.00
Oil (over 5 gallons)	Gallon	\$0.11
Household Hazardous Waste	pound	\$0.05
Household Hazardous Waste	Minimum	\$7.00
CESQG **Waste	5 Gallons	\$20.00
CESQG** Waste	55 gallons	\$210.00
Steel for Recycling	Ton	\$130.00
Minimum Garbage Fee	Trip	\$7.00
Litter Clean-up		No Fee
Beach Clean-up		No Fee
Noxious Weeds		No Fee
Commingled Recyclables		No Fee
Batteries		No Fee

* \$260 per ton is equal to 13 cents per pound

** Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG) are businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous material.

For the first time in three years the County Council has decided to increase solid waste tipping fees. The increase is needed to offset increased contract costs for transportation and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials.

The San Juan County solid waste system relies on a 10 year contract with Waste Management to transport and dispose of waste collected at all our transfer stations. County staff is responsible for loading 22 tons of waste into long haul truck trailers at our transfer stations. From there Waste Management takes over and hauls the loaded trailers on the ferry to Anacortes and then on to an

intermodal yard in Seattle. At the intermodal yard the trailers are loaded onto trains for the trip to the landfill in Eastern Oregon. Empty trailers are then returned here for the next load. This process is repeated 40 to 60 times per month to manage the 12,000 tons of garbage the islands dispose of each year. The cost for this service alone is \$69.52 per ton up from \$64.75 per ton three years ago. This increase is based on an escalation clause in the contract that allows the rate to increase based on the Consumer Price Index.

Our commingled recyclable materials are handled under the same contract. The cost is somewhat less because the recyclables only have to travel to Woodinville where they are processed and sold. Our cost for this service is \$31.40 per ton up from \$28.44 three years ago. The County processes 3,000 tons of recyclable materials each year through this system.

In addition to the transportation and disposal costs we also need to pay for transfer station operations. While disposal and transportation costs are the largest part of the budget at \$1,099,454 for 2005 (the most recent year with complete cost figures) it also costs \$607,210 to operate the transfer stations that sort, weigh, and load all garbage and recycle materials. The cost of operating the transfer stations has increased due to increase wages and increased fuel cost but the impact is not as significant as the disposal cost increase.

The next most significant cost we have is the facilities that we use today and the facilities that we used in the past. Like many individuals building a house we purchased our facilities on credit through bonds (the government version of a mortgage). Our bond payments for the transfer stations on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Island as well as the construction cost for covering the Orcas landfill totaled \$263,047 in 2005. While these facilities will soon be paid off the need to bond for new facilities to take their place will keep this cost continuing in the future.

One of the more surprising cost is taxes (No the County is not exempt from all taxes) and payments in lieu of taxes (payments to our facilities development account i.e. capital). For 2005 this cost was \$189,278. Household hazardous waste management and other small service programs such as management of waste oil , antifreeze, refrigeration equipment, batteries, appliances and litter clean-up totaled \$102,622 in 2005. Administration of the system cost \$226,995 in 2005 which is about 9% of the total system cost of \$2,488,590. Administration includes management of the system, payroll, billing, facility permitting, regulatory reporting, accounting and planning.

While all the services have a cost not all of them produce revenue from fees. We do not charge for recycling, waste oil disposal, antifreeze recycling, battery disposal, litter, beach debris, or noxious weeds. All of these services are subsidized by the garbage fees. So when you pay for garbage disposal you are also paying for all the other services available through the solid waste program.