



Press Release

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STATE MANDATE RESULTS IN GREEN WASTE RECYCLING COST INCREASE

Chino Hills, CA – Assembly Bill (AB) 1594, effective January 1, 2020, will result in a monthly rate increase of \$1.46 on the City of Chino Hills utility bill for the “trash service” line item, starting with the January bill. This State mandate required a change to how green waste is recycled for diversion credit, which resulted in increased costs for household customers.

Green waste recycling began as a method to divert residential landscape vegetation from taking up space in the municipal solid waste landfills. Cities are required to reach specific diversion rates by recycling. Green waste has been used as daily cover at landfills to help control pests, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging. This use was considered recycling, which helped the City meet mandated diversion rates.

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed AB 1594, mandating that as of January 1, 2020, the use of green material as alternative daily cover at a landfill will no longer constitute diversion for recycling, and will instead be considered waste disposal. As a result, the City and its franchise recycling and waste hauler, Republic Services, have transitioned to composting to remain in compliance with required diversion rates. Composting is more expensive than reusing green waste at a landfill, but is considered more beneficial for the environment. This change resulted in a nominal residential rate increase of \$1.46 per month.

A Proposition 218 ballot process conducted in May of 2017 projected trash rate increases for a five-year period. Authority granted in that process will cover this rate increase because rates charged have been consistently less than those projections. For additional information, please call (909) 364-2633 or visit www.chinohills.org/GreenWasteRecycling.

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Customers are reminded to keep green waste containers free of contaminants. Only yard waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, limbs, and brush trimmings should go into the green waste container. Palm fronds and yucca leaves must be placed in the regular trash container because they cannot be shredded by the equipment that processes other yard waste. Keep plastic bags, bottles, cans and pet waste out of the black green waste container.

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