



News from: **Office of the City Council President** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Public Deserves Facts Regarding Referendum on City Garbage Contract

Oakland, CA —Waste Management has recently begun collecting signatures on three petitions seeking to pass a referendum which would invalidate the City Council's recent decision to award three Zero Waste contracts to California Waste Solutions (for collection of mixed materials and organics, collection of residential recycling and landfill disposal).

Significant misinformation is being communicated to potential voters by signature gatherers about this issue and the impact a referendum would have on the City Council's decision to award the contracts to CWS effective July 1, 2015.

"Voters need to have the facts before deciding whether or not to sign a petition," said City Council President Pat Kernighan. "Waste Management has a responsibility to provide truthful information to their signature-gatherers so that voters are not misled with faulty promises or false threats that they will lose important services."

Here is the accurate information:

- **A referendum will not prevent garbage rates from going up next year.** An increase in garbage rates is unavoidable in any new franchise agreement, regardless of which company gets the contract. Waste Management's proposed rates were even higher than those in CWS's bid. **The City Council approved the bid with the lowest increase.**
- **Services will continue, including garbage, recycling and compost pickup and recycling sorting.** CWS has demonstrated their plan to provide continuous service, including several redundancies and backup alternatives to safeguard service to ratepayers.
- **Senior citizens will not lose the additional assistance they now receive to bring collection carts to the curb.** This is a vulnerable community to which we commit a high priority of service. Giving them misinformation that falsely makes them feel threatened is inappropriate and unacceptable.
- **The referendum cannot be placed on the November ballot,** as the deadline has passed. A Special Election would be required, at great cost to the taxpayers.

The City Council voted to approve the CWS contract after a thorough, transparent process to win for Oakland ratepayers the lowest possible rate increases, continuity of service and a contract that will reduce overall waste in the City.

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