



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Public Works**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Oakland Restores Garbage Bill Discounts for Low-income Seniors

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland has identified funding to restore a garbage bill discount program for low-income seniors for one year, while working to identify long-term funding to continue the discount program.

About 1,500 low-income seniors living in single-family buildings had been receiving a discount on their garbage bills until July 1, 2015, when new trash, compost and recycling service contracts were implemented by the City and the discount program ended. The City Council recently allocated \$100,000 in funding to restore and support the discount from July 2015 through June 2016.

Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc. (WMAC), the company that provides trash and compost service to Oakland residents, has recently sent letters to Oakland residents who were subscribing to the discount when it ended, informing them that they will be enrolled automatically when the discount is restored, with no need to reapply. The discount program restoration will be retroactive to July 1, 2015. The letter asks customers to pay their garbage bills in full for the current billing period (July-September 2015), and to look for a credit for this period on the garbage bills they receive in October.

The City of Oakland and WMAC are continuing to discuss ways the discount program can be funded for future years.

Customers qualify for the discount by participating in PG&E's CARE program.

For more information, customers with questions about their services or bills should call WMAC at (510) 613-8710.

The City is also continuing to address service issues raised by members of the public. If a customer has already contacted WMAC and needs additional assistance, they can contact the City's Recycling Hotline at (510) 238-SAVE (7283) or recycling@oaklandnet.com.

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