

WILLIAM B. WALKER, M.D.  
HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

RANDALL L. SAWYER  
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & HAZMAT OFFICER

MARILYN C. UNDERWOOD, PH.D. REHS  
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH




CONTRA COSTA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2120 Diamond Blvd., Suite 200  
Concord, California 94520  
Ph (925) 692-2500  
Fax (925) 692-2502  
www.cocoeh.org

**Date:** April 7, 2015

**To:** Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

**From:** Marilyn C. Underwood, PhD, REHS  
Director of Environmental Health 

**Re:** Illegal Refuse Haulers – Update on Proposed Changes to Contra Costa County Refuse Hauler Ordinance

---

Contra Costa Environmental Health (CCEH) is reporting back to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Internal Operations Committee (IOC) regarding the issue of illegal refuse haulers. CCEH is recommending revision of the current County ordinance to provide more effective oversight of refuse hauling to help ensure proper transport and disposal of solid waste materials and provide protection for consumers that purchase refuse hauling services. County Ordinance requires a permit for refuse haulers, but there is not a practical means for a refuse hauler to obtain the permit, since the ordinance requires the permits be issued by the Board of Supervisors. The proposed changes to the ordinance would include having CCEH issue the refuse hauler permits.

CCEH submitted the draft proposal to County Counsel for legal review. Potential conflicts with existing franchise agreements were identified; specifically, a potential for CCEH to issue a waste hauler permit that could conflict with a franchise agreement the County has entered into with waste hauling companies. It appears the greatest potential for conflict is with the Richmond Sanitary Service franchise agreement. A representative from both CCEH and the Contra Costa Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) met with Richmond Sanitary Service (RSS) representatives to discuss this issue. The CCEH representative suggested it would be helpful for RSS to evaluate concerns related to their franchise agreement as regards to different types of waste hauling operations and provide a letter outlining these concerns for review by County staff. The types of waste hauling operations include, drop-off waste containers for construction or demolition work, cardboard scavenging, clean-up and haul away services, etc.

Richmond Sanitary Service provided an email on March 20, 2015 outlining suggestions related to the proposed refuse hauler ordinance. CCEH will review the suggestions with Counsel to determine if possible conflicts between the proposed ordinance and franchise agreements can be addressed.

