

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Belvedere Garbage Disposal District *for the Community of East Los Angeles*

New Waste Hauler Coming Soon FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Bidding Process

Q: Why is there a need for a new waste-hauler?

The current waste hauling contract that provides trash and recycling collection services to the community of East Los Angeles will expire in October 2024. To ensure a fair process and provide the best rates and services, a competitive bid solicitation was conducted by Public Works to select a waste hauler to provide services to your community. Valley Vista Services, Inc., will be the new waste hauler starting on November 1, 2024.

Q: How was the waste hauler selected?

Public Works utilized a competitive bidding process to select the waste hauler. Invitations were sent to all permitted waste haulers to submit bids. The bidder meeting the experience qualifications and in good standing with the lowest price was awarded the contract.

Q: Are we allowed to select a different waste hauler?

Starting November 1, 2024, Valley Vista Services is the exclusive hauler authorized to provide residential and commercial trash collection services in East Los Angeles. Waste haulers can offer more competitive pricing when they have a set number of customers, as it guarantees consistent quantities. The only exception is for the temporary collection of construction and demolition debris material, where you may select from any of the 23 authorized haulers.

Q: Why is the contract term for 10 years?

A 10-year contract is typically the minimum timeframe for solid waste collection contracts due to the significant up-front investment required of the waste hauler to acquire trucks, carts, and labor to provide the service. Shorter contract lengths result in significant rate increases to recover costs over a shorter period.

Q: What do I do if I am not currently using Republic Services for waste and recycling services?

If you are currently using a waste hauler other than Republic Services for waste collection and recycling services in East LA, please contact Valley Vista Services at (800) 442-6454 to set up service before November 2024. We recommend discontinuing any extra waste and recycling services from other waste haulers beginning November 1, 2024, to prevent duplicate service charges. Please also respond to this survey: <https://bit.ly/3UMmXrO>.

Q: How can we view the documents relating to the contract solicitation process?

The contract will be posted on Public Works' website in November 2024. You may also email Public Works at trash@dpw.lacounty.gov for additional requests.

Plastic Trash Carts and Metal Dumpsters

Q: Are we getting new carts/dumpsters?

Republic Services will be removing their carts from service, and Valley Vista Services will be providing you with carts and dumpsters labeled as Valley Vista. This process will take place gradually across the community from September through November. The exchange will be done by a third-party service that follows the trash truck to exchange the carts at the time of trash collection. If you are unable to have your carts out during exchange day, which will be on one of your normal trash collection day, they will be exchanged the following week.

Please note that Valley Vista's new carts are lighter than your previous Republic carts since it consists of less material to be more environmentally friendly while maintaining the same durability standards. Additionally, the color of the carts and cart lids may be different than your previous Republic carts. The new colors are in compliance with State regulations.

Q: Are we getting the same number and same-sized carts?

Customers with basic service will receive the same number and size of carts (one 96-gallon trash, one 96-gallon recyclable, and one 96-gallon organic/green waste).

Customers with carts smaller than 96-gallons will initially receive a 96-gallon cart replacement for smoother transition; however, customers may contact Valley Vista Services after November 1st to exchange for a smaller size at no cost.

Under the new contract, additional carts beyond the basic service level are available for an additional fee. For example, single-family residences who currently have 6 carts (two trash, two recyclables, and two organic/green waste) will have to pay an extra monthly

fee for each of the additional trash, recyclables, and green waste carts if they choose to keep that service level.

The costs for additional carts will be \$21.19 a month for a second black cart, \$6.45 a month for a second green cart and \$3.45 a month for a second blue cart.

If you choose to reduce the number of additional carts you have, please contact Valley Vista Services at (800) 442-6454 prior to November 2024 to make changes to your service level and they will come to pick up any extra carts that you no longer want and avoid charges for extra cart services.

Q: Why is there an extra monthly fee for additional trash, recyclables, and organic/green waste carts?

Price increases in the solid waste industry over the last few years have been driven by changes stemming from new regulations and market conditions. The cost to process green waste has increased by over 400 percent since the previous contract was executed in 2014.

Setting the basic service level to three carts helps keep the basic service rates as low as possible for every customer. This also provides customers who still want additional carts the option request additional carts at a nominal monthly fee. This way, each customer can choose to only pay for the service they need.

If you are in need of the additional carts and have concerns with the extra cost, please consider the following options:

- Explore ways to recycle more and reduce waste. Consider home composting of green waste.
- Plan major landscaping projects only a few times per year and subscribe to the additional green waste carts only during the months you need them.
- You have unlimited bulky item collections which includes excess green waste collection up to 4 times per year and excess trash collection up to 4 times per year provided at no additional charge.
- There is also an option to self-haul excess trash directly to a disposal facility.

Reducing the amount of waste generated is a good way to eliminate the need for additional carts. Visit CleanLA.com or call (888) CLEAN LA for resources on how to compost organic waste and reduce waste generation at home.

Q: Is there an option to downsize to smaller-sized carts?

Yes, 32-gallon and 64-gallon carts are available upon request; however, there is no discount for using a smaller-size cart. For each cart type, you can request any combination of carts totaling up to 96 gallons at no additional charge. For example, you can have one 32-gallon plus one 64-gallon cart in place of the one 96-gallon cart.

Other

Q: Will the service fee be increasing?

Basic service fees are not being increased or adjusted at this time. However, the cost to manage waste and recycling has increased significantly since 2007 and there may be fee-increases in the future.

Q: Will Valley Vista provide food waste / organic waste collection services?

Yes, Valley Vista Services will provide all services necessary to meet State mandates. Thus, all residents and businesses must separate their food scraps (including bones) to be placed into the green organic waste container. Residents must collect all of their food scraps into a clear or light white bag to place into their existing green cart. Businesses will receive new organic waste cart(s) for their food waste.

Q: When will I be provided with more information about the new waste hauling services?

Virtual and in-person meetings were held in June and will be held again in September 2024. You will also be mailed a welcome packet with details about the new services by late summer.