

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Garbage Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:07:23 AM

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January 7, 2025

**Dear Sebastopol City Council,**

I am writing regarding the garbage company proposals currently under consideration. From what I understand, Recology's rates, which include garbage, recycling, and yard waste services, remain less expensive and transparent compared to the rates proposed by SCRR. The over-all rates provided by SCRR are not only higher but also difficult to interpret, which adds to the frustration of residents already grappling with rising costs.

Over the past year, Sebastopol residents have been hit hard by several rate hikes and new taxes, including increased water and sewer rates, PG&E rate hikes, the new fire tax associated with the consolidation, the Sebastopol bond measure, and the recently approved sales tax hike. These escalating costs place an undue burden on households and small businesses alike, making it increasingly difficult to live and operate within our community.

At the same time, the City Council has had to make budget cuts that directly affect community traditions, such as reducing funding for the Apple Blossom. It's worth noting that Recology has been generous in supporting the event, offering a \$7,000 grant to cover trash removal for that weekend—a meaningful contribution that benefits the entire community.

Before moving forward with any decision, I urge the City Council to reconsider the switch to SCRR and ensure all facts are carefully reviewed. Recology's service has been reliable, affordable, and community focused. Changing providers without clear justification could lead to unnecessary financial strain on residents and businesses.

I respectfully request that the City Council prioritize affordability and transparency by maintaining our partnership with Recology.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Loretta Castleberry