

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sandra Maurer](#); [Neysa Hinton](#); [Phill Carter](#); [Jill McLewis](#); [Stephen Zollman](#); [City Council](#); [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Support for Retaining Recology Sonoma Marin as Sebastopol's Trash Service Provider
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 9:58:12 AM

Dear Members of the Sebastopol City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for retaining Recology Sonoma Marin as Sebastopol's trash service provider. Choosing SCRR instead of Recology is not in the best interest of our community, as it will negatively impact both residents and businesses.

As a new small business owner, as well as the bookkeeper for the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, a local non-profit, I can directly see how this will harm the community. At the art center we have to really focus on keeping our costs low in order to provide a space for the community to see and feel art at its core. The proposed costs of SCRR are significantly higher and will cause us to have to cut costs from programs that directly affect the local artists and some of their income. At my small business, Bubbles Boba & Gifts, we are already seeing rent, power, water, and CAM fees increase. If the trash bill increases as well, I don't know if my business will make it through another winter. We already saw the city hand down enormous water bills and all the local small business will be extremely strained if we see an increase in trash bills too.

SCRR's proposed rates are significantly higher, especially for commercial and multi-family customers. For example, we would face a staggering 30 - 40% cost increase under SCRR compared to Recology. This is largely due to drastically higher costs for recycling and composting. Such rate hikes discourage participation in environmentally crucial programs like recycling and composting.

Additionally, SCRR does not have a local recycling facility, transporting materials out of the county to facilities with lower processing capacity. This will undermine Sebastopol's recycling rate, increase greenhouse gas emissions, and contradict our city's sustainability values.

In contrast, Recology is an employee-owned company with a state-of-the-art facility that properly recycles 85% of collected materials. They actively support our community by providing exceptional service, transparency, and resources for local events. Recology's proposed rates are also more affordable for the majority of residential customers, including a \$4 per month savings on the widely used 32-gallon garbage cart.

It is important to acknowledge that residents and businesses in Sebastopol are already grappling with rising costs from PG&E rate increases and water rate hikes. Small businesses in particular are finding it increasingly difficult to survive, as reflected in the growing number of closures within our community over the past year. The City Council must do everything possible to keep costs manageable for both residents and small businesses, who are the backbone of our local economy and community.

Sebastopol prides itself on being environmentally conscious and community-focused.

SCRR's poor track record in Windsor—marked by customer complaints, lack of transparency, and rising costs—further demonstrates they are not aligned with these values.

I urge you to prioritize the interests of Sebastopol's residents and businesses by maintaining our partnership with Recology Sonoma Marin. Their commitment to affordability, sustainability, and community support makes them the clear choice for our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Harmony Hulseley
Bookkeeper

