

**MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors Date: April 28, 2015
From: Ken Grehm, Facility Services Interim Director
By: Kevin Bell, P.E., Environmental Engineering Program Manager
Subject: Residential Bear-Resistant Garbage Can Enclosure Loan Program in Garbage Collection Franchise Areas 2 and 3

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Direct staff to proceed with development of an optional residential bear-resistant garbage can enclosure loan program in Franchise Areas 2 and 3, which includes unincorporated Placer County areas east of Colfax to the Nevada state line, funded through Solid Waste Management Enterprise Fund reserves, at no net county cost.

BACKGROUND: Tahoe Truckee Disposal, Inc. (TTD) provides solid waste collection services in Franchise Areas 2 and 3, which includes unincorporated Placer County east of Colfax to the Nevada state line. Staff recently surveyed residents in the TTD service area to obtain information regarding the type and magnitude of garbage related wildlife issues that affect them at their homes or place of business. The survey results indicate that 67% of respondents have experienced wildlife interactions in their area related to garbage. Of those, 69% noted the interactions were associated with garbage in cans not contained in a bear-resistant enclosure (bear shed). The TTD service area has approximately 13,500 residential accounts; of which, approximately 60% have bear sheds leaving approximately 5,400 customers without bear sheds. Currently, new construction permits require the installation of a bear shed. Implementation of the proposed loan program would provide a cost effective means for existing homeowners to obtain bear sheds.

Bear sheds help protect both humans and wildlife by containerizing solid waste in a manner that deters wildlife from scavenging. A typical bear shed cost is approximately \$1,200. Staff is proposing to develop a loan program to encourage the installment of bear sheds. The loan is proposed to fund \$1,200, with zero percent interest for 5 years, paid back through an additional \$22 charge on the garbage bill. Staff is proposing to have TTD administer all aspects of the loan program for an administrative fee of \$120 per loan. TTD will ensure installation by an approved licensed contractor, placement in accordance with Placer County Building Department Codes, and management of finances. More detailed Key Terms are included in Exhibit B.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: The installation of bear sheds is Categorically Exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. Section 15303(e) specifically allows for the construction or installation of accessory or appurtenant structures.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is sufficient funding in the Solid Waste Management Enterprise Fund reserves to fund bear shed payments to TTD until property owners repay the loans. The cost could be as much as \$132,000 per year with repayment over 5 years, with no net county cost.

ATTACHMENT: EXHIBIT A – PROPOSED LOAN PROGRAM KEY TERMS

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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**Franchise Areas 2 and 3 Solid Waste Handling Services
Bear-Resistant Enclosure (Bear Shed) Loan Program Key Terms**

Placer County Eastern Regional Landfill, Inc. (ERL) and Tahoe Truckee Disposal, Inc. (TTD) provide solid waste handling services in Franchise Areas 2 and 3, which includes unincorporated Placer County east of Colfax to the Nevada state line. The proposed Key Terms provide the framework for a Bear Shed Loan Program.

1. General

- 1.1 To be considered for annual renewal and/or adjustment with other ERL/TTD rate packages.

2. Loan Terms

- 2.1 Amount: \$1,200.
- 2.2 Interest and term: Zero percent for 5 years.
- 2.3 Eligibility: Only available to homeowners in good standing with their garbage bill.
- 2.4 Quantity: The number of bear shed loans will be limited to 100 per fiscal year on a first come, first served basis.

3. Administration

- 3.1 TTD will administer all aspects of the loan program including installation by an approved licensed contractor, placement in accordance with Placer County Building Department Codes and repayment to Placer County.
- 3.2 The loan will only be available if installation of a bear shed is administered through TTD.
- 3.3 TTD will provide the initial funds to purchase and install the bear shed.
- 3.4 County will provide payment to TTD for the bear shed installation and for TTD's \$120 administrative fee.
- 3.5 TTD will provide a quarterly report detailing the payment status for each loan including the total loan amount, amount paid-to-date and remaining balance.
- 3.6 TTD will provide repayment to Placer County in the same manner as current payments are made to the County for other items, such as the special fees from garbage collection service.