

Commercial property owners face hike in landfill parcel fee

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / May 16, 2025

Calaveras County is proceeding with plans to implement an increase to the parcel fee commercial property owners are charged for operation of the county-owned landfill.

The Board of Supervisors last week heard a presentation on the proposed fee structure from Thierry Boveri, vice president of the consulting firm Raftelis, which prepared the fee study.

A majority of the board at a May 6 special meeting gave the green light for the mailing of what is called a "Proposition 218 Notice of Public Hearing" to all affected commercial property owners.

The hearing is scheduled for June 24. If between now and then a majority of those property owners do not file written protests against the fee increase, it could be adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

The proposed increase would raise nearly \$1.9 million a year for operation of the landfill and the annual fee for commercial parcels ranges depending on the land-use category from \$1,656.50 for general commercial to \$2,827.05 for industrial. The annual fee for store/retail commercial would be \$2,727.07.

District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli voiced concerns the plan needed to be developed further before being submitted to commercial property owners. His major concern was a commercial property with one business would have to pay the entire fee, while on a similar property with multiple businesses they would theoretically divide the fee among themselves.

Although it is the property owner and not the business owner who will be billed the increase, Tofanelli warned, "I don't care who you bill to, the mom and pop shops are going to be the one's paying the bill for it because it's going to reflect on their rent."

Kathy Gallino, the county's economic and community development director, echoed Tofanelli's thoughts.

"This will wipe them (some businesses) out," she told the board.

Members of the board questioned whether the fee increase could be lowered at the public hearing and County Counsel Sarah Edwards said state law does not seem to prohibit the action.

District 4 Supervisor Amanda Folendorf asked what happens if a majority of the property owners protest the fee hike.

"With these numbers, we'll have some upset individuals," Folendorf said.

County Executive Officer Teresa Hitchcock said the county would have to use some contingency funds to maintain landfill operations.