



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ENV-BRD-003

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM Environmental Services

Date: April 2, 2020

Subject: April 2, 2020 Solid Waste Committee Recommendation

The following recommendation from the April 2, 2020 Solid Waste Committee meeting is presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board waive any requirement for cash handling at all of the PRRD solid waste facilities for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis; further, that other forms of payment, such as credit, debit, coupons or business charge accounts, continue to be accepted.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On April 2, 2020, the Solid Waste Committee met and discussed options around transactions at the PRRD Solid Waste Facilities. Given the situation around the COVID-19 pandemic, it was recognized that, while protocols are in place to maintain social distancing and sanitize common surfaces¹, the handling of cash money still presents a risk of exposure to the public, contractors and staff.

To that end, the Committee is recommending that cash transactions be waived for the duration of the pandemic, while other forms of payment (credit, debit, coupons, and charge accounts) will continue to be accepted.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
 - ☒ Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity
- ☒ Advocacy
 - ☒ Emergency Response Capacity for Local Governments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Suspending cash transactions will result in a reduction in revenue to the SW function. These transactions will be tracked and reported out when the pandemic has passed.

¹ Keypads, door handles, counters, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Solid waste site operators will be notified of the change, pending Board resolution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

During the meeting, the Committee was made aware of the effect of the provincial COVID-19 protocols, and the effect on various other local government solid waste programs. As many people are self-isolating, a popular activity during that time is clean up around homes and properties. This is resulting in a rise in customers coming to solid waste sites in the south and central interior, which could increase the risk of exposure to the virus.

While this trend has not begun in the north, it is possible that both the waiver of cash transactions and the warming weather could result in a similar increase in customers. Staff will continue to work with contractors to maintain safety protocols in line with provincial orders to minimize this risk and report back to the Solid Waste Committee.