



February - March, 2025

The City of Sebastopol community newsletter is one way to stay in touch with what's going on in Sebastopol. Our web site, CityofSebastopol.gov is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources.

Goals and Priorities Setting Meeting

February 25, 2025, 1pm to 8pm, Youth Annex

Plan to attend this important meeting to help determine Sebastopol's goals and priorities. Watch the city website and social media for the agenda, schedule, and information on how to participate.

Department Changes and New Faces

To streamline services and better serve our community, two departments have been restructured.

Emi Thériault (pronounced Emmy Terio) joins the Sebastopol team as Community Development Director, a new position that incorporates Planning and Economic Development. A Sebastopol native, Emi is a veteran professional with 26 years' experience in planning and economic development. She holds a degree in Environmental Studies from Sonoma State University, has held municipal planning positions with the cities of Tiburon, Sonoma, Rio Vista, and Napa, as well as Economic Development leadership positions with the cities of Vallejo and Emeryville. Emi came out of retirement to accept the Community Development Director position. She looks forward to working collaboratively with the community and giving back to her hometown.



The Public Works Department has merged with the Engineering Division. Mark Rincon-Ibarra is the new Director of Public Works/City Engineer, a combined position. Mark is a graduate from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a licensed

professional engineer in the State of California. He has over 35 years of experience addressing civic infrastructure, specializing in the execution and delivery of municipal projects. His career has focused on infrastructure rehabilitation and capital improvement programs, including various construction delivery methods. He has worked throughout the United States and internationally.

Sonoma County Resource Recovery (SCRR) Selected as Sebastopol's Solid Waste Service Contractor



We've received many comments and questions about how and why Sonoma County Resource Recovery (SCRR) was chosen over Recology as Sebastopol's new solid waste (trash, recycling and organics) contractor. Below please find history and details. The transition process is under way and will take several months. We will update information on the city website and social media channels as it becomes available.

- Extending the current agreement with Recology at current rates was not possible – Recology's final rate proposal prior to cessation of negotiations was for a 57% increase in rates from July 1, 2024 through July 1, 2027. The City could not agree to such increases and thus proceeded to competitive procurement via RFP.
- The City has publicly discussed its reasons for proceeding to competitive RFP for new solid waste contractor for nearly a year and has discussed the item in five prior publicly agendized meetings.
- The City Council conducted an open and competitive procurement process in 2024, with expert assistance to ensure the integrity of the process, quality services for residents and businesses, and competitive rates.
- SCRR was the highest-ranked proposer because it delivered the lowest overall base service rates for all customers: single family, multi-family, and commercial.
 - Single-family residents will pay an average of 5% less with SCRR than the rates proposed by Recology.

Sebastopol's Solid Waste Service Contractor cont.

- o Estimated rates for most businesses will be lower than the rates proposed by Recology.
- o Estimated 74% of multi-family and commercial customers will have no additional charges or very minimal additional charges for recycling and organics services.
- o Estimated 26% of commercial and multi-family customers would pay more with SCRR compared to Recology because of additional recycling and organics charges if they don't adjust service levels or otherwise work out cost effectiveness measures with SCRR. These are the folks who could potentially reduce such charges by right sizing and waste reduction.



- SCRR demonstrated greater willingness to work collaboratively with the City to address service concerns and customer service needs.
- With SCRR, low income and minimum service level rates will be lower than with Recology – because SCRR's minimum base garbage rates are lower than Recology's, benefiting low waste generating customers and those with fixed incomes.
- SCRR incentivizes reduction of waste by providing financial incentives to divert recyclable and organic waste from landfill.
- SCRR will collaborate with multi-family dwellings and businesses to "right-size" services to reduce or eliminate changes in costs. They will also work with businesses to set up proper source separation.
- For more details, see the consultant presentation here: <https://bit.ly/4gaBbM2>

You're Invited to the New Monthly Series "Coffee with the Mayor"

Sebastopol's Mayor invites you to join the "Coffee with the Mayor" series. Ask questions, share your thoughts and ideas, and discuss issues that matter to you in this new monthly series.

The series is the **second Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 5pm at City Hall, 7120 Bodega Ave.**

Local donuts and coffee will be provided. Bring your own recyclable or reusable cup.

Learn About Water Supply and Resources During Fire Events



In the wake of the catastrophic LA fires, Dave Bray, Division Chief of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, comments on the importance of prevention and preparedness and discusses water supply and resources during fire events.

Visit the News section of the City's website for the complete article here: <https://bit.ly/4jfrheJ>

Info & Resources From PG&E & Sonoma Clean Power to Help Monitor and Manage Energy Use and Bills

PG&E rates are adjusted every January 1st. While electric rates will roughly remain the same (slight decrease), gas rates will increase.



Energy Resources & Programs

PG&E customers: Visit <https://bit.ly/421tggm> for energy efficiency support programs, income-eligible programs that can help customers lower their bills, and resources PG&E offers customers to help manage energy use and bills.

Sonoma Clean Power customers: Visit <https://bit.ly/4h3nE9J> for energy saving tips to cut your bill.

Are you flood ready?

What can you do now to prepare?



- Find out if you live in or near a flood zone by checking <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
- Have a personal/family emergency plan
- Have personal/family/pet disaster kits prepared
- REMEMBER: Turn around, don't drown

Check out <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/> and <https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov> for more information on preparing for floods and other disasters.

Coming up in April: 79th Annual Apple Blossom Parade and Festival

April 26th and 27th, 2025

<https://www.appleblossomfest.com>