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Orinda approves 9.2 percent hike in garbage fees

By Sora O'Doherty

On Nov. 13 the city council approved an increase in garbage collection rates of 9.2 percent, to be implemented by RecycleSmart, the Joint Powers Authority to which Orinda is a member. The fee increase, if adopted by the JPA, will be in effect from March 1, 2019 to Feb. 29, 2020. The increase will amount to an additional \$3.36 per month for residential 20-gallon bins and \$3.84 for 32-gallon bins. The majority (80 percent) of Orinda subscribers use either a 20- or 32-gallon bin. For those who use a 64-gallon bin, the increase would be \$7.20, and commercial users will also see rate increases of either \$44.69 or \$67.03. The 9.2 percent increase consists of an increase of 2.44 percent for operating costs, and 6.76 percent for the refuse vehicle impact fee adopted by the city council this year. The refuse vehicle impact fee will provide an additional \$334,275 in road maintenance funding per year. The fees for solid waste collection are based solely on the side of the trash bin; there is no additional charge for recycling pick up.

Reach the reporter at: sora@lamorindaweekly.com

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