

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director/County Engineer 

Agenda Date: November 27, 2023

Subject: Waiver of Solid Waste Tipping Fee for Ron & Christy Steckler

Statement of Issue:

The Board of Commissioners has indicated, through Resolution 74-95 as amended, that it will consider waiving fees for an activity that is in the public interest and of public benefit on a case-by-case basis. Public Works is requesting a waiver of the tipping fee at the County Solid Waste Facilities to allow for the safe disposal of marine pollutants collected on State and County tidelands in Dabob Bay through community litter collection efforts led by Ron and Christy Steckler of Quilcene.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's:

This on-going project is of substantial public interest and benefit and the activity could be a County project or activity but is not because an alternative method has been found in the Steckler's volunteer activities. This project supports County goal #3: Maintain and enhance environmental quality.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

The exact annual fiscal impact will not be known until materials are delivered to one or both of the solid waste facilities. Assuming ten full size pick-up truck loads per annum, the estimated annual fees waived would be between \$540.00 and \$720.00 if disposed of at the Quilcene Rural Drop Box and slightly less if disposed of at the transfer station.

Recommendation:

Public Works recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the tipping fee waiver request. If so approved, and because the fee waiver request is for an on-going activity, Public Works also recommends that the BoCC set up a commercial solid waste account with a deposit of \$720.00 by which the Steckler's loads would be charged to, up to the annual limit. Public Works would monitor the balance of the account and issue a letter as attached to the Steckler's whenever notifying Public Works of a load of marine litter to be delivered.

Reviewed By:

Approved By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator Date 11/21/23

Greg Brotherton, Chair Date
Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENT "A" RESOLUTION NO. 74-95

**POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION OF
FEE WAIVER REQUESTS**

POLICY STATEMENT

The waiving of fees for individuals or organizations may be seen as: 1) being a gift of public funds, 2) being a discriminatory act, and 3) having an impact on individual County department/funds budgets. Jefferson County has determined that there may be circumstances, however, where the public interest and public benefit in a project or activity is such that the public should participate by the waiving of fees associated with such a project or activity.

REQUEST AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

All requests for waiver of fees shall be made in writing to the department administering the fee to be waived.

The Department will forward the request to the Board of County Commissioners with their recommendation for approval or denial.

APPROVAL CRITERIA:

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners shall review all requests to waive the fees associated with any individual project or activity. Requests may only be approved when the following criteria can be met:

- 1) There is substantial public interest and benefit in the project or activity to the degree said project or activity could be a County project or activity, but is not because an alternative method for the project/activity was found.
- 2) Any and all similar requests will receive the same approval regardless of the person or organization requesting the waiver.
- 3) A corresponding amount from a Fund, to be designated by the Board of Commissioners at the time of the approval, will be transferred to the Department where the fee is waived.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
County of Jefferson

IN THE MATTER OF A POLICY
FOR CONSIDERATION OF
FEE WAIVER REQUESTS
ASSOCIATED WITH
COUNTY ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION NO. 74-95

WHEREAS, Federal, State and local laws require public agencies to treat all parties equally, so there is no potential for discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, Jefferson County Ordinances establish fees to, in part, compensate the general public for costs associated with the review of projects or activities, provision of services; and,

WHEREAS, requests are submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for waiver of fees by individuals and organizations, and;

WHEREAS, the following findings are made with regard to the matter of requests for the waiver of fees:

- 1) The waiver of fees for one party and not another can be viewed as discriminatory, unless there is a stated policy when and under what circumstances said waiver would occur.
- 2) The Washington State Constitution prohibits the gift of public funds and the waiving of fees can amount to a gift as the costs associated with providing services are shifted entirely to the public for the benefit of the applicant.
- 3) Fees set by County Ordinance do not differentiate between worthy causes or worthy organizations and are to be applied equally to private individuals and public agencies.
- 4) The waiving of fees creates a budget impact for the department not receiving the fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there may be circumstances where the requested waiver of fees may be in the public interest and of public benefit for a project or activity and the public should participate by the waiving of the fee(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to assure that all parties requesting a waiver of fees are treated equally and to determine if the requested waiver of fees is in the public interest and of public benefit, the following policy (Attachment A to this Resolution) is hereby adopted.

APPROVED this 21 day of August, 1995.



SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Glen Huntingford, Chairman

Robert Hinton, Member

Richard Wolf, Member

ATTEST:

Lorna L. Delaney, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Al Cairns
Solid Waste Manager
Jefferson County Department of Public Works
acairns@co.jefferson.wa.us
(360)385-9213



Department of Public Works
Jefferson County, Washington

623 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-9160

SOLID WASTE TIPPING FEE WAIVER REQUEST

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioner adopted Resolution 74-95 to allow for the waiver of County agency fees provided there is *substantial public interest and benefit in the project or activity* for which a fee is requested to be waived if the project or activity could be a County project or activity, but is not because an alternative method for the project or activity was found.

Resolution 74-95 requires that the request for the fee waiver be made in writing to the department administering the fee that is requested to be waived. The request is then forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners with a recommendation for approval or denial.

Please complete this form completely so that the Department of Public Works can consider whether there is substantial public interest and benefit in your project or activity.

Name of individual, group, or agency requesting a fee waiver:

Ron M Steckler & Christy Casey Steckler @ Lindsay Beach, Quilcene, WA

Briefly describe the project or activity:

To regularly comb the tip of Bolton Peninsula of debris & get assistance from Jefferson County to avoid our family having to continue to fund the "Solo" to North of Broad Spit collecting garbage & taking to transfer station.

Briefly describe how this project or activity would be of substantial public interest and benefit:

Dabob Bay has an opportunity to improve its shoreline condition that will rid itself (by a large) of damaging its environment & creating an area that will invite improved aesthetics, less "toxicity", less debris-unfavorable to residents/visitors/animals (land & aquatic) by Quilcene residents, headed by Ron/Christy Steckler, by regular beach "clean-ups".

Type of property where the project/activity will happen (e.g., Federal, State, County, City, or private):

Jefferson County, Sabob Bay, entire public beaches & for
Marine shoreline areas, State owned, but community enjoyed!

Type of materials that would be delivered to the Transfer Station or Quilcene Drop Box facility (e.g., garbage, tree limbs, house demolition debris, animal carcasses):

garbage (bottles, cans, foam) fishing
beads, plastic from many sources, broken small dingy parts, styrofoam (much!),
fishing/oyster farming "junk", tires!!!, lumber from who knows where?!

Estimated amount of material (e.g., number of bags or cans or number of pickup truck or trailer loads):

Ongoing; hard to determine quantity (and over what period of time). Each
storm brings new debris/gifts of unsightly character.

Facility that materials would be delivered to:

Transfer Station ☒
Port Townsend

Quilcene Drop Box ☒

Date or dates the materials would be delivered:

approximately 8-10 times annually;
depends on storm activity, tides/currents & how many Quilcene
residents will participate/assist my spouse & I.

Note: To date, over the last 8 years, we have done it all
by ourselves; results are a MUCH more environmentally friendly
shoreline, small animal health & habitat improvement, much more
pristine beach from the tip of the Bolton Peninsula to the
beach beyond Broad Spit. We have devoted our time,
money & physical strength, to do so, and are HAPPY to
have made it a better environment for the community,
the animals & Mother Nature as a whole. Financially
draining us in a small way is a cost we prefer not
to have to "eat," so please allow us to be, and to
get new members to join in on this valiant effort (&
100% rewarding to far more than Christy & myself!)

Thanks/respectfully:

Roy & Christy Becker



Department of Public Works
Jefferson County, Washington

623 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-9160

Mr. Ron Steckler

November 29, 2023

Dear Mr. Steckler,

The Board of County Commissioners has determined that the removal of marine pollutants from County and State tidelands in Dabob Bay is of substantial public interest and benefit and that up to an annual amount of \$720.00 of the fees charged for disposal of this material is waived at either the Quilcene Rural Drop Box or Jefferson County Transfer Station.

Please email the Solid Waste Manager at acairns@co.jefferson.wa.us whenever a load of the marine pollutants is ready for disposal, the date of disposal, and which facility the materials will be delivered to.

Please also present this letter with your load which will inform the attendant that the fee should be charged to account number _____. The Jefferson County Transfer Station is open Tuesday through Saturday and the Quilcene Rural Drop Box is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM except on public holidays.

Sincerely,

Monte Reinders

Public Works Director/County Engineer

**QUILCENE RURAL DROP BOX
LOOSE GARBAGE FEE VISUAL CALCULATOR
FULL SIZE PICKUP**



1 CUBIC YARD = \$36.00



1.5 CUBIC YARDS = \$54.00



2 CUBIC YARDS = \$72.00



2.5 CUBIC YARDS = \$90.00