County accepting parcel fee protests

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The clock is running if Calaveras County property owners wish to lodge a protest against the proposed 85 percent solid waste parcel fee increase.

   The county Board of Supervisors will consider increasing the single-family residential fee on homeowners' annual property tax statement from $150 to $277.30 at a June meeting.

   The move to increase the fee comes after the board recently approved a $9.6 million contract to extend the life of the Rock Creek Landfill and received a consultant's report that the solid waste department is running at a deficit.

   A notice of the proposed fee hike and scheduled hearing has been mailed to property owners. The end of the two-page notice contained instructions how the public can file a protest against the proposal before the board.

   "Any property owner of record subject to the proposed changes may submit a written protest against the proposed fees, although only one written protest per parcel will be counted," the notice says. "If the owners of a majority of the affected parcels submit protests, Calaveras County may not adopt the fees as proposed. Absent a majority protest, the fees may be implemented once adopted by the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors after the public hearing."

   According to the notice, a written protest must identify the property owner and state that the property owner opposes the proposed fees, provide the location of the identified parcel by assessor's parcel number or street address, and include the name and signature of the property owner submitting the protest.

   Written protests may be submitted by mail or in person to the county's Department of Integrated Waste Management office at 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249. Protests by fax or email will not be considered.

   All written protests must be submitted prior to the June 27 meeting and any oral protest at that meeting will not qualify as a formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest with the required information outlined above.