



SOLID WASTE

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT #1

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Kevin Fitzgerald, Vice-Chairperson
Mary McGann, Treasurer
Diane Ackerman, Member
Chad Harris, Member*

29 March 2021

City of Moab
217 East Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

RE: ACQUISITION OF MONUMENT WASTE SERVICES' UTAH-BASED OPERATIONS & TRANSFER OF SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES PROVIDER

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, and Moab City Management:

As you are aware, on Friday, April 30, 2021, Solid Waste Special Service District #1 (District) will acquire the real and personal property assets related to the Utah-based operations of Monument Waste Services (Monument). This acquisition includes Monument's fleet and collection vehicles, solid waste and recycling containers, heavy equipment, transfer station, and real property. The District will begin providing route collection services and assume the operations of the solid waste transfer station effective May 1, 2021.

Throughout this transition, the District is committed to maintaining continuity of services as well as the excellent customer service that the City of Moab, including the residents and businesses located within and outside of city limits, have come to expect from Monument. Monument has and continues to be very proactive throughout this process to support a smooth and seamless transition. Basically, it will be business as usual as we will continue to provide the safe and dependable services that the City has experienced from Monument.

In the short term, the District intends to retain all of the programs, services, and fee structures currently provided by each entity. Over time we will identify synergies and efficiencies as a result of the combined services, leading to operational improvements and service enhancements. Our community's size and geographic isolation has resulted in a significant degree of exclusivity in solid waste hauling for at least several decades. Unlike other essential services requiring fixed infrastructure such as water, sewer, and power, communities handle the different elements of solid waste management in diverse ways, from government run, to exclusive franchise agreements between governments and private businesses, to open markets.

Moab residences and businesses, via the *Franchise Agreement for Residential, Municipal, and Commercial Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal*, currently in effect between the City and Monument, represent the single largest combined customer for the local waste hauler. The District is committed to maintaining customer satisfaction and reasonable rates, both to support franchise renewal and per our mission to the community.

The District was created by the Grand County Council in 1993 and, since then, has been managing solid waste and recycling throughout Grand County with a focus on the operations and management of the two landfills located in Grand County and the Community Recycle Center. We strongly believe in the integrated solid waste management philosophies of reduce, reuse, and recycle, and, as District Manager, I am committed to continuous improvements at all of our operations, including waste diversion programs, public education and outreach, community involvement and collaboration, and building effective public and private partnerships.

The District is very excited about this opportunity as we continue to enhance the services that we provide to our community. As part of this consolidation of solid waste services to be provided by a public entity tasked with the overall purview of managing solid waste throughout Grand County (i.e., the District), there are many positive aspects that will result in both short- and long-term benefits to our shared community. These benefits include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- **Enhanced transparency and accountability**

The District holds regular public meetings in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act. All data, financials, and programmatic planning and decisions thereof are publicly available, and the District's financials are audited annually by a third-party auditor.

- **Public decision-making that accounts for the community's best interest**

The District is governed by a five person Administrative Control Board (ACB), which consists of representatives from the Moab City Council, the Grand County Commission, the Town of Castle Valley, and two At-Large representatives that live in Grand County. The makeup of this governing body ensures that the various communities throughout Grand County are given equal consideration and representation with respect to the programs and services provided by the District. Public comments are encouraged and are taken into consideration regarding any decisions made by the ACB, and, ultimately, ACB decisions are made with the community's best interest in mind.

- **Local ownership, local control, and local jobs**

Securing local ownership and control by a public solid waste management provider mitigates potential financial and accountability risks related to outside investors, ensures that as much of the revenues as possible continue to circulate within our community, and supports local, year-round jobs with comprehensive health and retirement benefits.

- **Added efficiencies and synergies**

As part of this consolidation, the District anticipates a variety of operational optimizations, resulting in long-term financial and environmental benefits to our shared community.

- **Centralized solid waste disposal, recycling, reclamation, and diversion data**


The District will gain real-time access to centralized, streamlined data that will enable 'apples to apples' data comparisons with respect to solid waste diversion rates, weights, and volumes. Over time, optimization of data collection and storage methodologies will likely result in the District's ability to fully analyze and evaluate these trends within the various communities and geographic regions of Grand County (e.g., the City of Moab).

- **Integrated, system-wide knowledge to support the enhancement of existing and the identification of new waste diversion programs and strategies**

The District's ability to manage the entire integrated solid waste management systems throughout Grand County will enable the District to enhance existing and identify new waste diversion programs and strategies, including the advancement of the City's short- and long-term sustainability goals.

I stand ready to answer any questions and to address any concerns from the City, and I would be happy to join a future public meeting to discuss these matters. I can be reached by phone at (435) 259-3867 or by email at etyrrell@swssd1.org.

Respectfully,



Evan C. Tyrrell, MPA, MSES, CHMM
District Manager



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