

# In These Economic Times Can Jacksonville Afford The Liability Of Trail Ridge Landfill?

Families and businesses in Jacksonville are faced with the same economic challenges as the rest of Florida and the country. City government is dealing with falling revenue and increased expenses. This is no time for financial risk, unnecessary liability, or budget surprises. Especially unnecessary liability risks generated by the landfill.

Waste Management won the 1991 competitive bid to buy, develop and manage Trail Ridge Landfill. Since the first load of waste was taken to Trail Ridge in 1992, Waste Management has assumed environmental liability for landfill operations. But that may not always be the case. The first area of the landfill is nearly full and the restated contract needs City Council approval for Waste Management to relieve the City of millions of dollars in closure and post-closure liability. This assumption of liability would also apply beyond the current active landfill area to the expansion of the landfill.

## **Waste Management holds the contract for the life of the landfill site.**

Since 1991, Waste Management has held the contract and that contract should be honored. We provide Jacksonville with exceptional and reliable service and we are ready to continue the successful relationship. By this continuity, Jacksonville will save an additional \$250 million in landfill costs. This dramatic savings will help Jacksonville direct millions of dollars to other needed programs.

## **Failure to approve the restated contract has unanticipated consequences.**

Loss of closure and post-closure liability protection is a certainty, and substantially increased fees and litigation are some of the possibilities if the restated contract is not approved. Furthermore, the restated contract gives the City more flexibility, and lower adjusted rates than in 1991, thus saving residents and businesses \$12-14 million dollars in the next seven years alone. Additionally, the restated contract:

- Allows the City to receive new, green services, such as recycling, which are vital to protecting the environment and extending the life of the landfill.
- Allows for the use of even more efficient technology for the disposition of solid waste as that technology becomes available.
- Guarantees competitive bidding for all expenditures and construction.
- Gives the City a termination option.
- Relieves the City of the financial burden of closure and post-closure costs.

## **Nothing in the restated contract is secret.**

All negotiations between the City and Waste Management are in the open and Mayor Peyton's office has delivered the complete 125-page contract to the City Council for review. It is also available to the public for inspection. When you examine the facts, you will discover it pays to Think Green.®

**At Waste Management we strongly believe it is in the best interest of Jacksonville to build upon our successful partnership. We also believe that there are wise, prudent, and responsible reasons for the City Council to approve the restated contract negotiated by the City.**

**We ask that you evaluate these facts and benefits and listen to reason with an open mind.**

**Thank you.**

