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**To:** David Wood

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**From:** Don Hullings, Maraedith Ross  
Tetra Tech

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**Date:** January 24, 2025

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**Subject:** Disposal Cost Analysis

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Tetra Tech understands that Alachua County will soon be considering a new contract with New River Landfill to provide Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal. Under the current agreement, the cost for disposal at New River Landfill is \$30.00 per ton. The County requested Tetra Tech to evaluate potential costs in preparation for negotiations with New River.

Tetra Tech identified active landfills that are permitted to take MSW within 150 miles of the Leveda Brown transfer station and reviewed the available tipping fees. These landfills are shown on the attached figure along with approximate distances as shown by the radius markers. Many landfills cannot take out-of-county waste but are still included in this analysis for cost.

### **Disposal Costs**

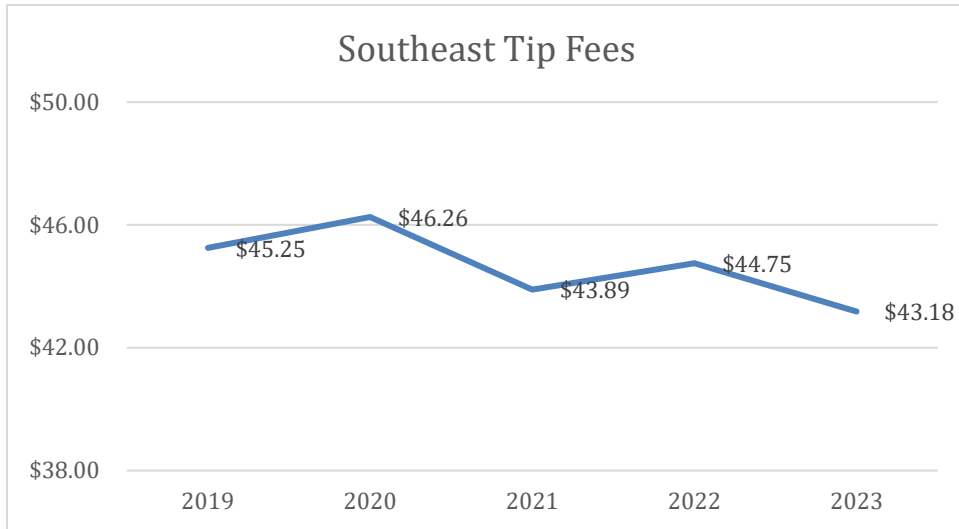
The tipping fees available online or at the gate are the "posted" rate. The actual tip fee under contract could be less at a private landfill or under agreement with another county landfill. The tipping fees are summarized in the attached table.

Generally, the average tipping fee in Florida for 2023 was \$42.54 with a standard deviation of \$15.38.<sup>1</sup> The average in the southeast region is about the same at \$43.18. As shown in Figure 1, the tipping fee in the region has remained relatively constant the past 5 years. This would suggest that your current disposal provider should not be requesting a substantial increase as the market does not appear to support an increase in disposal cost.

Tetra Tech conducted a review of several Waste Management (WM) and County contracts pertaining to Class I waste disposal, including Miami-Dade and Lee Counties. The disposal costs at some WM facilities ranged from \$37.98 to \$45.41 per ton under agreement, depending on the specific facility, tonnage commitment and disposal method used. This is consistent with the average tipping fee discussed above. We also recently performed a cost analysis for the City of Tampa with the same assumptions for disposal costs. We determined that they could dispose of MSW at another facility at a rate of approximately \$50 per ton. Based on our review of the tipping fees available online, regional averages, and available contracts, the average tipping fee is consistently around \$45 per ton in Florida.

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<sup>1</sup> Analysis of MSW Landfill Tipping Fees 2023, Published by EREF, May 2024



**Figure 1: Southeast Tip Fees**

**Hauling Costs**

The cost for disposal includes the tip fee at the landfill and hauling costs (also the cost to operate the transfer station but that cost is the same for all options and is not included here). This is important because a landfill that is further away than New River may provide a lower tipping fee but the hauling cost would be greater. Alachua County estimates the current cost for hauling to be \$12.84 per ton for the 75-mile roundtrip or about \$0.17 per ton-mile. This is a lower costs than Tetra Tech has typically seen and is very reasonable.

Your current agreement with New River Landfill is \$30 per ton and the cost for hauling is \$12.84 per ton for a total of \$42.84 per ton.

**Comparisons**

Tetra Tech identified two disposal facilities which were comparable to New River Landfill in disposal and hauling costs, Trail Ridge Landfill and Putnam County Central Landfill. The gate rates for Trail Ridge and Putnam County are \$30.30 per ton and \$34.00 per ton, respectively. The facilities are within 100 miles, with Trail Ridge being 82 miles away and Putnam County 94 miles away. The total cost for disposal at Trail Ridge and Putnam County could be \$44.34 per ton and \$50.13 per ton, respectively (compared to current cost of \$42.84 per ton with New River). Putnam County does have limitations specified online regarding out of county waste acceptance while Trail Ridge does not. However, we do believe that a contract could be negotiated with Putnam County should the County decide to pursue this option.

**Conclusion**

The County’s existing agreement with New River Landfill has a cost for disposal at \$30.00 per ton. Based on our analyses this is one standard deviation less than the average in Florida and the Southeast in general. The New River disposal cost is also less than other contract agreements that were available for our review. The contracted rate of \$30.00 per ton is also a 12% discount on their posted gate rate of \$34.00 per ton. The current hauling cost of \$12.84 per ton is also quite reasonable. There are only two landfills with reasonably close costs – Trail Ridge and Putnam County. Trail Ridge is dedicated to serving Duval County and Putnam County currently excludes out-of-county waste but both can be contacted as possibilities. Other landfills are generally further away and likely to have a higher hauling cost along with higher tipping fees.

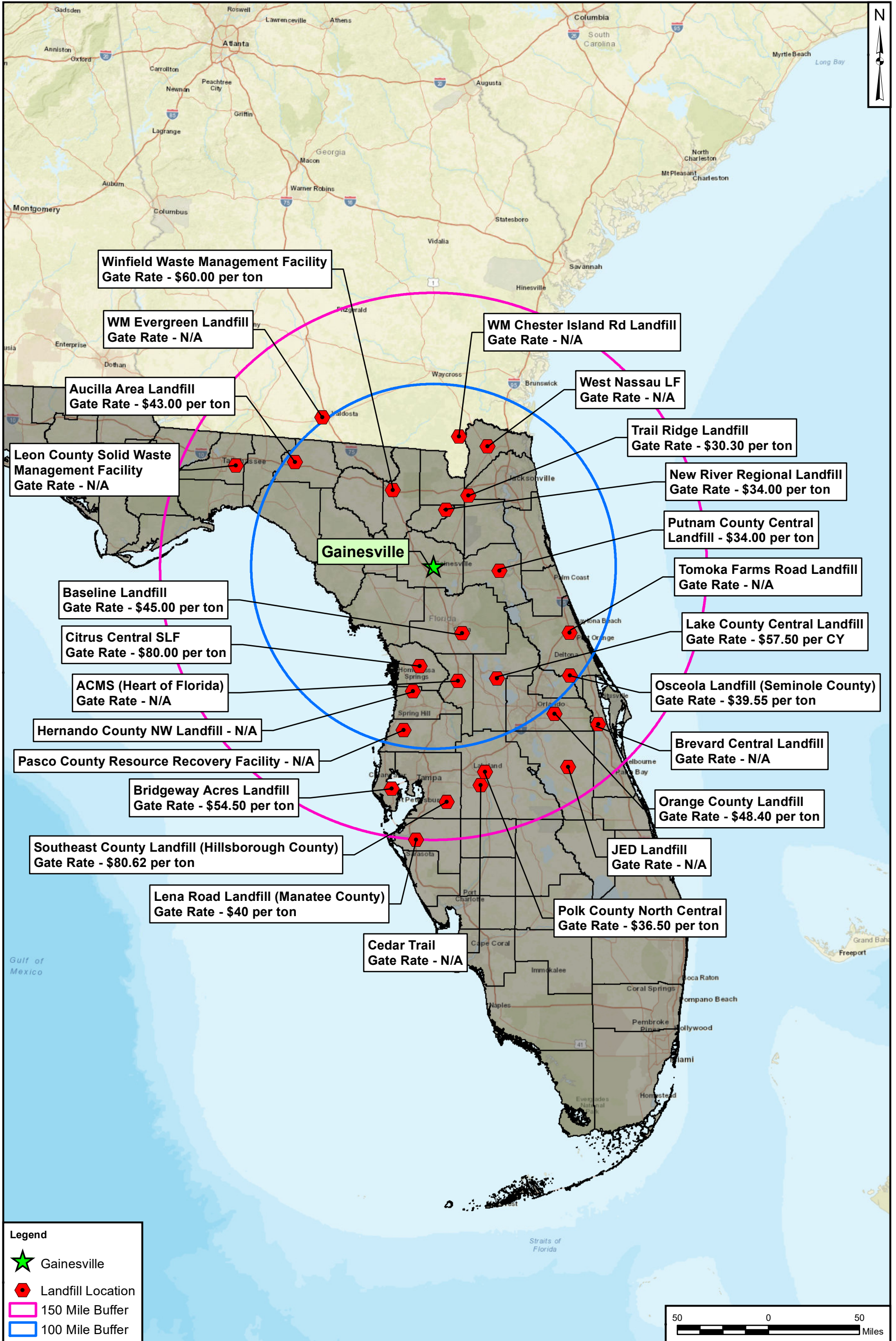
We understand that New River Landfill has an excellent reputation and has provided quality service to the County. They also have a competitive disposal fee and combined with the relatively low hauling cost the County is unlikely to find a better rate. With two other possibilities and the general trend of no increases in tipping fees, New River doesn't seem to be in a position to increase current rates significantly.

**Table 1: Class I Disposal Costs**

| <b>Class I Landfill</b>                     | <b>Gate Rate<br/>(per ton)</b> | <b>Out of County?</b>                    | <b>Driving Miles<br/>(Round Trip)</b> | <b>Transport Cost<br/>(per ton)</b> | <b>Total Cost<br/>(per ton)</b> |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| New River Regional Landfill                 | \$ 34.00                       | Not specified                            | 75                                    | \$ 12.84                            | \$ 46.84                        |
| Trail Ridge Landfill                        | \$ 30.30                       | Not specified                            | 82                                    | \$ 14.04                            | \$ 44.34                        |
| Putnam County Central LF                    | \$ 34.00                       | Need valid residence<br>in Putnam County | 94                                    | \$ 16.13                            | \$ 50.13                        |
| Winfield Waste Management Facility          | \$ 60.00                       | Not specified                            | 128                                   | \$ 21.91                            | \$ 81.91                        |
| Baseline Landfill Class I                   | \$ 45.00                       | Not specified                            | 134                                   | \$ 22.94                            | \$ 67.94                        |
| ACMS Class I Landfill (HoF)                 | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 152                                   | \$ 26.02                            | N/A                             |
| West Nassau Landfill                        | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 172                                   | \$ 29.45                            | N/A                             |
| WM- Chesser Island Road Landfill            | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 172                                   | \$ 29.45                            | N/A                             |
| Citrus Central SLF                          | \$ 80.00                       | Per agreement with<br>BOCC only          | 176                                   | \$ 30.13                            | \$ 110.13                       |
| Hernando County NW Landfill                 | N/A                            | Out of County Waste<br>not accepted      | 210                                   | \$ 35.95                            | N/A                             |
| Lake County Central Landfill                | \$57.50 per CY                 | \$57.50 minimum                          | 222                                   | \$ 38.01                            | N/A                             |
| WM- Evergreen Landfill                      | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 222                                   | \$ 38.01                            | N/A                             |
| Aucilla Area Landfill                       | \$ 43.00                       | Not specified                            | 224                                   | \$ 38.35                            | \$ 81.35                        |
| Pasco County Resource Recovery              | N/A                            | Out of County Waste<br>not accepted      | 256                                   | \$ 43.83                            | N/A                             |
| Tomoka Farms Road Landfill                  | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 266                                   | \$ 45.54                            | N/A                             |
| Leon County Solid Waste Management Facility | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 290                                   | \$ 49.65                            | N/A                             |
| Osceola Landfill (Seminole)                 | \$ 39.55                       | Not specified                            | 302                                   | \$ 51.70                            | \$ 91.25                        |
| Bridgeway Acres LF                          | \$ 54.50                       | Double Charge                            | 306                                   | \$ 52.39                            | \$ 161.39                       |
| Orange County Landfill                      | \$ 48.40                       | Not specified                            | 326                                   | \$ 55.81                            | \$ 104.21                       |
| North Polk Central Landfill                 | \$ 36.50                       | Need written<br>permission               | 332                                   | \$ 56.84                            | \$ 93.34                        |
| Southeast County SLF                        | \$ 110.00                      | Not specified                            | 338                                   | \$ 57.87                            | \$ 167.87                       |
| Cedar Trail Landfill                        | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 344                                   | \$ 58.89                            | N/A                             |
| Lena Road County Landfill                   | \$ 40.00                       | Triple charge                            | 374                                   | \$ 64.03                            | \$ 184.03                       |
| Brevard Central Landfill                    | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 384                                   | \$ 65.74                            | N/A                             |
| JED Landfill                                | N/A                            | Not specified                            | 404                                   | \$ 69.16                            | N/A                             |

\*Transport cost used \$0.17 per ton-mile





CLASS I LANDFILLS IN FLORIDA

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| CTO<br>209-4252013 |          |
| DRAWN BY           | DATE     |
| J.MADDEN           | 01/17/25 |
| CHECKED BY         | DATE     |
| M.ROSS             | 01/17/25 |
| FIGURE NUMBER<br>1 |          |