TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Waive the reading and adopt by title only the ordinance amending Municipal Code Chapter 8.14 Solid Waste Management.

Meeting Date: November 4, 2026

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RECOMMENDATION:

Waive the reading and adopt by title only the ordinance amending Municipal Code Chapter 8.14 Solid Waste Management.

BACKGROUND:

In the State of California, AB 341 requires businesses that produce four cubic yards or more of solid waste every week and multi-family complexes with five units or more are required to participate in a recycling program. Compliance options include subscribing to weekly recycling collection service from your local hauler, or self-hauling recyclables to a recycling center. According to CalRecycle, the purpose of AB 341 is "to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts, and to expand the opportunity for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California".

Under AB 341, the Town of Mammoth Lakes is required to implement a commercial solid waste recycling program that consists of education, outreach, and monitoring of businesses. Jurisdictions are required to report on this program in the yearly Electronic Annual Report (EAR). This program is outlined in Municipal Code Chapter 8.14, which requires "businesses and multifamily housing complexes to make efforts to separate recyclable materials from all other solid waste and by implementing State laws concerning recycling of waste generated at large events and large venues." Subject to these conditions, multifamily residences and businesses may be allowed to self-haul their recyclables.

The Solid Waste Recycling chapter of the Town's Municipal Code was adopted by the Town Council in December of 2014 and has been updated several times since the initial adoption to accommodate changes in state requirements and/or local programs and processes. In October 2020, the Town adopted a 20-year Franchise Agreement between the Town and Mammoth Disposal.

ANALYSIS:

Since the adoption of the Solid Waste Recycling Chapter and the updated Franchise Agreement, self-haul processes have not received the attention required by code language and agreement requirements. Self-haul is described as "a (business or multi-family complex) transporting its own recyclable materials rather than contracting with a

franchisee or an alternative recycler for that service." If an account is not subscribed to service, that indicates that they are self-hauling. However, there is no existing framework to confirm who is registered to self-haul and if they are complying with the requirements of the program. After reviewing our current Municipal Code, staff determined that there were some requirements related to the self-haul process that were confusing or unnecessary.

The purpose of this Municipal Code update is to clarify and streamline the self-haul process. Specifically, the proposed changes include:

- 8.14.020 – Redefining "Self-haul," which is currently treated as an exemption from the recycling requirements of MC 8.14, to be a process in which customers may choose to comply with the requirements of the Code. A Self-haul Agreement will be required for any customers wishing to Self-haul their recyclables.
- 8.14.040.(a)(3) – Update related to the change from a Self-haul exemption to an Agreement.
- 8.14.040.(f) – New – allowance for Commercial Customers to consolidate service with Town approval under certain conditions.
- 8.14.050 and 8.14.070 – clean-up and clarification regarding permitted exemptions to Chapter 8.14.
- 8.14.060 – clean-up and clarification regarding the Town's Self-haul Agreement process and requirements, including the removal of confusing and unnecessary requirements.

The proposed changes will allow Town Staff to move forward with the creation and implementation of a Self-haul program that can be tracked and monitored. The Jurisdiction and Agency Compliance and Enforcement (JACE) branch of CalRecycle will be looking for compliance with these State and Municipal Code requirements, so it is critical to be able to move forward with program implementation.