



## Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on January 28, 2026

SPC EpiCenter, Room 1-455

The meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 1-455 at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Members present were Willie Joseph, Bill Pickrum, Kervin St. Aimie, Antwann Jackson, Shauwn Clark, Brian Peckins, Renee Cooper, Calley Pate, Rodney Due, Catherine Eichner, and Tracy Meehan. Members absent without an alternate: Keith Sabiel, Marco Villagomez, and JP Agrall. Pinellas County employees in attendance were Paul Sacco, Cassie Hartman, Emily LeMay, and Miles Belknap. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

### Call to Order

Willie Joseph, Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

### Citizens to be heard

No citizens to be heard.

### Minutes

Chairman Joseph entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, meeting.

**A motion was made by Catherine Eichner and seconded by Antwann Jackson to accept the TMC Minutes as written. The motion was approved and carried unanimously.**

### Operations Report

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Paul reviewed the Solid Waste Operations Report for November and December 2025.
- The transition between Reworld and the new facility operator, FCC Environmental, was coordinated over the final two months of the year. FCC assumed operations at midnight on December 31, 2025. County staff and consultants worked to close out the previous contract and held transition coordination meetings with Reworld and FCC. Overall, the transition proceeded smoothly. County staff are now preparing the final reconciliation with Reworld.
- TG1 has exhibited high vibrations since March 2025 and was subsequently operated at reduced load to continue to generate electricity. The major outage for TG1 was moved up to December 2025 to inspect the cause of the high vibrations. The inspection of the steam turbine indicated significant damage to the rotor and cracks in the casing. The County has contacted our insurer, FM Global, and they are conducting their investigation. FM Global is requiring an independent third party to conduct root cause analysis (RCA) and select. With TG1 offline, the maximum boilers that can be kept running is 2. Diversions of waste to the landfill will be required daily until the turbine is back online.

- Numbers reported for the Industrial Water Treatment Facility (IWTF) for December were incorrect. They should be:

	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>December 2025</u>
Gallons to IWTF (Pumped from Pond A)	53,360,420	31,603,200
Gallons to WTE (Finish Water)	36,017,455	20,308,728
Gallons to Lift Station (Reject Water)	13,800,968	648,474
IWTF Availability	100.00%	88.97%

- 199 customers used the Swap Shop in November, and as a result, 3,482 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 35,832 pounds of chemicals and 27,051 pounds of chemicals were collected at two HHW North Household Chemical Collection Events in November.
- 232 customers used the Swap Shop in December, and as a result, 3,897 pounds of HHW were diverted from disposal and put to reuse. The HHW Center collected 55,468 pounds of chemicals and 13,358 pounds of chemicals were collected at one HHW North Household Chemical Collection Event in December. In calendar year 2025, the HHW Program collected 1,108,656 pounds of chemicals.
- In November, the Business Waste Assessments Section (BWAS) conducted 105 business visits, 83% of the monthly goal. In November, 38% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- In December, BWAS conducted 133 business visits, 107% of the monthly goal. In December, 63% of the businesses reinspected after 5 years had a 100% return-to-compliance rate because of the education received from BWAS.
- The newest edition of the Recycle Guide is coming out this month! Physical copies and the digital version will be available in mid-late January and distributed to all municipalities.
  - The Recycle Guide has an approximate print circulation of 122,000, with copies being inserted in the Pinellas County editions of tbt Weekend, distributed to all Pinellas County public and charter schools and inserted into the Seminole Beacon/Beaches Beacon.
  - The guide also has a digital circulation of 90,000, with the digital version being inserted in the Tampa Bay Times e-Newspaper.
  - It will be accessible online at [Pinellas.gov/recycle](https://pinellas.gov/recycle). If you'd like printed copies for your municipality, email the request to [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov).
- The five-year update to the Solid Waste Master Plan kicked off on January 15 with vendor HDR, Inc. It is a one-year contract, with completion targeted for September 2026. They may reach out to municipalities and haulers for input.

## Financial Report

Cassie Hartman, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Cassie reviewed the Financial Status Summaries for FY25 (closeout) and FY26.
- FY25 revenue from tipping fees exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately 9%, and revenue from scrap sales was higher than anticipated.
- Plant Management expenditure is currently reported at 74% of the budget due to capital improvement projects that have not yet been completed.

- FY26 electrical sales are currently below projections due to turbine-related issues.
- In the process of closing out invoicing with Reworld and expect to have updated Plant Management figures by the next meeting.

## Pinellas County Updates

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update:
  - The last meeting was held on January 14. Zack Farr of Biotech Applied Research presented on biochar technologies.
  - The State reported that a battery EPR proposal is going through legislation. FDEP has not yet been requested to prepare a bill analysis.
  - Keep Pinellas Beautiful’s annual awards luncheon is scheduled for February 12, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Coliseum in St. Petersburg.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. David Lazarus and Brian Donnelly from Publix will be presenting.

Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- At the last TMC meeting, there was an inquiry about establishing a live camera feed at the Solid Waste Disposal Complex to view vehicle lines entering the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility and the landfill. Initial research indicates it may be feasible; however, additional evaluation is needed to determine how the system could be configured to remain separate from County networks and maintain appropriate security measures. A possible camera location would be the roundabout area, which would provide visibility of the WTE ramp and Citizen Hand Unload Area. No timeline has been established at this time, but staff will continue to explore the option and provide updates as more information becomes available.

Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- The SWANA Florida Chapter conference will take place next week in Ft. Myers. He and several staff members will be attending.

## Presentation of Rate Study

Thierry Boveri and Sarah Neely, Raftelis

- Thierry presented the updated 30-year rate model, which includes anticipated rate adjustments, projected costs and revenues, capital improvement projects, and inflation assumptions. (See Attachment 1.) Based on this analysis, they recommend continuing the 8% tipping fee increase for FY2027, representing the second year of the three-year increase previously approved by the Board.

## Financial Review and Proposed Tipping Fee Discussion

- Chairman Joseph called for a motion to support the recommendation to continue the 8% tipping fee increase for FY2027. **A motion was made by Kervin St. Aimie and seconded by Brian Peckins.**
- A roll call vote of TMC members was conducted with the following results:
  - Group ‘A’ Cities – Yes
  - Group ‘B’ Cities – Yes

Group 'C' Cities – no representative in attendance  
City of Clearwater – Yes  
City of Dunedin – Yes  
City of Largo – Yes  
City of Pinellas Park – no representative in attendance  
City of St. Pete Beach – Yes  
City of St. Petersburg (1) – No  
City of St. Petersburg (2) – No  
City of Tarpon Springs – no representative in attendance  
Pinellas County – Yes  
Pinellas County, Private Sector – Yes

**The motion passed by a vote of 8:2, approving the recommendation to continue with the 8% increase for FY2027.**

- Paul Sacco will draft the written recommendation for Chairman Joseph to submit to the County Administrator for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

### **Additional Items for Discussion**

- No additional items were presented for discussion.

**Chairman Joseph called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Catherine Eichner and seconded by Renee Cooper. Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.**

**The next TMC meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304, 13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North, Clearwater 33760.**

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary

# SOLID WASTE FINANCIAL FORECAST AND RATE STUDY UPDATE

PRESENTATION TO THE TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

JANUARY 28, 2026



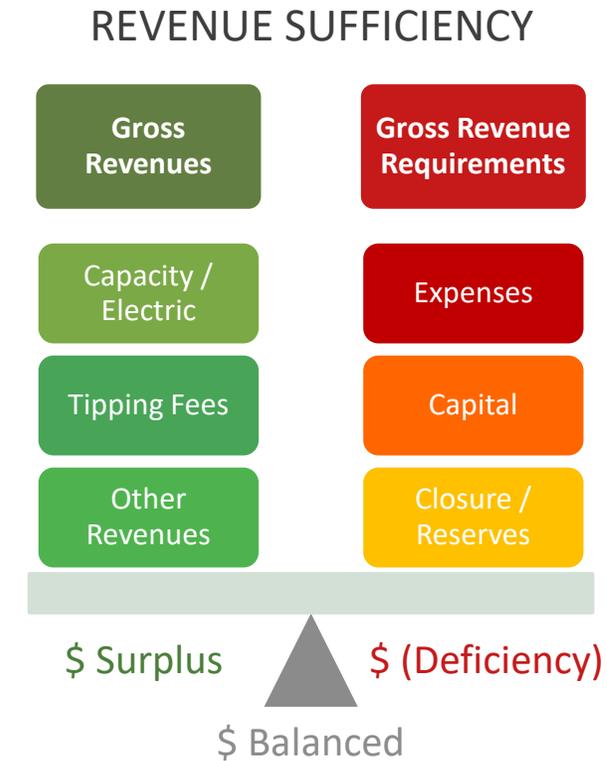
Presentation by:  
 RAFTELIS

# AGENDA

- 1. Scope and Methodology
- 2. Key Changes Since Last Study
- 3. Key Assumptions
- 4. Findings and Recommendations

# 1. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

- Scope
  - Raftelis tasked to update 30-Year financial forecast model
  - Present findings to Staff and Technical Management Committee (TMC) members
- Methodology
  - Data driven process
  - Examined contractual arrangements
  - Establish financial targets / parameters
  - Trends → assumptions → forecasts
  - Revenue sufficiency and rate adjustments
  - Rate phasing



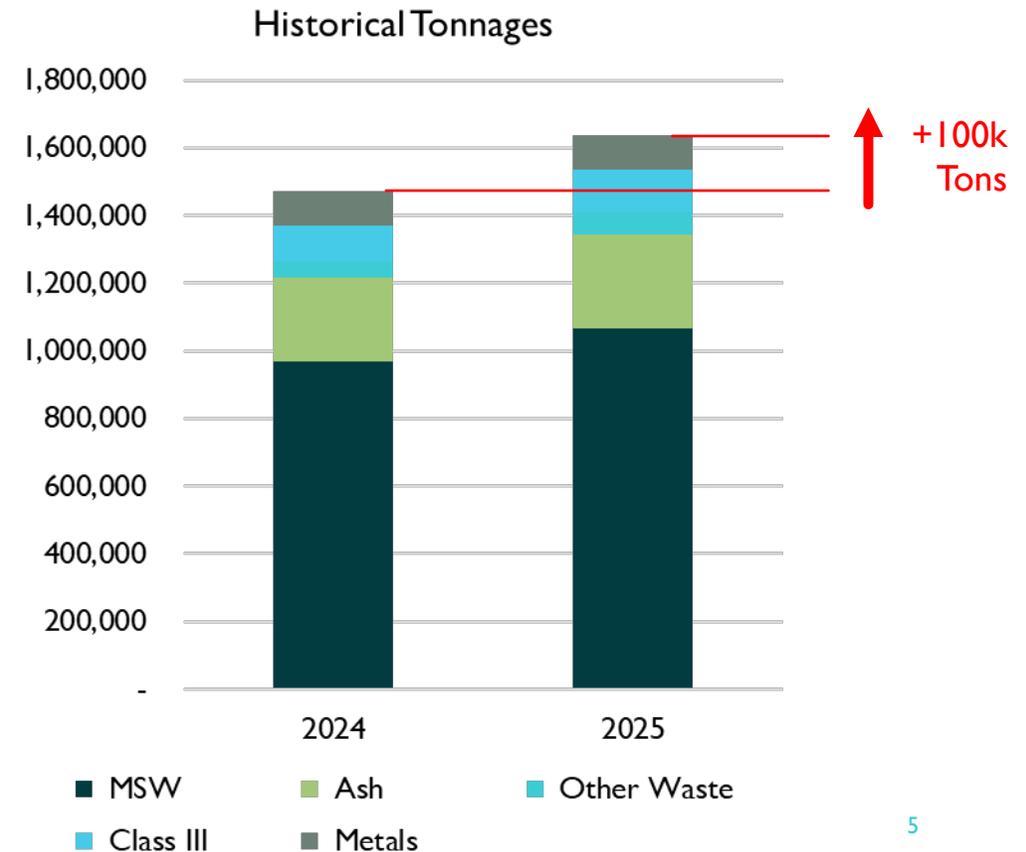
## 2. KEY CHANGES SINCE PRIOR STUDY

- Higher Tonnages due to Storms, but Assumed to Regress Back to Normal Over Next Two Years
- Realized reduced Contract Rates with new WTE contractor, but Actual Costs Slightly Greater than Prior Rate Plan
- Assuming Higher Investment Income
- No Significant Change in Capital Costs Since Last Study
- Slightly Lowered Out Year Rate Increases & Breakeven by FY38



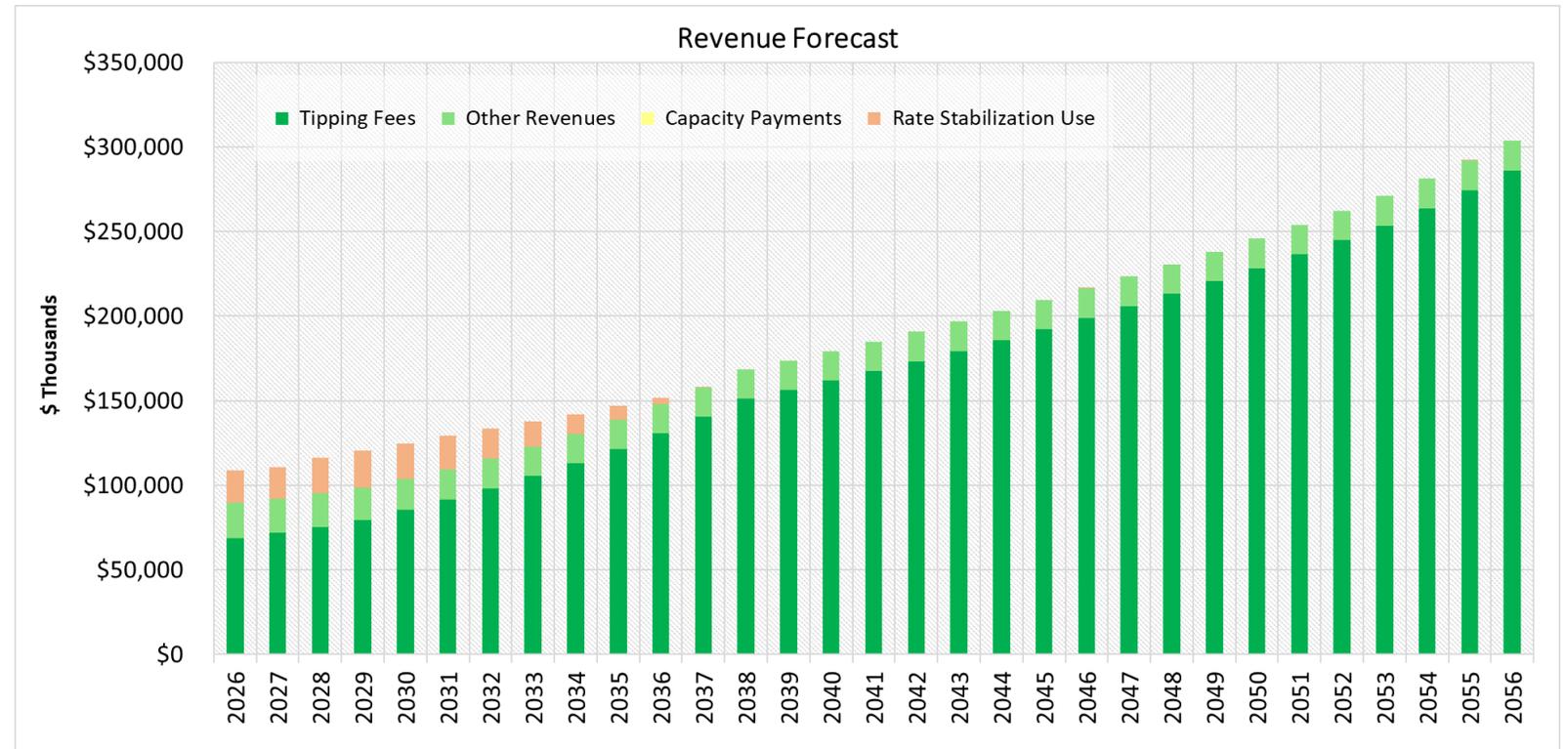
### 3. KEY ASSUMPTIONS - TONNAGE COMPOSITION AND GROWTH

- County typically processes approximately 1.5 million tons a year
  - FY25 Processed +1.6 million tons
  - Inbound waste = typically 1.1 million tons per year
    - Municipal solid waste (MSW), class III (yard waste, construction debris), tires, etc.
  - Processed by-products = 0.3 million tons per year
    - Ash, recovered metals, etc.



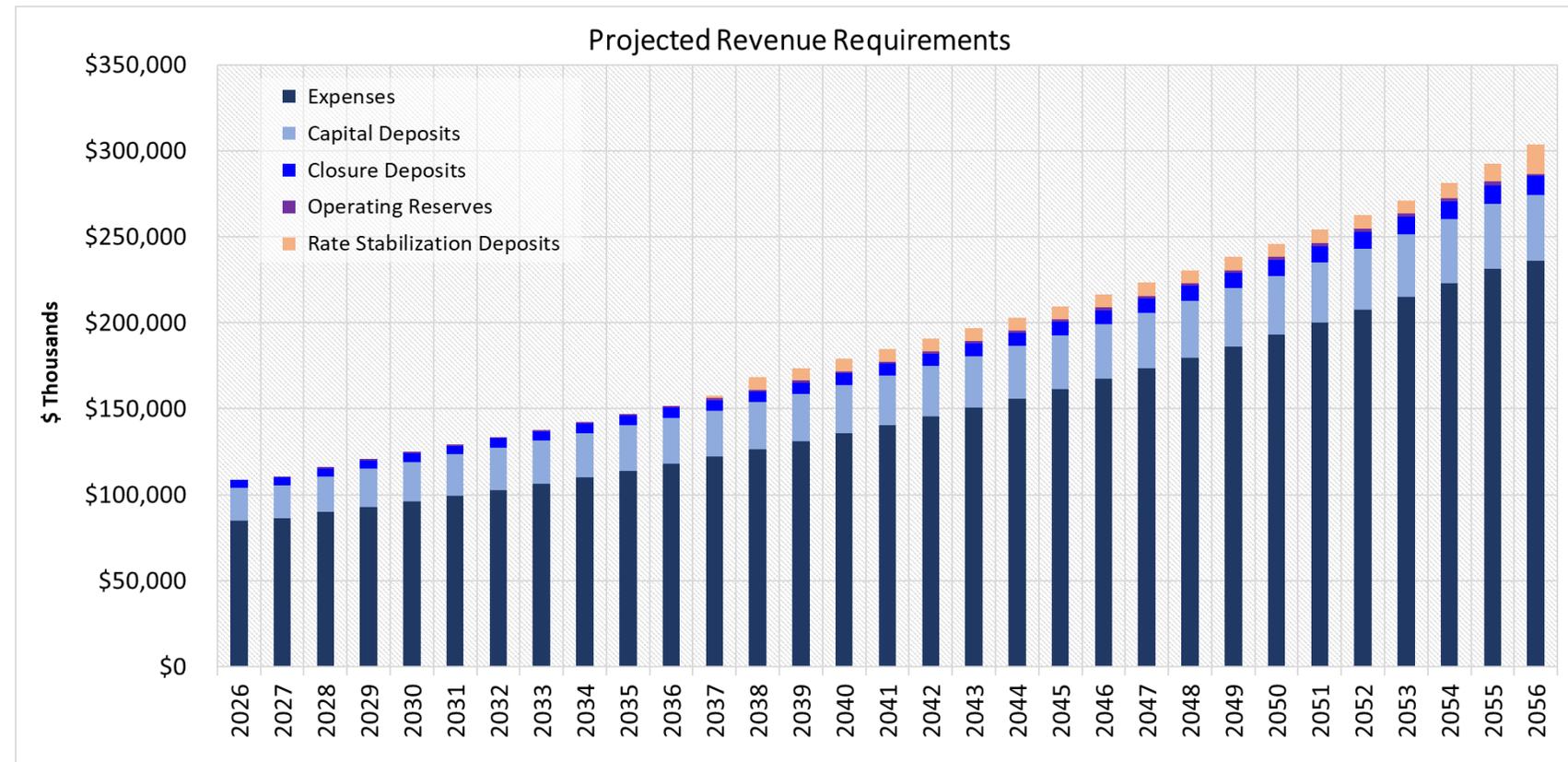
# KEY ASSUMPTIONS - REVENUES

- Tipping fees
    - Increases Consistent with Prior Years Forecasts
  - FY25 Last Capacity Payment
  - Electricity sales
  - Metal recovery
  - Interest income
- } Other Revenues



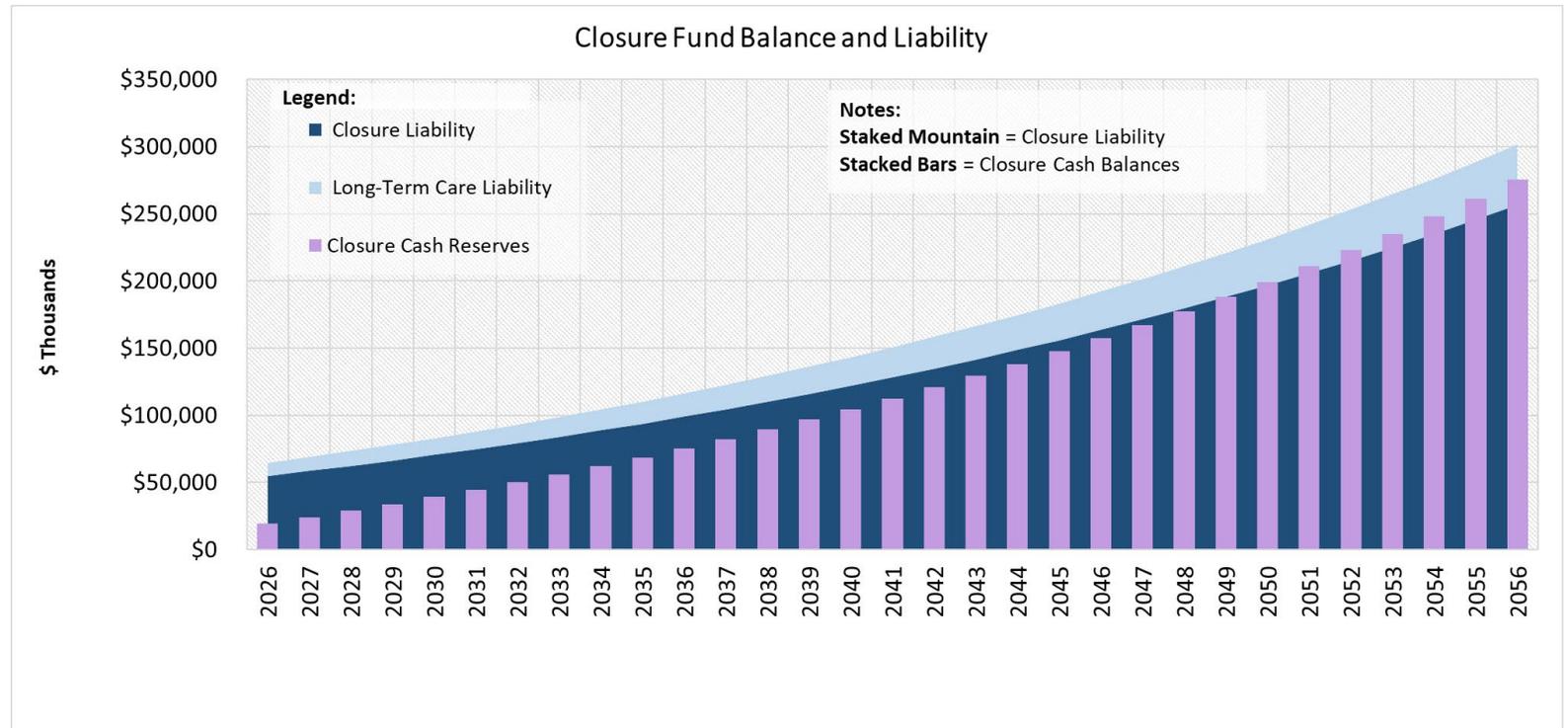
# KEY ASSUMPTIONS – PROJECTED REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

- Assumes New FCC Contract
- Average Annual Expense Growth at ~3.5%



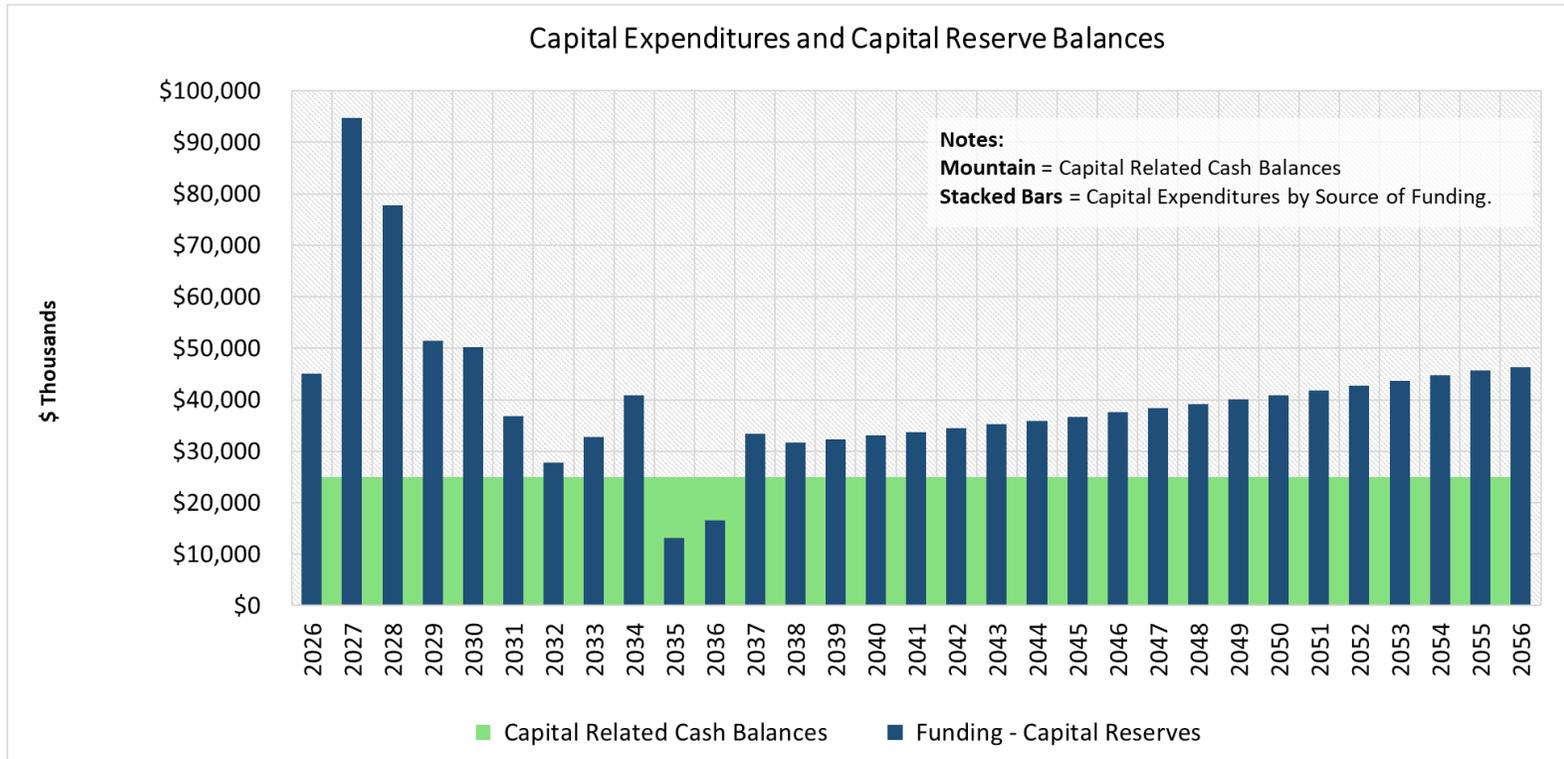
# KEY ASSUMPTIONS - CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE

- Plan to Fund Liability Over Time
  - Financial Test for financial assurance compliance
- Does not yet reflect increase elevation
- Target: Fund closure liability only
- Slope closures included in Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)



# KEY ASSUMPTIONS - CAPITAL

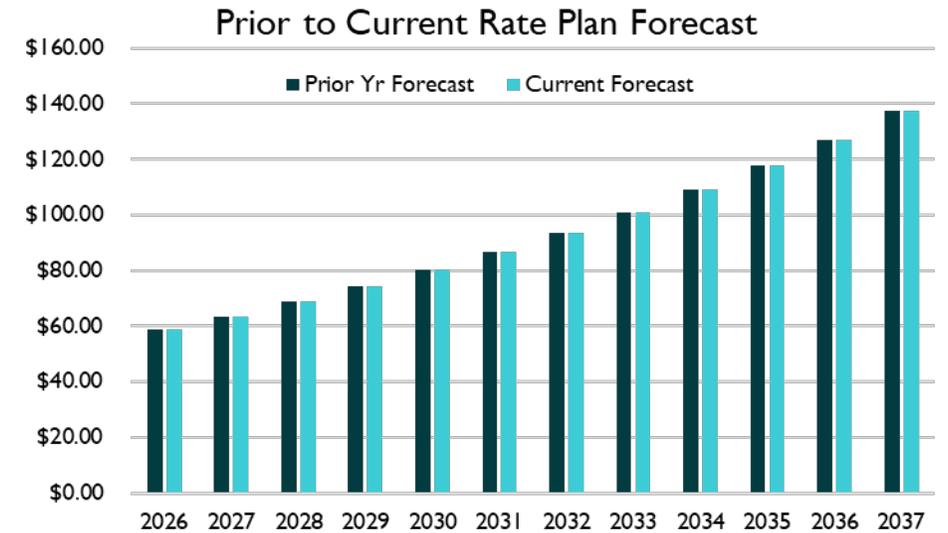
- Proposed CIP FY26-37 = \$479.1M
- Top six projects \$397m or 82% of Total:
  - WTE R&R / several projects = \$265m
  - Bulky Waste Processing = \$63m
  - Landfill Improvements = \$22.2m
  - Solar and Net Metering = \$18.8m
  - Enhanced Metals Recovery = \$20m\*
  - Landfill Side Slope Closure = \$8m
- Assumed depreciation as proxy for capital needs after 2037
  - \$29.4 million annually escalated for inflation



\*shared 50/50 with FCC

# FINDINGS

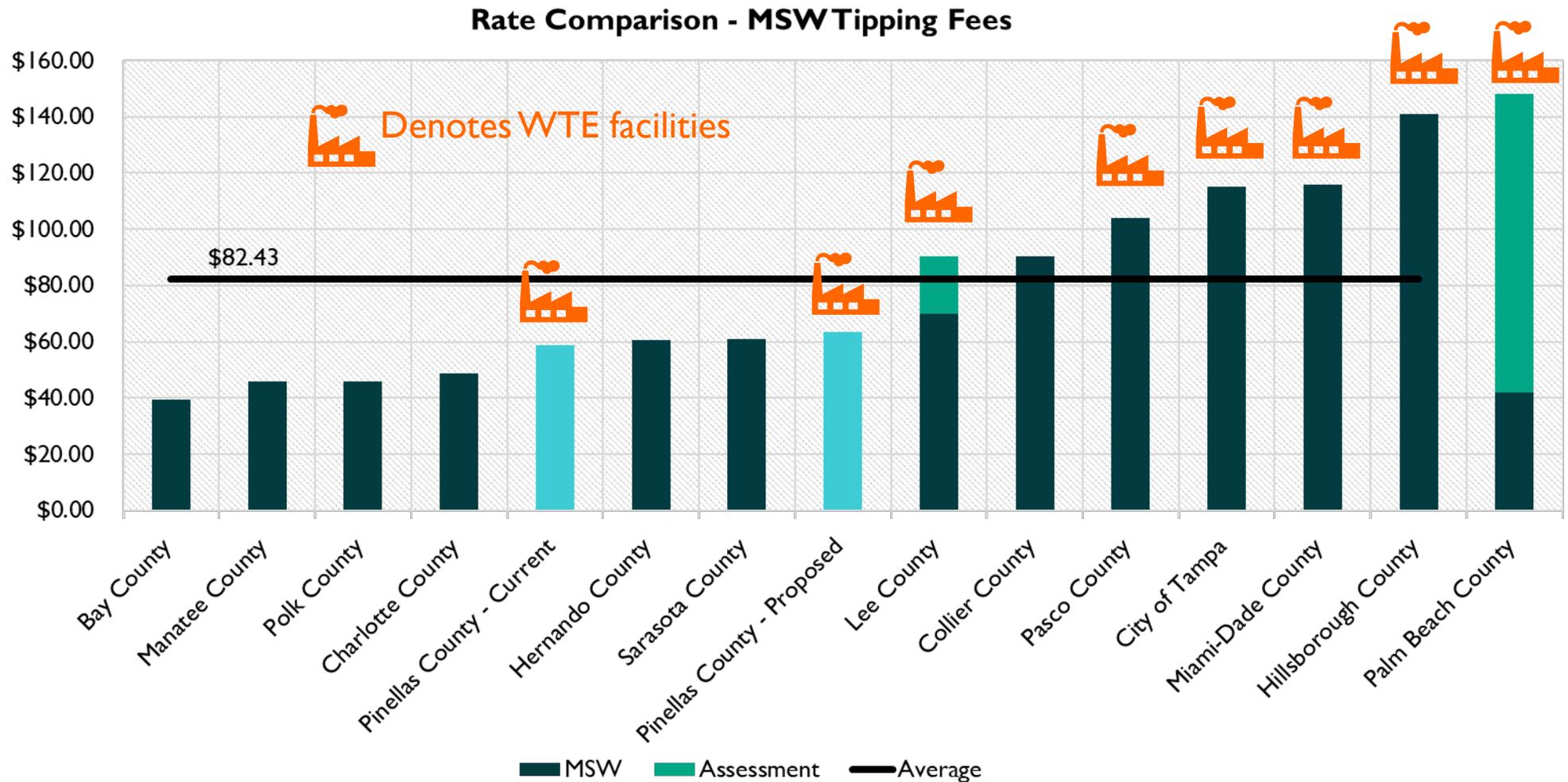
- Findings and Recommendations:
  - Keep with Adopted Rate Plan & Reassess Need to Raise Rates Further During Next Budget Cycle
  - Consider Raising the Tire Tip Fees to Regional Market Levels (\$210/ton)
  - The impact of the disposal cost increase to a single-family resident generating 1 ton of waste per year averages \$4.90 annually or \$0.41 a month



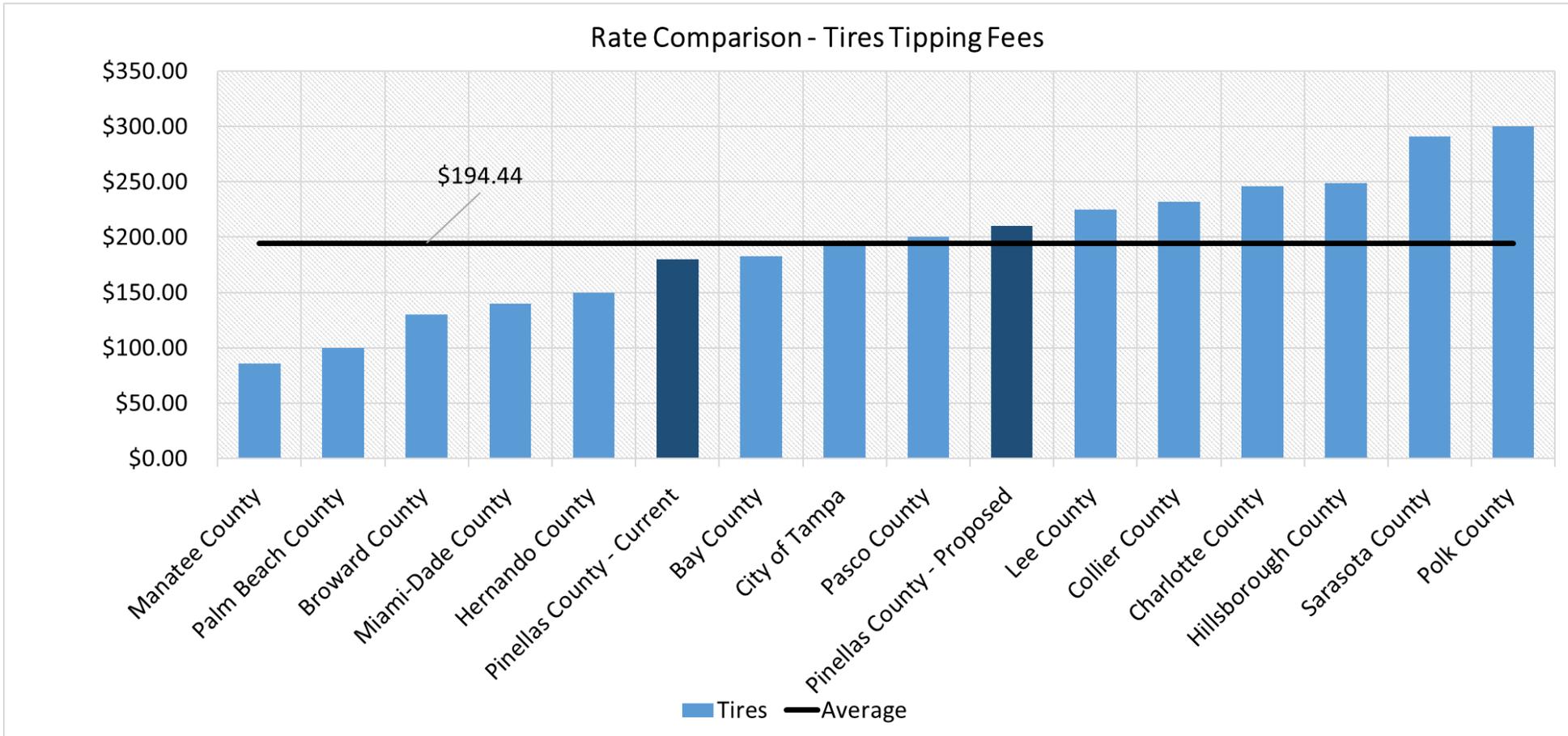
**No Rec'd Change to Prior Yrs Plan**

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
Rate Adj. (%)		8.00%	8.00%
Tip Fee (\$)	\$58.86	\$63.57	\$68.65
Change (\$)		\$4.71	\$5.08

# MSW TIPPING FEE COMPARISON



# TIRE TIP FEE COMPARISON



THANK YOU!  
DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS

