WEST VALLEY
Solid Waste Management Authority
CAMPBELL • LOS GATOS • MONTE SERENO • SARATOGA

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

The following written public comment was submitted by Jason Cheng on October 31, 2026 for the November 5, 2026 Board of Directors (Board) Meeting:

"Dear Members of the Board,

Please include this as a written public comment for the November 5, 2026 Board meeting.

I am a Campbell resident writing to ask the Authority to reinstate curbside collection of used motor oil and oil filters for single-family households in Campbell and the other member agencies.

For years, West Valley Collection & Recycling (WVC&R) offered this service at no extra charge. Residents requested free leak-proof jugs and filter bags, then set them at the curb next to their carts. WVC&R's own 2013 newsletter and its 2021 residential guide both described the program.

Since the current franchise agreement took effect in 2024, that service appears to be gone. The current single-family guide lists household batteries and kitchen cooking oil as curbside extras, but sends motor oil to a drop-off location. The June 2025 FAQ likewise points residents to auto parts stores or the WVC&R drop-off site.

Why this matters

- It keeps oil out of our creeks. Campbell's storm drains feed Los Gatos Creek and San Tomas Aquino Creek. Every barrier we add to proper disposal raises the chance that oil ends up in the trash, a storm drain, or the garage indefinitely.

- Drop-off is a real barrier. Residents must store used oil, drive it to a retailer during business hours, and work within per-visit limits. Municipal and County centers cap drop-offs are far and few. Stores routinely deny or state their oil containers are full.

- The model already exists. WVC&R already collects cooking oil curbside in a jug set beside the recycling cart. Motor oil worked the same way under the previous agreement.

- State law recognizes curbside collection. California Public Resources Code §48691 names curbside used oil collection, at least monthly, as one of the two ways a local used oil program can serve residents.

What I am asking the Board to do

1. Place reinstatement of curbside used motor oil and filter collection on a future Board agenda, and consider it as part of the FY 2027-28 budget priorities being presented on November 5, 2026.

2. Ask staff to report on why the service was not carried into the 2024 agreement, what it would cost to restore, and whether CalRecycle used oil program funds could offset that cost.

3. Until a decision is made, clearly publicize the free drop-off options in resident mailers and on the website.

Thank you for your time and for your work on the West Valley's recycling programs. I would welcome a reply on whether the Board will take this up.

Sincerely,

Jason Cheng”