

VENUTRA COUNTY EMBARKS ON A NEW ERA OF WASTE REDUCTION WITH ATHENS SERVICES

Thousand Oaks, CA (December 29, 2023) – Beginning on January 2, 2024, Athens Services will begin providing collection services to single-family and multifamily residents in portions of Ventura County. This new partnership with the County of Ventura is the culmination of a competitive bidding process that resulted in Athens being awarded an exclusive 10-year waste and recycling collection contract to service the Southeast Residential Service Area, which includes Oak Park, as well as the unincorporated areas of Moorpark and Simi Valley.



Athens was selected by the County of Ventura based on its reputation for providing exceptional service, industry-leading outreach and education initiatives, dedication to creating job opportunities and strengthening the local economy, as well as its experience helping customers and municipalities comply with the requirements of California Senate Bill (SB) 1383. Earlier this year, the cities of Santa Paula and Thousand Oaks, both serviced by Athens, became the first cities in all of Ventura County to provide citywide organics collection services.

Another key component of the County of Ventura's new partnership with Athens includes a substantial rate reduction for most residential customers. In compliance with SB 1383's waste sorting requirements, Ventura County residents will be participating in a source-separated waste and recycling program. Bundled services, consisting of dedicated containers for trash, recycling, and organics waste, will enable residents to participate in source-separation in an economical and environmentally sustainable manner.

Shortly after the New Year, Ventura County residents serviced by Athens will be provided with all new Athens-branded containers. Between January 15-30, all collection containers will be exchanged and residents will receive a black container for trash, a blue container for recycling, and a green container for organics waste. Residents will be able to continue using their existing containers before and during the transition period until all containers have been exchanged.

As part of Athens commitment to reducing environmental impact, some residents may experience a change to their existing collection schedule. Adjustments to collection days are made to help enhance route efficiency and reduce wear and tear on county roads. Updated collection days are available and can be viewed at <u>Bit.ly/AthensVCRoute</u>.

With collection services poised to begin next week, Athens would like to remind all residents that services will be delayed by one day during the week of January 1, 2024 due to the holiday. Regular collection schedules will resume the following week. Additionally, Athens will be providing holiday tree collection to Ventura County residents between January 2-13. Only real holiday trees (with stands, lights, ornaments, tree skirts, and tinsel removed) will be accepted for composting. Artificial trees and trees with flocking or fire retardants are not recyclable or compostable and will not be collected as part of holiday tree collection.

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Athens Services is a recycling and waste diversion leader in Southern California. Family-owned and operated since 1957, Athens was founded on the simple principle of providing exceptional service, by hiring and developing great people, while fostering a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment; that's The Athens Way. Today, Athens Services teams up with local communities, as well as private institutions and government agencies, as their zero waste partner.

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