

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

Form 10-Q

October 19, 2011

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011**

**Or**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number 1-31507**

**WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**

*(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)*

**94-3283464**

*(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)*

**2295 Iron Point Road, Suite 200, Folsom, CA 95630**

*(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)*

**(916) 608-8200**

*(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)*

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports); and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer       Accelerated filer       Non-accelerated filer       Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock:  
As of October 12, 2011: 111,864,677 shares of common stock



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## PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 36,560	\$ 9,873
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$5,215 and \$5,084 at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively	185,037	152,156
Deferred income taxes	18,923	20,130
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	30,438	33,402
Total current assets	270,958	215,561
Property and equipment, net	1,421,626	1,337,476
Goodwill	1,107,647	927,852
Intangible assets, net	454,475	381,475
Restricted assets	28,555	30,441
Other assets, net	28,744	23,179
	\$ 3,312,005	\$ 2,915,984
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 86,017	\$ 85,252
Book overdraft	11,459	12,396
Accrued liabilities	117,473	99,075
Deferred revenue	62,788	54,157
Current portion of long-term debt and notes payable	5,302	2,657
Total current liabilities	283,039	253,537
Long-term debt and notes payable	1,174,500	909,978
Other long-term liabilities	72,845	47,637
Deferred income taxes	381,500	334,414
Total liabilities	1,911,884	1,545,566
Commitments and contingencies (Note 15)		
Equity:		
Preferred stock: \$0.01 par value per share; 7,500,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding	1,119	1,139

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Common stock: \$0.01 par value per share; 250,000,000 and 150,000,000 shares authorized; 111,864,328 and 113,950,081 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively

Additional paid-in capital	437,096	509,218
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(3,312)	(3,095)
Retained earnings	960,671	858,887
Total Waste Connections equity	1,395,574	1,366,149
Noncontrolling interest in subsidiaries	4,547	4,269
Total equity	1,400,121	1,370,418
	\$ 3,312,005	\$ 2,915,984

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	<b>Three months ended September</b>		<b>Nine months ended September</b>	
	<b>30,</b>		<b>30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Revenues	\$ 403,962	\$ 345,785	\$ 1,125,614	\$ 983,802
Operating expenses:				
Cost of operations	228,561	193,638	637,499	557,974
Selling, general and administrative	41,047	38,455	121,054	110,465
Depreciation	38,868	34,441	108,843	99,349
Amortization of intangibles	5,138	3,616	14,788	10,800
Loss (gain) on disposal of assets	1,034	(50)	742	572
 Operating income	 89,314	 75,685	 242,688	 204,642
Interest expense	(12,029)	(9,419)	(31,948)	(30,842)
Interest income	132	135	408	453
Loss on extinguishment of debt				(10,193)
Other income (expense), net	(899)	1,500	(750)	1,970
 Income before income tax provision	 76,518	 67,901	 210,398	 166,030
Income tax provision	(29,934)	(26,644)	(82,415)	(66,323)
 Net income	 46,584	 41,257	 127,983	 99,707
Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(255)	(271)	(702)	(748)
 Net income attributable to Waste Connections	 \$ 46,329	 \$ 40,986	 \$ 127,281	 \$ 98,959
 Earnings per common share attributable to Waste Connections common stockholders:				
Basic	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.35	\$ 1.13	\$ 0.85
Diluted	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.35	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.84
 Shares used in the per share calculations:				
Basic	112,327,410	115,594,327	113,130,314	116,129,247
Diluted	113,192,884	116,778,853	113,979,165	117,421,698
 Cash dividends per common share	 \$ 0.075	 \$	 \$ 0.225	 \$



The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011  
(Unaudited)  
(In thousands, except share amounts)

	Comprehensive Income	Common Stock Shares	Waste Connections Equity Accumulated Additional Paid-In Capital	Equity Other Comprehensive Loss	Retained Earnings	Noncontrolling Interests	Total	
								Amount
<b>Balances at December 31, 2010</b>		113,950,081	\$ 1,139	\$ 509,218	\$ (3,095)	\$ 858,887	\$ 4,269	\$ 1,370,418
Vesting of restricted stock units		538,878	5	(5)				
Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units		(184,478)	(1)	(5,435)				(5,436)
Equity-based compensation				8,906				8,906
Exercise of stock options and warrants		383,082	4	4,952				4,956
Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation				4,500				4,500
Repurchase of common stock		(2,823,235)	(28)	(85,040)				(85,068)
Cash dividends on common stock						(25,497)		(25,497)
Amounts reclassified into earnings, net of taxes					900			900
Changes in fair value of swaps, net of taxes					(1,117)			(1,117)
Distributions to noncontrolling interests						(675)		(675)
						251		251

Fair value of noncontrolling interest associated with business acquired								
Net income	\$ 127,983			127,281	702			127,983
Other comprehensive loss	(350)							
Income tax effect of other comprehensive loss	133							
Comprehensive income	127,766							
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(702)							
Comprehensive income attributable to Waste Connections	\$ 127,064							

**Balances at September 30, 2011**

111,864,328 \$ 1,119 \$ 437,096 \$ (3,312) \$ 960,671 \$ 4,547 \$ 1,400,121

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010  
(Unaudited)  
(In thousands, except share amounts)

	Comprehensive Income	Waste Connections		Equity		Retained Earnings	Noncontrolling Interests	Total
		Common Shares	Stock Amount	Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss			
<b>Balances at December 31, 2009</b>		117,898,624	\$ 786	\$ 625,173	\$ (4,892)	\$ 732,738	\$ 3,231	\$ 1,357,036
Vesting of restricted stock units		505,808	3	(3)				
Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units		(173,583)	(1)	(3,723)				(3,724)
Equity-based compensation				8,488				8,488
Exercise of stock options and warrants		1,893,913	12	23,232				23,244
Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation				8,935				8,935
Repurchase of common stock		(5,020,666)	(33)	(116,252)				(116,285)
Reacquisition of equity component resulting from conversion of 2026 Convertible Senior Notes				(2,295)				(2,295)
Issuance of shares in connection with conversion of 2026 Convertible Senior Notes		32,859						
Amounts reclassified into					6,308			6,308

earnings, net of taxes							
Changes in fair value of swaps, net of taxes		(8,530)					(8,530)
Net income	\$ 99,707			98,959	748		99,707
Other comprehensive loss	(3,610)						
Income tax effect of other comprehensive loss	1,388						
Comprehensive income	97,485						
Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(748)						
Comprehensive income attributable to Waste Connections	\$ 96,737						

**Balances at September 30, 2010**

115,136,955 \$ 767 \$ 543,555 \$ (7,114) \$ 831,697 \$ 3,979 \$ 1,372,884

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Unaudited)  
(In thousands)

	<b>Nine months ended September</b>	
	<b>30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 127,983	\$ 99,707
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Loss on disposal of assets	742	572
Depreciation	108,843	99,349
Amortization of intangibles	14,788	10,800
Deferred income taxes, net of acquisitions	36,960	15,925
Loss on redemption of 2026 Convertible Senior Notes, net of make-whole payment		2,255
Amortization of debt issuance costs	1,005	1,332
Amortization of debt discount		1,245
Equity-based compensation	8,906	8,488
Interest income on restricted assets	(355)	(397)
Closure and post-closure accretion	1,451	1,323
Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation	(4,500)	(8,935)
Net change in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions	1,901	14,358
Net cash provided by operating activities	297,724	246,022
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Payments for acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(247,962)	(17,391)
Capital expenditures for property and equipment	(84,051)	(86,121)
Proceeds from disposal of assets	3,238	5,786
Decrease (increase) in restricted assets, net of interest income	2,241	(1,048)
Increase in other assets	(1,706)	(2,034)
Net cash used in investing activities	(328,240)	(100,808)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from long-term debt	515,500	331,253
Principal payments on notes payable and long-term debt	(343,726)	(384,346)
Change in book overdraft	(937)	(374)
Proceeds from option and warrant exercises	4,956	23,244
Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation	4,500	8,935
Payments for repurchase of common stock	(85,068)	(116,285)
Payments for cash dividends	(25,497)	
Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units	(5,436)	(3,724)
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	(675)	

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Debt issuance costs	(6,414)	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	57,203	(141,297)
Net increase in cash and equivalents	26,687	3,917
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	9,873	9,639
Cash and equivalents at end of period	\$ 36,560	\$ 13,556

Non-cash financing activity:

Liabilities assumed and notes payable issued to sellers of businesses acquired	\$ 144,386	\$ 13,243
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

(Dollar amounts in thousands, except share, per share, per gallon, tonnage and per ton amounts)

**1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SUMMARY**

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements relate to Waste Connections, Inc. and its subsidiaries ( WCI or the Company ) for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010. In the opinion of management, the accompanying balance sheets and related interim statements of income, cash flows and equity and comprehensive income include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring items, necessary for their fair presentation in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ). Preparing financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Examples include accounting for landfills, self-insurance, income taxes, allocation of acquisition purchase price and asset impairments. An additional area that involves estimation is when the Company estimates the amount of potential exposure it may have with respect to litigation, claims and assessments in accordance with the accounting guidance on contingencies. Actual results for all estimates could differ materially from the estimates and assumptions that the Company uses in the preparation of its condensed consolidated financial statements.

Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. The information included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q should be read in conjunction with Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

**2. RECLASSIFICATION**

Certain amounts reported in the Company s prior period s financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the 2011 presentation.

**3. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

**Fair Value Measurement.** In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued additional guidance on fair value disclosures. This guidance contains certain updates to the measurement guidance as well as enhanced disclosure requirements. The most significant change in disclosures is an expansion of the information required for Level 3 measurements including enhanced disclosure for: (1) the valuation processes used by the reporting entity; and (2) the sensitivity of the fair value measurement to changes in unobservable inputs and the interrelationships between those unobservable inputs, if any. This guidance is effective for interim and annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2011, with early adoption prohibited. This guidance will only impact the Company s Level 3 disclosures.

**Presentation of Comprehensive Income.** In September 2011, the FASB issued guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income. This guidance eliminates the current option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of changes in equity. The guidance allows two presentation alternatives: (1) present items of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement, referred to as the statement of comprehensive income; or (2) in two separate, but consecutive, statements of net income and other comprehensive income. This guidance is effective as of the beginning of a fiscal year that begins after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is permitted, but full retrospective application is required under both sets of accounting standards. Upon adoption, the Company will elect to present items of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement, the statement of comprehensive income.

**Multiemployer Pension Plans.** In September 2011, the FASB issued guidance requiring companies to provide additional disclosures related to multiemployer pension plans. The disclosures are required to be made on an annual basis for all individually material plans. Retrospective application of the disclosures is required. This guidance is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2011, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on its multiemployer plan disclosures.





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**Goodwill Impairment.** In September 2011, the FASB issued guidance on testing goodwill for impairment. The guidance provides entities an option to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether further impairment testing is necessary. This guidance is effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011. However, an entity can choose to early adopt, provided that the entity has not yet performed its 2011 annual impairment test or issued its financial statements. The Company has elected to early adopt the guidance and will perform a qualitative assessment when it performs its goodwill impairment test in the fourth quarter of 2011.

#### 4. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company's financial instruments consist primarily of cash and equivalents, trade receivables, restricted assets, trade payables, debt instruments, interest rate swaps and fuel hedges. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the carrying values of cash and equivalents, trade receivables, restricted assets, and trade payables are considered to be representative of their respective fair values. The carrying values of the Company's debt instruments, excluding certain notes as listed in the table below, approximate their fair values as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, based on current borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements. The carrying values and fair values of the Company's debt instruments where the carrying values do not approximate their fair values as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, are as follows:

	Carrying Value at		Fair Value* at	
	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
6.22% Senior Notes due 2015	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 200,517	\$ 198,300
3.30% Senior Notes due 2016	\$ 100,000	\$	\$ 101,890	\$
4.00% Senior Notes due 2018	\$ 50,000	\$	\$ 53,386	\$
5.25% Senior Notes due 2019	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 198,905	\$ 191,316
4.64% Senior Notes due 2021	\$ 100,000	\$	\$ 107,007	\$

\* Fair value based on quotes of bonds with similar ratings in similar industries

For details on the fair value of the Company's interest rate swaps and fuel hedges, refer to Note 12.

#### 5. LANDFILL ACCOUNTING

At September 30, 2011, the Company owned 35 landfills, and operated, but did not own, five landfills under life-of-site operating agreements and five landfills under limited-term operating agreements. The Company's landfills had site costs with a net book value of \$802,855 at September 30, 2011. With the exception of two owned landfills that only accept construction and demolition and other non-putrescible waste, all landfills that the Company owns or operates are municipal solid waste landfills. For the Company's landfills operated under limited-term operating agreements and life-of-site operating agreements, the owner of the property (generally a municipality) usually owns the permit and the Company operates the landfill for a contracted term. Where the contracted term is not the life of the landfill, the property owner is generally responsible for final capping, closure and post-closure obligations. The Company is responsible for all final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities at four of the five landfills that it operates under life-of-site operating agreements.

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The Company's internal and third-party engineers perform surveys at least annually to estimate the remaining disposal capacity at its landfills. Many of the Company's existing landfills have the potential for expanded disposal capacity beyond the amount currently permitted. The Company's landfill depletion rates are based on the remaining disposal capacity, considering both permitted and probable expansion airspace, at the landfills it owns, and certain landfills it operates, but does not own, under life-of-site agreements. Expansion airspace consists of additional disposal capacity being pursued through means of an expansion that is not actually permitted. Expansion airspace that meets certain criteria is included in the estimate of total landfill airspace. The Company's landfill depletion rates are based on the terms of the operating agreements at its operated landfills that have capitalized expenditures.

Based on remaining permitted capacity as of September 30, 2011, and projected annual disposal volumes, the average remaining landfill life for the Company's owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements is estimated to be approximately 38 years. As of September 30, 2011, the Company is seeking to expand permitted capacity at seven of its owned landfills and two landfills that it operates under life-of-site operating agreements, and considers the achievement of these expansions to be probable. Although the Company cannot be certain that all future expansions will be permitted as designed, the average remaining life, when considering remaining permitted capacity, probable expansion capacity and projected annual disposal volume, of the Company's owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements is 48 years, with lives ranging from 1 to 189 years.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the Company expensed \$31,712 and \$29,621, respectively, or an average of \$2.94 and \$3.00 per ton consumed, respectively, related to landfill depletion at owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site agreements.

The Company reserves for final capping, closure and post-closure maintenance obligations at the landfills it owns and landfills it operates under life-of-site operating agreements. The Company calculates the net present value of its final capping, closure and post-closure commitments by estimating the total obligation in current dollars, inflating the obligation based upon the expected date of the expenditure and discounting the inflated total to its present value using a credit-adjusted risk-free rate. Any changes in expectations that result in an upward revision to the estimated undiscounted cash flows are treated as a new liability and are inflated and discounted at rates reflecting current market conditions. Any changes in expectations that result in a downward revision (or no revision) to the estimated undiscounted cash flows result in a liability that is inflated and discounted at rates reflecting the market conditions at the time the cash flows were originally estimated. This policy results in the Company's final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities being recorded in layers. At January 1, 2011, the Company decreased its discount rate assumption for purposes of computing 2011 layers for final capping, closure and post-closure obligations from 6.5% to 5.75%, in order to reflect the Company's long-term cost of borrowing as of the end of 2010. The Company's inflation rate assumption is 2.5% for the years ending December 31, 2011 and 2010. The resulting final capping, closure and post-closure obligations are recorded on the balance sheet along with an offsetting addition to site costs which is amortized to depletion expense as the landfills' airspace is consumed. Interest is accreted on the recorded liability using the corresponding discount rate. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the Company expensed \$1,451 and \$1,323, respectively, or an average of \$0.13 per ton consumed in each period, respectively, related to final capping, closure and post-closure accretion expense.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

(Dollar amounts in thousands, except share, per share, per gallon, tonnage and per ton amounts)

The following is a reconciliation of the Company's final capping, closure and post-closure liability balance from December 31, 2010 to September 30, 2011:

Final capping, closure and post-closure liability at December 31, 2010	\$ 28,537
Adjustments to final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities	(1,160)
Liabilities incurred	1,544
Accretion expense	1,451
Closure payments	(2,055)
Assumption of closure liabilities from acquisitions	1,429
Final capping, closure and post-closure liability at September 30, 2011	\$ 29,746

The adjustments to final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities primarily consisted of an increase in estimated airspace at one of the Company's landfills at which an expansion is being pursued. The Company performs its annual review of its cost and capacity estimates in the first quarter of each year.

At September 30, 2011, \$26,206 of the Company's restricted assets balance was for purposes of securing its performance of future final capping, closure and post-closure obligations.

**6. LONG-TERM DEBT**

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	<b>September 30, 2011</b>	<b>December 31, 2010</b>
Revolver under credit facility, bearing interest ranging from 0.81% to 3.65%*	\$ 519,000	\$ 511,000
2015 Notes, bearing interest at 6.22%	175,000	175,000
2016 Notes, bearing interest at 3.30%	100,000	
2018 Notes, bearing interest at 4.00%	50,000	
2019 Notes, bearing interest at 5.25%	175,000	175,000
2021 Notes, bearing interest at 4.64%	100,000	
Tax-exempt bonds, bearing interest ranging from 0.08% to 0.42%*	38,460	39,420
Notes payable to sellers in connection with acquisitions, bearing interest at 2.50% to 10.35%*	19,446	9,159
Notes payable to third parties, bearing interest at 6.7% to 10.9%*	2,896	3,056
	1,179,802	912,635
Less current portion	(5,302)	(2,657)
	\$ 1,174,500	\$ 909,978

\* Interest rates in the table above represent the range of interest rates incurred during the nine month period ended September 30, 2011.



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NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

(Dollar amounts in thousands, except share, per share, per gallon, tonnage and per ton amounts)

On April 1, 2011, the Company entered into a Second Supplement to Master Note Purchase Agreement with certain accredited institutional investors (the Second Supplement), pursuant to which the Company issued and sold to the investors on that date \$250,000 of senior uncollateralized notes at fixed interest rates with interest payable in arrears semi-annually on October 1 and April 1 beginning on October 1, 2011 in a private placement. Of these notes, \$100,000 will mature on April 1, 2016 with an annual interest rate of 3.30% (the 2016 Notes), \$50,000 will mature on April 1, 2018 with an annual interest rate of 4.00% (the 2018 Notes), and \$100,000 will mature on April 1, 2021 with an annual interest rate of 4.64% (the 2021 Notes). The 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes are uncollateralized obligations and rank equally in right of payment with the 2015 Notes, the 2019 Notes and obligations under the Company's credit agreement. The 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes are subject to representations, warranties, covenants and events of default. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, payment of the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes may be accelerated by the holders of the respective notes. The 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes may also be prepaid by the Company at any time at par plus a make-whole amount determined in respect of the remaining scheduled interest payments on the respective notes, using a discount rate of the then current market standard for United States treasury bills plus 0.50%. In addition, the Company will be required to offer to prepay the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes upon certain changes in control.

The Company may issue additional series of senior uncollateralized notes pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Master Note Agreement, provided that the purchasers of the outstanding notes, including the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes, shall not have any obligation to purchase any additional notes issued pursuant to the Master Note Agreement and the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes and any additional notes issued pursuant to the Master Note Agreement shall not exceed \$750,000. The Company currently has \$600,000 of Notes outstanding under the Master Note Agreement.

The Company used the proceeds from the sale of the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes, and 2021 Notes to fund a portion of the purchase price for the County Waste acquisition, which is described in Note 7.

On July 11, 2011, the Company and certain of its subsidiaries entered into an Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the credit agreement) with Bank of America, N.A. and the other banks and lending institutions party thereto, as lenders, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as co-syndication agents.

The Company's credit agreement is comprised of a \$1,200,000 revolving credit facility (the credit facility) which matures on July 11, 2016. The Company has the ability under the credit agreement to increase commitments under the revolving credit facility from \$1,200,000 to \$1,500,000, subject to conditions including that no default, as defined in the credit agreement, has occurred, although no existing lender has any obligation to increase its commitment. The Company used proceeds from the credit agreement in order to refinance its previous \$845,000 credit facility, which had a maturity of September 27, 2012.

Under the credit agreement, there is no maximum amount of standby letters of credit that can be issued; however, the issuance of standby letters of credit reduces the amount of total borrowings available. The credit agreement requires the Company to pay a commitment fee ranging from 0.200% per annum to 0.350% per annum of the unused portion of the facility. The borrowings under the credit agreement bear interest, at the Company's option, at either the base rate plus the applicable base rate margin on base rate loans, or the LIBOR rate plus the applicable LIBOR margin on LIBOR loans. The base rate for any day is a fluctuating rate per annum equal to the highest of: (1) the federal funds rate plus one half of one percent (0.500%); (2) the LIBOR rate plus one percent (1.000%), and (3) the rate of interest in effect for such day as publicly announced from time to time by Bank of America as its prime rate. The LIBOR rate is determined by the administrative agent pursuant to a formula in the credit agreement. The applicable margins under the credit agreement vary depending on the Company's leverage ratio, as defined in the credit agreement, and range from 1.150% per annum to 2.000% per annum for LIBOR loans and 0.150% per annum to 1.000% per annum for base rate loans. The interest rate applicable under the credit agreement is currently the LIBOR rate plus 1.400% per annum,

a 0.775% per annum increase in the corresponding interest rate under the Company's previous credit facility. The borrowings under the credit agreement are not collateralized.

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The credit agreement contains representations and warranties and places certain business, financial and operating restrictions on the Company relating to, among other things, indebtedness, liens and other encumbrances, investments, mergers and acquisitions, asset sales, sale and leaseback transactions, and dividends, distributions and redemptions of capital stock. The credit agreement requires that the Company maintain specified financial ratios. The Company expects to use the credit agreement for acquisitions, capital expenditures, working capital, standby letters of credit and general corporate purposes.

**7. ACQUISITIONS**

On April 1, 2011, the Company completed the acquisition of a 100% interest in Hudson Valley Waste Holding, Inc., and its wholly-owned subsidiary, County Waste and Recycling Service, Inc. (collectively, County Waste ). As part of this acquisition, the Company acquired a 50% interest in Russell Sweepers, LLC, a provider of sweeper services, resulting in a 50% noncontrolling interest that was recognized at fair value on the purchase date. The operations include six collection operations, three transfer stations and one recycling facility across six markets: Orange County, New York; Greater Albany, New York; Springfield, Massachusetts; Fulton County, New York; Warrant and Washington Counties, New York; and Greene, Columbia and Ulster Counties, New York. The Company paid \$299,000 for the purchased operations plus amounts paid for the purchase of accounts receivable and other prepaid assets and estimated working capital, which amounts are subject to post-closing adjustments. No other consideration, including contingent consideration, was transferred by the Company to acquire these operations. Total revenues for the six months ended September 30, 2011, generated from the County Waste operations and included within consolidated revenues were \$63,693. Total pre-tax earnings for the six months ended September 30, 2011, generated from the County Waste operations and included within consolidated income before income taxes were \$5,917.

In August 2011, the Company's subsidiary, Capital Region Landfills, Inc. ( CRL ), entered into an agreement with the Town of Colonie, a municipal corporation of the state of New York, to operate a municipal solid waste disposal facility (the Colonie Landfill ) for an initial term of 25 years. The agreement became effective on September 19, 2011. As consideration for operating equipment and the right to operate the Colonie Landfill, CRL remitted an initial payment of \$23,860. CRL is also required to remit up to \$55,470 of additional consideration over the term of the agreement, comprised of \$11,500 payable over a five-year period ending September 2016 and up to \$43,970 payable over the term of the agreement if certain expansion criteria are met and certain annual tonnage targets are exceeded as specified in the operating agreement. CRL is also responsible for all final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities and estimates the total obligation in current dollars to be \$21,287, the net present value of which is \$1,429. This obligation was recorded in Other long-term liabilities and is provisional pending final completion of the calculations of the amounts and timing of capping, closure and post-closure payments. CRL computed the present value of the additional consideration using a probability-weighted discounted cash flow methodology, resulting in a total obligation recognized at the effective date of \$32,928, which consisted of \$10,656 recorded as Notes issued to sellers and \$22,272 recorded as contingent consideration in Other long-term liabilities. Any changes in the fair value of the contingent consideration subsequent to the acquisition date will be charged or credited to income until the contingency is settled.

In addition to the County Waste acquisition and Colonie Landfill transaction, the Company acquired seven individually immaterial non-hazardous solid waste collection businesses during the nine months ended September 30, 2011. During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, the Company acquired 13 individually immaterial non-hazardous solid waste collection, disposal and recycling businesses.



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In August 2011, the Company announced that it has entered into agreements to acquire the operations of Alaska Pacific Environmental Services Anchorage, LLC and Alaska Green Waste Solutions, LLC (together, Alaska Waste ). Alaska Waste provides solid waste collection, recycling and composting services in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, Fairbanks, the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island. The Company expects the total purchase price to be between \$115,000 and \$125,000 for the Alaska Waste acquisition. The transaction remains subject to closing conditions, including regulatory approval and receipt of certain governmental consents. The acquisition is expected to close in the first quarter of 2012.

The acquisitions completed during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, were not material to the Company's results of operations, either individually or in the aggregate. As a result, pro forma financial information has not been provided. The results of operations of the acquired businesses have been included in the Company's consolidated financial statements from their respective acquisition dates. The Company expects these acquired businesses to contribute towards the achievement of the Company's strategy to expand through acquisitions.

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The following table summarizes the consideration transferred to acquire these businesses and the amounts of identified assets acquired, liabilities assumed and noncontrolling interests associated with businesses acquired at the acquisition date for acquisitions consummated in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>Acquisitions</b>	<b>Acquisitions</b>
Fair value of consideration transferred:		
Cash	\$ 247,862	\$ 17,391
Debt assumed*	84,737	9,657
Notes issued to sellers	10,656	
Contingent consideration	22,272	
	365,527	27,048
Recognized amounts of identifiable assets acquired, liabilities assumed and noncontrolling interests associated with businesses acquired:		
Accounts receivable	9,412	1,187
Other current assets	1,056	602
Property and equipment	112,088	22,322
Long-term franchise agreements and contracts	3,269	175
Customer lists	33,978	1,597
Indefinite-lived intangibles	42,283	
Other intangibles	10,367	
Accounts payable	(6,183)	
Accrued liabilities	(1,206)	(2,899)
Noncontrolling interests	(251)	
Deferred revenue	(6,186)	(541)
Other long-term liabilities	(1,429)	(146)
Deferred taxes	(11,466)	
Total identifiable net assets	185,732	22,297
Goodwill	\$ 179,795	\$ 4,751

\* Debt paid at close of acquisition.

The goodwill is attributable to the synergies and ancillary growth opportunities expected to arise after the Company's acquisition of these businesses. Goodwill acquired during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, totaling \$16,739 and \$4,382, respectively, is expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

The fair value of acquired working capital related to two acquisitions completed during the last 12 months is provisional pending receipt of information from the acquiree to support the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Any adjustments recorded relating to finalizing the working capital for these two acquisitions are not expected to be material to the Company's financial position.



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The gross amount of trade receivables due under contracts acquired during the period ended September 30, 2011, is \$10,019, of which \$607 is expected to be uncollectible. The gross amount of trade receivables due under contracts acquired during the period ended September 30, 2010, is \$1,470, of which \$284 is expected to be uncollectible. The Company did not acquire any other class of receivable as a result of the acquisition of these businesses.

A reconciliation of the Fair value of consideration transferred to Payments for acquisitions, net of cash acquired, as reported in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, is as follows:

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>Acquisitions</b>	<b>Acquisitions</b>
Cash consideration transferred	\$ 247,862	\$ 17,391
Payment of contingent consideration	100	
Payments for acquisitions, net of cash acquired	\$ 247,962	\$ 17,391

During the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the Company incurred \$1,278 and \$1,177, respectively, of acquisition-related costs. These expenses are included in Selling, general and administrative expenses in the Company's Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income.

**8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill, consisted of the following at September 30, 2011:

	<b>Gross</b>		<b>Net</b>
	<b>Carrying</b>	<b>Accumulated</b>	<b>Carrying</b>
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amortization</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Amortizable intangible assets:			
Long-term franchise agreements and contracts	\$ 190,696	\$ (29,873)	\$ 160,823
Customer lists	96,017	(25,312)	70,705
Non-competition agreements	9,414	(6,317)	3,097
Other	31,604	(2,956)	28,648
	327,731	(64,458)	263,273
Nonamortized intangible assets:			
Indefinite-lived intangible assets	191,202		191,202
Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill	\$ 518,933	\$ (64,458)	\$ 454,475

The weighted-average amortization period of long-term franchise agreements and contracts acquired during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was 22.3 years. The weighted-average amortization period of customer lists acquired during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was 6.9 years. The weighted average amortization period of other intangibles acquired during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was 40.0 years.

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Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill, consisted of the following at December 31, 2010:

	<b>Gross Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>	<b>Net Carrying Amount</b>
Amortizable intangible assets:			
Long-term franchise agreements and contracts	\$ 190,489	\$ (25,255)	\$ 165,234
Customer lists	62,885	(17,867)	45,018
Non-competition agreements	9,414	(5,982)	3,432
Other	21,236	(2,364)	18,872
	284,024	(51,468)	232,556
Nonamortized intangible assets:			
Indefinite-lived intangible assets	148,919		148,919
Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill	\$ 432,943	\$ (51,468)	\$ 381,475

The weighted-average amortization period of long-term franchise agreements and contracts acquired during the year ended December 31, 2010 was 9.1 years. The weighted-average amortization period of customer lists acquired during the year ended December 31, 2010 was 6.4 years.

Estimated future amortization expense for the next five years of amortizable intangible assets is as follows:

For the year ending December 31, 2011	\$ 20,008
For the year ending December 31, 2012	\$ 20,906
For the year ending December 31, 2013	\$ 19,903
For the year ending December 31, 2014	\$ 18,688
For the year ending December 31, 2015	\$ 18,117

## 9. SEGMENT REPORTING

The Company's revenues are derived from one industry segment, which includes the collection, transfer, recycling and disposal of non-hazardous solid waste. No single contract or customer accounted for more than 10% of the Company's total revenues at the consolidated or reportable segment level during the periods presented.

The Company manages its operations through three geographic operating segments, which are also the Company's reportable segments. Each operating segment is responsible for managing several vertically integrated operations, which are comprised of districts. During the first quarter of 2010, the Company realigned certain of the Company's districts between operating segments. In April 2011, as a result of the County Waste acquisition described in Note 7, the Company realigned its reporting structure and changed its three geographic operating segments from Western, Central and Southern to Western, Central and Eastern. As part of this realignment, the states of Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas, which were previously part of the Southern region, are now included in the Central region. Also as part of this realignment, the state of Michigan, which was previously part of the Central region, is now included in the Eastern region (previously referred to as the Southern region). Additionally, the states of New York and Massachusetts, which the Company now operates in as a result of the County Waste acquisition, are included in the Eastern region. The segment information presented herein reflects the realignment of these districts. Under the current orientation, the Company's Western Region is comprised of operating locations in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and western Wyoming; the Company's Central Region is comprised of operating locations in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota,

Texas, Utah and eastern Wyoming; and the Company's Eastern Region is comprised of operating locations in Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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The Company's Chief Operating Decision Maker ( CODM ) evaluates operating segment profitability and determines resource allocations based on operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets. Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets is not a measure of operating income, operating performance or liquidity under GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. The Company's management uses operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in the evaluation of segment operating performance as it is a profit measure that is generally within the control of the operating segments. A reconciliation of operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets to income before income tax provision is included at the end of this Note 9.

Summarized financial information concerning the Company's reportable segments for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, is shown in the following tables:

	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Intercompany</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Operating Income Before Depreciation, Amortization and Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets<sup>(c)</sup></b>
<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2011</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Revenues<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>Revenues</b>	
Western	\$ 223,156	\$ (25,896)	\$ 197,260	\$ 65,306
Central	126,389	(13,538)	112,851	40,174
Eastern	112,140	(18,289)	93,851	27,179
Corporate <sup>(a)</sup>				1,695
	\$ 461,685	\$ (57,723)	\$ 403,962	\$ 134,354

	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Intercompany</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Operating Income Before Depreciation, Amortization and Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets<sup>(c)</sup></b>
<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2010</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Revenues<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>Revenues</b>	
Western	\$ 212,262	\$ (23,724)	\$ 188,538	\$ 60,500
Central	113,963	(13,384)	100,579	33,792
Eastern	70,069	(13,401)	56,668	17,379
Corporate <sup>(a)</sup>				2,021
	\$ 396,294	\$ (50,509)	\$ 345,785	\$ 113,692

	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Intercompany</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Operating Income Before Depreciation, Amortization and Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets<sup>(c)</sup></b>
<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Revenues<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>Revenues</b>	
Western	\$ 633,784	\$ (74,407)	\$ 559,377	\$ 177,593
Central	362,351	(38,589)	323,762	115,261
Eastern	291,910	(49,435)	242,475	70,856
Corporate <sup>(a)</sup>				3,351
	\$ 1,288,045	\$ (162,431)	\$ 1,125,614	\$ 367,061



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	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Intercompany</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Operating Income Before Depreciation, Amortization and Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets<sup>(c)</sup></b>
<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Revenues<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Assets<sup>(c)</sup></b>
Western	\$ 600,111	\$ (68,609)	\$ 531,502	\$ 164,737
Central	322,891	(37,599)	285,292	94,794
Eastern	206,007	(38,999)	167,008	52,074
Corporate <sup>(a)</sup>				3,758
	\$ 1,129,009	\$ (145,207)	\$ 983,802	\$ 315,363

(a) Corporate functions include accounting, legal, tax, treasury, information technology, risk management, human resources, training and other administrative functions.

(b) Intercompany revenues reflect each segment's total intercompany sales, including intercompany sales within a segment and between segments. Transactions within and between segments are generally made on a basis intended to reflect the market value of the service.

(c) For those items included in the determination of operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets, the accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Total assets for each of the Company's reportable segments at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, based on region alignments as of those dates, were as follows:

	<b>September 30, 2011</b>	<b>December 31, 2010</b>
Western	\$ 1,363,025	\$ 1,378,920
Central	1,031,345	654,854
Eastern	827,874	818,648
Corporate	89,761	63,562
Total Assets	\$ 3,312,005	\$ 2,915,984

The following tables show changes in goodwill during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, by reportable segment:

<b>Western</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Eastern</b>	<b>Total</b>
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Balance as of December 31, 2010	\$ 313,038	\$ 305,774	\$ 309,040	\$ 927,852
Goodwill transferred		111,806	(111,806)	
Goodwill acquired		6,638	173,157	179,795
Goodwill divested				
Balance as of September 30, 2011	\$ 313,038	\$ 424,218	\$ 370,391	\$ 1,107,647
	<b>Western</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Eastern</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2009	\$ 291,781	\$ 313,366	\$ 301,563	\$ 906,710
Goodwill transferred	20,295	(20,295)		
Goodwill acquired	731	2,304	1,716	4,751
Goodwill divested		(64)	(1,111)	(1,175)
Balance as of September 30, 2010	\$ 312,807	\$ 295,311	\$ 302,168	\$ 910,286

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The Company has no accumulated impairment losses associated with goodwill.

A reconciliation of the Company's primary measure of segment profitability (operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets for reportable segments) to Income before income tax provision in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income is as follows:

	<b>Three months ended</b>		<b>Nine months ended</b>	
	<b>September 30,</b>		<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets	\$ 134,354	\$ 113,692	\$ 367,061	\$ 315,363
Depreciation	(38,868)	(34,441)	(108,843)	(99,349)
Amortization of intangibles	(5,138)	(3,616)	(14,788)	(10,800)
Gain (loss) on disposal of assets	(1,034)	50	(742)	(572)
Interest expense	(12,029)	(9,419)	(31,948)	(30,842)
Interest income	132	135	408	453
Loss on extinguishment of debt				(10,193)
Other income (expense), net	(899)	1,500	(750)	1,970
Income before income tax provision	\$ 76,518	\$ 67,901	\$ 210,398	\$ 166,030

The following table shows, for the periods indicated, the Company's total reported revenues by service line and with intercompany eliminations:

	<b>Three months ended</b>		<b>Nine months ended</b>	
	<b>September 30,</b>		<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Collection	\$ 282,176	\$ 244,936	\$ 796,783	\$ 712,114
Disposal and transfer	138,680	125,473	381,961	342,390
Intermodal, recycling and other	40,829	25,885	109,301	74,505
	461,685	396,294	1,288,045	1,129,009
Less: intercompany elimination	(57,723)	(50,509)	(162,431)	(145,207)
Total revenues	\$ 403,962	\$ 345,785	\$ 1,125,614	\$ 983,802

**10. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Company recognizes all derivatives on the balance sheet at fair value. All of the Company's derivatives have been designated as cash flow hedges; therefore, the effective portion of the changes in the fair value of derivatives will be recognized in accumulated other comprehensive loss until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. The ineffective portion of the changes in the fair value of derivatives will be immediately recognized in earnings. The Company classifies cash inflows and outflows from derivatives within operating activities in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

One of the Company's objectives for utilizing derivative instruments is to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in cash flows due to changes in the variable interest rates of certain borrowings issued under its credit facility. The Company's strategy to achieve that objective involves entering into interest rate swaps that are specifically designated to the

Company's credit facility and accounted for as cash flow hedges.

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At September 30, 2011, the Company's derivative instruments included two interest rate swap agreements as follows:

<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>Notional Amount</b>	<b>Fixed Interest Rate Paid*</b>	<b>Variable Interest Rate Received</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
March 2009	\$ 175,000	2.85%	1-month LIBOR	February 2011	February 2014
August 2011	\$ 150,000	0.7975%	1-month LIBOR	April 2012	January 2015

\* Plus applicable margin.

Another of the Company's objectives for utilizing derivative instruments is to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in cash flows due to changes in the price of diesel fuel. The Company's strategy to achieve that objective involves entering into fuel hedges that are specifically designated to certain forecasted diesel fuel purchases and accounted for as cash flow hedges.

At September 30, 2011, the Company's derivative instruments included two fuel hedge agreements as follows:

<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>Notional Amount</b>	<b>Diesel Rate Paid Fixed</b>	<b>Diesel Rate Received</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
	<b>(in gallons per month)</b>	<b>(per gallon)</b>	<b>Variable</b>		
December 2008	400,000	\$ 2.950	DOE Diesel Fuel Index*	January 2011	December 2011
December 2008	400,000	\$ 3.030	DOE Diesel Fuel Index*	January 2012	December 2012

\* If the national U.S. on-highway average price for a gallon of diesel fuel (average price), as published by the Department of Energy, exceeds the contract price per gallon, the Company receives the difference between the average price and the contract price (multiplied by the notional number of gallons) from the counterparty. If the average price is less than the contract price per gallon, the Company pays the difference to the counterparty.

The fair values of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges as of September 30, 2011, are as follows:

<b>Derivatives Designated as Cash</b>	<b>Asset Derivatives</b>		<b>Liability Derivatives</b>	
<b>Flow Hedges</b>	<b>Balance Sheet Location</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Balance Sheet Location</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
Interest rate swaps		\$ 64		\$ (4,510)

	Other assets, net		Accrued liabilities <sup>(a)</sup> Other long-term liabilities	
Fuel hedges	Prepaid expenses and other current assets <sup>(b)</sup>	3,757		(5,320)
	Other assets, net	666		
Total derivatives designated as cash flow hedges		\$ 4,487		\$ (9,830)

- (a) Represents the estimated amount of the existing unrealized losses on interest rate swaps as of September 30, 2011 (based on the interest rate yield curve at that date), included in accumulated other comprehensive loss expected to be reclassified into pre-tax earnings within the next 12 months. The actual amounts reclassified into earnings are dependent on future movements in interest rates.
- (b) Represents the estimated amount of the existing unrealized gains on fuel hedges as of September 30, 2011 (based on the forward DOE diesel fuel index curve at that date), included in accumulated other comprehensive loss expected to be reclassified into pre-tax earnings within the next 12 months. The actual amounts reclassified into earnings are dependent on future movements in diesel fuel prices.

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The fair values of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges as of December 31, 2010, are as follows:

<b>Derivatives Designated as Cash</b>	<b>Asset Derivatives</b>		<b>Liability Derivatives</b>	
<b>Flow Hedges</b>	<b>Balance Sheet Location</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Balance Sheet Location</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
Interest rate swaps			Accrued liabilities	\$ (4,988)
			Other long-term liabilities	(4,734)
Fuel hedges	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 2,469		
	Other assets, net	2,261		
Total derivatives designated as cash flow hedges		\$ 4,730		\$ (9,722)

The following tables summarizes the impact of the Company's cash flow hedges on the results of operations, comprehensive income and accumulated other comprehensive loss ( AOCL ) as of and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:

<b>Derivatives Designated as Cash Flow Hedges</b>	<b>Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in AOCL on Derivatives, Net of Tax (Effective Portion)<sup>(a)</sup></b>		<b>Statement of Income Classification</b>	<b>Amount of (Gain) or Loss Reclassified from AOCL into Earnings, Net of Tax (Effective Portion)<sup>(b),(c)</sup></b>	
	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>			<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Interest rate swaps	\$ (1,290)	\$ (2,342)	Interest expense	\$ 735	\$ 1,283
Fuel hedges	(646)	1,164	Cost of operations	(683)	716
Total	\$ (1,936)	\$ (1,178)		\$ 52	\$ 1,999

**Amount of Gain or (Loss)**

Derivatives Designated as Cash Flow Hedges	Recognized in AOCL on Derivatives, Net of Tax (Effective Portion) <sup>(a)</sup>		Statement of Income Classification	Amount of (Gain) or Loss Reclassified from AOCL into Earnings, Net of Tax (Effective Portion) <sup>(b),(c)</sup>	
	Nine Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010		2011	2010
Interest rate swaps	\$ (2,904)	\$ (7,776)	Interest expense	\$ 2,877	\$ 4,152
Fuel hedges	1,787	(754)	Cost of operations	(1,977)	2,156
Total	\$ (1,117)	\$ (8,530)		\$ 900	\$ 6,308

- (a) In accordance with the derivatives and hedging guidance, the effective portions of the changes in fair values of interest rate swaps and fuel hedges have been recorded in equity as a component of AOCL. As the critical terms of the interest rate swaps match the underlying debt being hedged, no ineffectiveness is recognized on these swaps and, therefore, all unrealized changes in fair value are recorded in AOCL. Because changes in the actual price of diesel fuel and changes in the DOE index price do not offset exactly each reporting period, the Company assesses whether the fuel hedges are highly effective using the cumulative dollar offset approach.
- (b) Amounts reclassified from AOCL into earnings related to realized gains and losses on interest rate swaps are recognized when interest payments or receipts occur related to the swap contracts, which correspond to when interest payments are made on the Company's hedged debt.
- (c) Amounts reclassified from AOCL into earnings related to realized gains and losses on fuel hedges are recognized when settlement payments or receipts occur related to the hedge contracts, which correspond to when the underlying fuel is consumed.



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The Company measures and records ineffectiveness on the fuel hedges in Cost of operations in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income on a monthly basis based on the difference between the DOE index price and the actual price of diesel fuel purchased, multiplied by the notional number of gallons on the contracts. There was no significant ineffectiveness recognized on the fuel hedges during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010. See Note 13 for further discussion on the impact of the Company's hedge accounting to its consolidated Comprehensive income and AOCL.

**11. NET INCOME PER SHARE INFORMATION**

The following table sets forth the calculation of the numerator and denominator used in the computation of basic and diluted net income per common share attributable to the Company's common stockholders for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:

	<b>Three months ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine months ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Numerator:				
Net income attributable to Waste Connections for basic and diluted earnings per share	\$ 46,329	\$ 40,986	\$ 127,281	\$ 98,959
Denominator:				
Basic shares outstanding	112,327,410	115,594,327	113,130,314	116,129,247
Dilutive effect of stock options and warrants	407,555	731,763	445,117	930,747
Dilutive effect of restricted stock units	457,919	452,763	403,734	361,704
Diluted shares outstanding	113,192,884	116,778,853	113,979,165	117,421,698

For the three months ended September 30, 2011, all outstanding stock options and warrants were dilutive and included in the computation of diluted earnings per share. For the three months ended September 30, 2010, stock options and warrants to purchase 1,278 shares of common stock were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share as they were anti-dilutive. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, stock options and warrants to purchase 1,312 and 2,187 shares of common stock, respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share as they were anti-dilutive. The Company's 2026 Convertible Senior Notes were not dilutive during the nine months ended September 30, 2010. On April 1, 2010, the Company redeemed the aggregate principal amount of its 2026 Convertible Senior Notes.

**12. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The Company uses a three-tier fair value hierarchy to classify and disclose all assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, as well as assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis, in periods subsequent to their initial measurement. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities; Level 2, defined as inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data.



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The Company's financial assets and liabilities recorded at fair value on a recurring basis include derivative instruments and restricted assets. The Company's derivative instruments are pay-fixed, receive-variable interest rate swaps and pay-fixed, receive-variable diesel fuel hedges. The Company's interest rate swaps are recorded at their estimated fair values based on quotes received from financial institutions that trade these contracts. The Company verifies the reasonableness of these quotes using similar quotes from another financial institution as of each date for which financial statements are prepared. The Company uses a discounted cash flow (DCF) model to determine the estimated fair values of the diesel fuel hedges. The assumptions used in preparing the DCF model include: (i) estimates for the forward DOE index curve; and (ii) the discount rate based on risk-free interest rates over the term of the agreements. The DOE index curve used in the DCF model was obtained from financial institutions that trade these contracts. For the Company's interest rate swaps and fuel hedges, the Company also considers the Company's creditworthiness in its determination of the fair value measurement of these instruments in a net liability position and the banks creditworthiness in its determination of the fair value measurement of these instruments in a net asset position. The Company's restricted assets are valued at quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets, which the Company receives from the financial institutions that hold such investments on its behalf. The Company's restricted assets measured at fair value are invested primarily in U.S. government and agency securities. The Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, were as follows:

	<b>Fair Value Measurement at September 30, 2011 Using</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	<b>Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</b>
Interest rate swap derivative instruments net liability position	\$ (9,766)	\$	\$ (9,766)	\$
Fuel hedge derivative instruments net asset position	\$ 4,423	\$	\$	\$ 4,423
Restricted assets	\$ 27,206	\$ 27,206	\$	\$

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	<b>Fair Value Measurement at December 31, 2010 Using</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	<b>Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</b>
Interest rate swap derivative instruments net liability position	\$ (9,722)	\$	\$ (9,722)	\$
Fuel hedge derivative instruments net asset position	\$ 4,730	\$	\$	\$ 4,730
Restricted assets	\$ 30,791	\$ 30,791	\$	\$

During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, there were no fair value measurements of assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis subsequent to their initial recognition.

The following table summarizes the change in the fair value for Level 3 derivatives for the nine months ended September 30, 2011:

	<b>Level 3 Derivatives</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2010	\$ 4,730
Realized gains included in earnings	(3,189)
Unrealized gains included in AOCL	2,882
Balance as of September 30, 2011	\$ 4,423

The following table summarizes the change in the fair value for Level 3 derivatives for the nine months ended September 30, 2010:

	<b>Level 3 Derivatives</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2009	\$ (104)
Realized losses included in earnings	3,478
Unrealized losses included in AOCL	(1,217)
Balance as of September 30, 2010	\$ 2,157

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**13. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

Comprehensive income includes changes in the fair value of interest rate swaps and fuel hedges that qualify for hedge accounting. The components of other comprehensive income (loss) and related tax effects for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, are as follows:

	<b>Three months ended September 30, 2011</b>		
	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Tax effect</b>	<b>Net of tax</b>
Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense	\$ 1,186	\$ (451)	\$ 735
Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations	(1,101)	418	(683)
Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps	(2,081)	791	(1,290)
Changes in fair value of fuel hedges	(1,042)	396	(646)
	\$ (3,038)	\$ 1,154	\$ (1,884)
	<b>Three months ended September 30, 2010</b>		
	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Tax effect</b>	<b>Net of tax</b>
Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense	\$ 2,069	\$ (786)	\$ 1,283
Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations	1,154	(438)	716
Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps	(3,777)	1,435	(2,342)
Changes in fair value of fuel hedges	1,878	(714)	1,164
	\$ 1,324	\$ (503)	\$ 821

Total comprehensive income for the three months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was \$44,700 and \$42,078, respectively.

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	<b>Nine months ended September 30, 2011</b>		
	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Tax effect</b>	<b>Net of tax</b>
Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense	\$ 4,641	\$ (1,764)	\$ 2,877
Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations	(3,189)	1,212	(1,977)
Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps	(4,684)	1,780	(2,904)
Changes in fair value of fuel hedges	2,882	(1,095)	1,787
	\$ (350)	\$ 133	\$ (217)

	<b>Nine months ended September 30, 2010</b>		
	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Tax effect</b>	<b>Net of tax</b>
Interest rate swap amounts reclassified into interest expense	\$ 6,697	\$ (2,545)	\$ 4,152
Fuel hedge amounts reclassified into cost of operations	3,478	(1,322)	2,156
Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps	(12,568)	4,792	(7,776)
Changes in fair value of fuel hedges	(1,217)	463	(754)
	\$ (3,610)	\$ 1,388	\$ (2,222)

A rollforward of the amounts included in AOCL, net of taxes, is as follows:

	<b>Fuel Hedges</b>	<b>Interest Rate Swaps</b>	<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss</b>
Balance at December 31, 2010	\$ 2,931	\$ (6,026)	\$ (3,095)
Amounts reclassified into earnings	(1,977)	2,877	900
Change in fair value	1,787	(2,904)	(1,117)
Balance at September 30, 2011	\$ 2,741	\$ (6,053)	\$ (3,312)

See Note 10 for further discussion on the Company's derivative instruments.

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**14. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY****Stock-Based Compensation**

A summary of activity related to restricted stock units under the Third Amended and Restated 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, as of December 31, 2010, and changes during the nine month period ended September 30, 2011, is presented below:

	<b>Unvested Shares</b>
Outstanding at December 31, 2010	1,514,459
Granted	499,310
Forfeited	(35,385)
Vested and Issued	(538,878)
Vested and Unissued	(31,606)
Outstanding at September 30, 2011	1,407,900

The weighted average grant date fair value per share for the shares of common stock underlying the restricted stock units granted during the nine month period ended September 30, 2011 was \$29.28. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the Company's stock-based compensation expense from restricted stock units was \$8,873 and \$8,172, respectively.

**Share Repurchase Program**

The Company's Board of Directors has authorized a common stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$800,000 of common stock through December 31, 2012. Under the program, stock repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time at management's discretion. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including the Company's capital structure, the market price of the common stock and overall market conditions. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, the Company repurchased 2,823,235 and 5,020,666 shares, respectively, of its common stock under this program at a cost of \$85,068 and \$116,285, respectively. As of September 30, 2011, the remaining maximum dollar value of shares available for repurchase under the program was approximately \$66,306. The Company's policy related to repurchases of its common stock is to charge any excess of cost over par value entirely to additional paid-in capital.

**Stock Split**

On October 19, 2010, the Company's Board of Directors declared a three-for-two split of its common stock, in the form of a 50% stock dividend, payable to stockholders of record as of October 29, 2010. Shares resulting from the split were issued on November 12, 2010. In connection therewith, the Company transferred \$394 from retained earnings to common stock, representing the par value of additional shares issued. As a result of the stock split, fractional shares equal to 2,479 whole shares were repurchased for \$101. All share and per share amounts for all periods presented have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the stock split.

**Cash Dividend**

On October 19, 2010, the Company's Board of Directors declared the initiation of a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.075 per share, as adjusted for the three-for-two stock split described above. The initial quarterly cash dividend totaling \$8,561 was paid on November 12, 2010. The Company also paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.075 per share on its common stock, totaling \$8,515, \$8,526 and \$8,456 on March 1, 2011, May 20, 2011 and August 17, 2011, respectively.





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**15. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

In the normal course of its business and as a result of the extensive governmental regulation of the solid waste industry, the Company is subject to various judicial and administrative proceedings involving federal, state or local agencies. In these proceedings, an agency may seek to impose fines on the Company or to revoke or deny renewal of an operating permit held by the Company. From time to time, the Company may also be subject to actions brought by special interest or other groups, adjacent landowners or residents in connection with the permitting and licensing of landfills and transfer stations, or alleging environmental damage or violations of the permits and licenses pursuant to which the Company operates.

In addition, the Company is a party to various claims and suits pending for alleged damages to persons and property, alleged violations of certain laws and alleged liabilities arising out of matters occurring during the normal operation of the waste management business. Except as noted in the legal cases described below, as of September 30, 2011, there is no current proceeding or litigation involving the Company or its property that the Company believes could have a material adverse impact on its business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

**Chaparral, New Mexico Landfill Permit Litigation**

The Company's subsidiary, High Desert Solid Waste Facility, Inc. (formerly known as Rhino Solid Waste, Inc.) (HDSWF), owns undeveloped property in Chaparral, New Mexico, for which it sought a permit to operate a municipal solid waste landfill. After a public hearing, the New Mexico Environment Department (the Department) approved the permit for the facility on January 30, 2002. Colonias Development Council (CDC), a nonprofit organization, opposed the permit at the public hearing and appealed the Department's decision to the courts of New Mexico, primarily on the grounds that the Department failed to consider the social impact of the landfill on the community of Chaparral, and failed to consider regional planning issues. On July 18, 2005, in Colonias Dev. Council v. Rhino Env'tl. Servs., Inc. (In re Rhino Env'tl. Servs.), 2005 NMSC 24, 117 P.3d 939, the New Mexico Supreme Court remanded the matter back to the Department to conduct a limited public hearing on certain evidence that CDC claimed was wrongfully excluded from consideration by the hearing officer, and to allow the Department to reconsider the evidence already proffered concerning the impact of the landfill on the surrounding community's quality of life. In July 2007, the Department, CDC, the Company and Otero County signed a stipulation requesting a postponement of the limited public hearing to allow the Company time to explore a possible relocation of the landfill to a new site. Since 2007, the Department has issued several orders postponing the limited public hearing, currently scheduled for November 2012, as HDSWF has continued to evaluate the suitability of a new site. In July 2009, HDSWF purchased approximately 325 acres of undeveloped land comprising a proposed new site from the State of New Mexico. HDSWF filed a formal landfill permit application for the new site with the Department on September 17, 2010. On September 12, 2011, the Department deemed the permit application complete, but the Department has not yet set a hearing date. If the Department denies the landfill permit application for the new site, HDSWF intends to actively resume its efforts to enforce the previously issued landfill permit for the original site in Chaparral. At September 30, 2011, the Company had \$11,772 of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. If the Company is ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill at the new site purchased in July 2009, the Company will be required to expense in a future period \$10,318 of capitalized expenditures related to the original Chaparral property, less the recoverable value of that undeveloped property and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations for that period. If the Company instead is ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill at the original Chaparral property, the Company will be required to expense in a future period \$1,454 of capitalized expenditures related to the new site purchased in July 2009, less the recoverable value of that undeveloped property and other amounts recovered. If the Company is not ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill at either one of the two sites, the Company will be required to expense in a future period the \$11,772 of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped properties and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations for that period.



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**Harper County, Kansas Landfill Permit Litigation**

The Company opened a municipal solid waste landfill in Harper County, Kansas in January 2006, following the issuance by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ( KDHE ) of a final permit to operate the landfill. The landfill has operated continuously since that time. On October 3, 2005, landfill opponents filed a suit (Board of Comm rs of Sumner County, Kansas, Tri-County Concerned Citizens and Dalton Holland v. Roderick Bremby, Sec y of the Kansas Dep t of Health and Env t, et al.) in the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas, seeking a judicial review of KDHE s decision to issue the permit, alleging that a site analysis prepared for the Company and submitted to KDHE as part of the process leading to the issuance of the permit was deficient in several respects. The action sought to stay the effectiveness of the permit and to nullify it. The Company intervened in this lawsuit shortly after it was filed. On April 7, 2006, the District Court issued an order denying the plaintiffs request for judicial review on the grounds that they lacked standing to bring the action. The plaintiffs appealed that decision to the Kansas Court of Appeals, and on October 12, 2007, the Court of Appeals issued an opinion reversing and remanding the District Court s decision. The Company appealed the decision to the Kansas Supreme Court, and on July 25, 2008, the Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeals and remanded the case to the District Court for further proceedings on the merits. Plaintiffs filed a second amended petition on October 22, 2008, and the Company filed a motion to strike various allegations contained within the second amended petition. On July 2, 2009, the District Court granted in part and denied in part the Company s motion to strike. The District Court also set a new briefing schedule, and the parties completed the briefing during the first half of 2010. Oral argument in the case occurred on September 27, 2010. There is no scheduled time limit within which the District Court has to decide this administrative appeal. While the Company believes that it will prevail in this case, the District Court could remand the matter back to KDHE for additional review of its decision or could revoke the permit. An order of remand to KDHE would not necessarily affect the Company s continued operation of the landfill. Only in the event that a final, materially adverse determination with respect to the permit is received would there likely be a material adverse effect on the Company s reported results of operations in the future. If as a result of this litigation, after exhausting all appeals, the Company was unable to continue to operate the landfill, the Company estimates that it would be required to record a pre-tax impairment charge of approximately \$15,000 to reduce the carrying value of the landfill to its estimated fair value. In addition, the Company estimates the current annual impact to its pre-tax earnings that would result if it was unable to continue to operate the landfill would be approximately \$4,000 per year.

**El Paso, Texas Labor Union Disputes**

One of the Company s subsidiaries, El Paso Disposal, LP ( EPD ), was a party to administrative proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board ( NLRB ). In these proceedings, the union alleged various unfair labor practices relating to the parties failure to reach agreement on initial labor contracts and the resultant strike by, and the replacement of and a failure to recall, union-represented employees. On April 29, 2009, following a hearing, an administrative law judge issued a recommended Decision and Order finding violations of the National Labor Relations Act by EPD and recommended to the NLRB that EPD take remedial actions, including reinstating certain employees and their previous terms and conditions of employment, refraining from certain conduct, continuing to bargain collectively and providing a make whole remedy. EPD filed exceptions to the administrative law judge s recommendations on June 30, 2009. These exceptions were under review by the NLRB, but pursuant to the settlement agreement described below they were withdrawn and this matter is now closed upon compliance.

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On July 27, 2009, the Regional Director of the NLRB filed a petition in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas seeking an injunction to reinstate the replaced employees, order EPD to continue collective bargaining while the NLRB's review is pending, and to refrain from further alleged unfair labor practices. A hearing on the injunction was held on August 19, 2009; and on October 30, 2009, the District Court granted the NLRB's requested relief. EPD appealed the District Court's order to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and a hearing on the appeal occurred on August 2, 2010. On November 4, 2010, the Fifth Circuit affirmed the District Court's injunction order.

Several related unfair labor practice charges alleging failure to bargain and failure to appropriately recall union-represented employees subsequently were filed against EPD. The charges were heard by an administrative law judge during the week of August 24, 2009. On December 2, 2009, the administrative law judge issued a recommended Decision and Order granting part of the NLRB's requested relief, while denying part, but the issues were effectively subsumed by the District Court's injunction. Both EPD and the NLRB's General Counsel filed exceptions to the administrative law judge's recommendations with the NLRB. These exceptions also were under review by the NLRB, but pursuant to the settlement agreement described below they were withdrawn and this matter is now closed upon compliance.

On January 22, 2010 and March 5, 2010, the union filed new unfair labor practice charges against EPD concerning events relating to the ongoing contract negotiation process. On May 28, 2010, the NLRB issued a complaint against EPD alleging unfair labor practices, including alleged unlawful threats and coercive statements, refusal to provide striking employees with full and unconditional reinstatement, reduction of earning opportunities for striking employees, implementation of new routes for drivers, implementation of a new longevity bonus plan, use of video footage captured by surveillance camera to discipline employees, change to the driver training program, change to the uniform practice and bargaining proposals that were predictably unacceptable to the union. EPD filed an answer denying any wrongdoing, and believed it had resolved many of these allegations through negotiations with the union. A hearing on this complaint was scheduled for November 2, 2010, but subsequently was postponed indefinitely by the NLRB in anticipation of a comprehensive settlement of outstanding matters between EPD and the union. Pursuant to the settlement agreement described below, on September 9, 2011, the Regional Director of the NLRB granted the union's request to withdraw all of its pending charges that were the subject of this complaint, which resulted in the dismissal of the complaint.

On June 11, 2010, June 24, 2010, and June 30, 2010, the union filed new unfair labor practice charges alleging that EPD had unlawfully failed to provide relevant information requested by the union, and unilaterally changed terms and working conditions of employment (by unspecified acts) resulting in a reduced size of the bargaining unit, implementing new work schedules, suspending an employee with pay due to an accident, reassigning and/or changing work assignments among bargaining unit employees and intimidating and coercing employees by suspending strikers involved in accidents and by following drivers excessively while performing their duties. The NLRB included these new allegations in its complaint to be heard on November 2, 2010, which was postponed indefinitely by the NLRB in anticipation of a comprehensive settlement between EPD and the union. Pursuant to the settlement agreement described below, on September 9, 2011, the Regional Director of the NLRB granted the union's request to withdraw all of its pending charges that were the subject of this complaint, which resulted in the dismissal of the complaint.

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On August 10, 2010, the NLRB filed a petition for contempt and other civil relief before the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, alleging that EPD violated the District Court's October 30, 2009 injunction order by failing or refusing to implement the interim relief directed by the court (e.g., to restore changed employment terms, reinstate former strikers to their prior positions, and not commit future purported unfair labor practices). EPD filed an answer denying any wrongdoing. A hearing on the NLRB's petition was scheduled for November 10, 2010, but was postponed indefinitely by the NLRB in anticipation of a comprehensive settlement between EPD and the union. On July 21, 2011, the court granted the NLRB's motion to withdraw its petition for contempt and other civil relief, which the NLRB had filed pursuant to the settlement agreement described below.

In December 2010, the union ratified a comprehensive settlement reached with EPD as to all outstanding unfair labor practice charges and related liability issues. The terms of the settlement include: agreement on collective bargaining agreements for the two EPD bargaining units; withdrawal by the union of all of its unfair labor practice charges; and the payment by EPD of 60% of net back pay, without interest, for all alleged discriminatees for the back pay period in question, which ended in 2009. In May 2011, EPD and the union reached agreement on the backpay amounts for all of the alleged discriminatees. Notwithstanding the settlement, EPD continues to deny that any wrongdoing occurred. The parties have implemented the settlement terms, pursuant to which, in December 2010, the union filed a request with the NLRB to withdraw all of its unfair labor practice charges. This request was recently approved by the NLRB in all respects. Specifically: (1) on July 21, 2011, the Court granted the NLRB's motion to withdraw its petition for contempt and other civil relief, which the NLRB had filed pursuant to the settlement agreement; (2) on August 11, 2011, the NLRB issued an Order granting the parties' joint motion to withdraw exceptions and cross-exceptions and remanded the two cases involving the administrative law judges' recommended Decisions and Orders to the Regional Director of the NLRB to confirm compliance with the settlement agreement; (3) on September 9, 2011, the Regional Director of the NLRB granted the union's request to withdraw all of its pending charges that were the subject of the NLRB's pending complaint described above, which resulted in the dismissal of the complaint; and (4) on September 20 and 21, 2011, the Regional Director of the NLRB closed upon compliance the two cases described in subparagraph (2) above. As a result, the comprehensive settlement of these matters is now final.

**Solano County, California Measure E/Landfill Expansion Litigation**

The Company and one of its subsidiaries, Potrero Hills Landfill, Inc. ( PHLF ), were named as real parties in interest in an amended complaint captioned Sustainability, Parks, Recycling and Wildlife Legal Defense Fund v. County of Solano, which was filed in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, on July 9, 2009 (the original complaint was filed on June 12, 2009). This lawsuit seeks to compel Solano County to comply with Measure E, a ballot initiative and County ordinance passed in 1984 that the County has not enforced against PHLF since at least 1992. Measure E directs in part that Solano County shall not allow the importation into the County of any solid waste which originated or was collected outside the County in excess of 95,000 tons per year. PHLF disposes of approximately 670,800 tons of solid waste annually, approximately 562,300 tons of which originate from sources outside of Solano County. The Sustainability, Parks, Recycling and Wildlife Legal Defense Fund ( SPRAWLDEF ) lawsuit also seeks to overturn Solano County's approval of the use permit for the expansion of the Potrero Hills Landfill and the related Environmental Impact Report ( EIR ), arguing that both violate Measure E and that the EIR violates the California Environmental Quality Act ( CEQA ). Two similar actions seeking to enforce Measure E, captioned Northern California Recycling Association v. County of Solano and Sierra Club v. County of Solano, were filed in the same court on June 10, 2009, and August 10, 2009, respectively. The Northern California Recycling Association ( NCRA ) case does not name the Company or any of its subsidiaries as parties and does not contain any CEQA claims. The Sierra Club case names PHLF as a real party in interest, and seeks to overturn the conditional use permit for the expansion of the landfill on Measure E grounds (but does not raise CEQA claims). These lawsuits follow a previous lawsuit concerning Measure E that NCRA filed against PHLF in the same court on July 22, 2008, prior to the Company's acquisition of PHLF in April 2009, but which NCRA later dismissed.



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In December 2009, the Company and PHLF filed briefs vigorously opposing enforcement of Measure E on Constitutional and other grounds. The Company's position is supported by Solano County, a co-defendant in the Measure E litigation. It is also supported by the Attorney General of the State of California, the National Solid Wastes Management Association ( NSWMA ) and the California Refuse Recycling Council ( CRRC ), each of which filed supporting friend of court briefs or letters. In addition, numerous waste hauling companies in California, Oregon and Nevada have intervened on the Company's side in the state cases, subsequent to their participation in the federal action challenging Measure E discussed below. A hearing on the merits for all three Measure E state cases was held on February 18, 2010.

On May 12, 2010, the Solano County Superior Court issued a written opinion addressing all three cases. The Court upheld Measure E in part by judicially rewriting the law, and then issued a writ of mandamus directing Solano County to enforce Measure E as rewritten. The Court decided that it could cure the law's discrimination against out-of-county waste by revising Measure E to only limit the importation of waste into Solano County from other counties in California, but not from other states. In the same opinion, the Court rejected the requests from petitioners in the cases for a writ of administrative mandamus to overturn the permit approved by Solano County in June 2009 for the expansion of PHLF's landfill, thereby leaving the expansion permit in place. Petitioners Sierra Club and SPRAWLDEF filed motions to reconsider in which they asked the Court to issue a writ of administrative mandamus and void PHLF's expansion permit. The County, the Company and PHLF opposed the motions to reconsider and a hearing was held on June 25, 2010. On August 30, 2010, the Court denied the motions to reconsider and reaffirmed its ruling denying the petitions for writs to overturn PHLF's expansion permit.

In December 2010, the Court entered final judgments and writs of mandamus in the three cases, and Solano County, the Company, PHLF and the waste hauling company intervenors filed notices of appeal, which stayed the judgments and writs pending the outcome of the appeal. Petitioners Sierra Club and SPRAWLDEF cross-appealed the Court's ruling denying their petitions for writs to overturn PHLF's expansion permit. The appeals and cross-appeals were consolidated and the parties entered into a stipulated briefing schedule that was completed in August 2011. In addition, seventeen separate entities filed friend of court briefs on behalf of the Company and Solano County in September 2011, including the California Attorney General on behalf of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery; the City and County of San Francisco; solid waste joint powers authorities serving the areas of Napa County, the City of Vallejo, the South Lake Tahoe Basin, Central Costa Contra County and the Salinas Valley; the California Association of Sanitation Agencies; sanitation districts serving Los Angeles County and Orange County; the NSWMA; the National Association of Manufacturers; the CRRC; the Los Angeles County Waste Management Association; the Solid Waste Association of Orange County; the Inland Empire Disposal Association; and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. Sierra Club and SPRAWLDEF filed responses to these briefs in October 2011. No friend of court briefs were filed on behalf of the petitioners. The case is now fully briefed and all parties have requested oral argument.

As part of the final judgments, the Solano County Superior Court retained jurisdiction over any motions for attorneys fees under California's Private Attorney General statute. Petitioners NCRA, SPRAWLDEF and Sierra Club each filed a bill of costs and a motion for attorney fees totaling \$771. The Company vigorously opposed the award of attorney fees. The motions were heard in March 2011. On May 31, 2011, the court issued a final order awarding petitioners \$452 in attorneys' fees, \$411 of which relates to the SPRAWLDEF and Sierra Club cases in which the Company or PHLF is a named party. The court allocated 50% of the fee amount to PHLF, none of which the Company recorded as a liability at September 30, 2011. The Company and Solano County appealed this attorneys' fees order in July 2011. Once procedural steps are completed, the Company will request a stay of this appeal until the merits of the underlying Measure E cases have been finally determined. If the Company prevails on the appeals of the three underlying cases, then none of the Petitioners would be entitled to attorneys' fees and costs. If the Company is unsuccessful on these appeals and its future appeals of the attorneys' fees judgment, PHLF and the County would each ultimately be

severally liable for \$206 in attorneys' fees for the SPRAWLDEF and Sierra Club cases. However, in all three cases, the Company may reimburse the County for any such attorneys' fees under the indemnification provision in PHLF's land use permit.



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At this point, the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in this matter. However, in the event that after all appeals are exhausted the Superior Court's writ of mandamus enforcing Measure E as rewritten is upheld, the Company estimates that the current annual impact to its pre-tax earnings resulting from the restriction on imports into Solano County would be approximately \$6,000 per year. The Company's estimate could be impacted by various factors, including the County's allocation of the 95,000 tons per year import restriction among PHLF and the other disposal and composting facilities in Solano County. In addition, if the final rulings on Measure E do not limit the importation of waste into Solano County from other states, the Company could potentially offset a portion of the estimated reduction to its pre-tax earnings by internalizing waste for disposal at PHLF from other states in which the Company operates, or by accepting waste volumes from third party haulers operating outside of California.

In response to the pending three state court actions to enforce Measure E described above, the Company, PHLF and other waste hauling companies in California, Oregon and Nevada that are damaged by Measure E and would be further damaged if Measure E was enforced, filed a federal lawsuit to enjoin Measure E and have it declared unconstitutional. On September 8, 2009, the coalition brought suit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento challenging Measure E under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution, captioned *Potrero Hills Landfill, Inc. et al. v. County of Solano*. In response, SPRAWLDEF, Sierra Club and NCRA intervened in the federal case to defend Measure E and filed motions to dismiss the federal suit, or in the alternative, for the court to abstain from hearing the case in light of the pending state court Measure E actions. On December 23, 2009, the federal court abstained and declined to accept jurisdiction over the Company's case, holding that Measure E raised unique state issues that should be resolved by the pending state court litigation, and granted the motions to dismiss. The Company appealed this ruling and on September 23, 2011, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the district court's decision. The district court will now consider other arguments the intervening parties made for dismissing the case, but no schedule has yet been set for these proceedings.

Individual members of SPRAWLDEF were also plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed in the Solano County Superior Court on October 13, 2005, captioned *Protect the Marsh, et al. v. County of Solano, et al.*, challenging the EIR that Solano County certified in connection with its approval of the expansion of the Potrero Hills Landfill on September 13, 2005. A motion to discharge the Superior Court's writ of mandate directing the County to vacate and set aside its certification of the EIR was heard in August 2009. On November 3, 2009, the Superior Court upheld the County's certification of the EIR and the related permit approval actions. In response, the plaintiffs in *Protect the Marsh* filed a notice of appeal to the court's order on December 31, 2009. On October 8, 2010, the California Court of Appeal dismissed Plaintiffs' appeal for lack of standing. SPRAWLDEF subsequently filed a petition for review of this decision with the California Supreme Court. On December 21, 2010, the Supreme Court denied the petition, concluding this litigation in favor of the County and the Company.

SPRAWLDEF additionally filed a lawsuit seeking a writ of mandate in Sacramento County Superior Court on August 20, 2009, captioned *SPRAWLDEF v. California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), County of Solano, et al.*, challenging a CIWMB decision to dismiss SPRAWLDEF's administrative appeal to the CIWMB seeking to set aside a 2006 solid waste facilities permit issued to Potrero Hills Landfill by the Solano County Local Enforcement Agency. The case names the Company and PHLF as real parties in interest. The appeal was dismissed by the CIWMB for failure to raise a substantial issue. The 2006 facilities permit authorizes operational modifications and enhanced environmental control measures. The case was tried in Sacramento County Superior Court in October 2010, and the Superior Court rejected all of SPRAWLDEF's claims and ordered the writ petition dismissed. SPRAWLDEF appealed the dismissal to the Third District Court of Appeal. The case has been fully briefed and a decision from the Court of Appeal is pending. While the Company believes that the respondent agencies will prevail in this case, in the unlikely event that the 2006 permit was set aside, PHLF would revert to operating the Potrero Hills Landfill under the site's 1996 solid waste facilities permit.



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On December 17, 2010, SPRAWLDEF and one its members filed a petition for writ of mandate in San Francisco Superior Court seeking to overturn the October 2010 approval of the marsh development permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission ( BCDC ) for PHLF s landfill expansion, alleging that the approval is contrary to the Marsh Act and Measure E. The petition, captioned SPRAWLDEF v. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, names BCDC as a respondent and the Company as the real party in interest. Petitioners seek a declaration that the law does not allow BCDC to approve a marsh development permit beyond the footprint and operational levels originally approved for PHLF in 1984, and that the approval violates Measure E. BCDC has prepared the administrative record for its permit decision. Once the record has been certified by BCDC and lodged with the court, responses to the petition will be due 30 days thereafter. The parties are in the process of developing a briefing schedule and securing a hearing date from the court. At this point the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in this matter.

On June 10, 2011, June Guidotti, a property owner adjacent to PHLF, and SPRAWLDEF and one of its members, each filed administrative petitions for review with the State Water Resources Control Board ( State Board ) seeking to overturn a May 11, 2011 Order No. 2166-(a) approving waste discharge requirements issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board ( Regional Board ) for PHLF s landfill expansion, alleging that the order is contrary to the State Board s Title 27 regulations authorizing waste discharge requirements for landfills, and in the case of the SPRAWLDEF petition, further alleging that the Regional Board s issuance of a Clean Water Act section 401 certification is not supported by an adequate alternatives analysis as required by the federal Clean Water Act. The Regional Board is preparing the administrative record of its decision to issue Order 2166-(a) to be filed with the State Board as well as its response to the petitions for review. It is anticipated that the Regional Board will vigorously defend its actions and seek dismissal of the petitions for review. A hearing date has not yet been set on either petition, and the State Board has held the Guidotti petition in abeyance for now at petitioner s request. At this point the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in this matter.

If as a result of any of the matters described above, after exhausting all appeals, PHLF is unable to secure an expansion permit, and the Superior Court s writ of mandamus enforcing Measure E as rewritten is ultimately upheld, the Company estimates that it would be required to recognize a pre-tax impairment charge of approximately \$39,000 to reduce the carrying value of PHLF to its estimated fair value. If PHLF is unable to secure an expansion permit but Measure E is ultimately ruled to be unenforceable, the Company estimates that it would be required to recognize a pre-tax impairment charge of approximately \$24,000 to reduce the carrying value of PHLF to its estimated fair value.

**El Paso, Texas Breach of Contract/Flow Control Litigation**

On November 15, 2010, the Company filed a petition in the County Court at Law No. 3, El Paso County, Texas, captioned Waste Connections, Inc., Camino Real Environmental Center, Inc. and El Paso Disposal, LP v. The City of El Paso, Texas, John F. Cook, in his capacity as El Paso Mayor, and Joyce Wilson, in her capacity as El Paso City Manager (No. 2010-4476), which was transferred to the 168<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of El Paso County, Texas on April 5, 2011. The lawsuit related to the Solid Waste Disposal and Operating Agreement, dated April 27, 2004, by and among the City of El Paso, Texas (the City ) and the Company (the 2004 Agreement ), and Ordinance 017380, as adopted by the City Council on August 24, 2010 (the Ordinance ).

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The 2004 Agreement grants the Company and its subsidiaries (Camino Real and El Paso Disposal) the non-exclusive right to do business in the City, and to provide commercial and industrial solid waste collection and disposal services to customers within the territorial and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the City, for a period of ten years from April 27, 2004. In addition, the 2004 Agreement provides that during the ten-year period the City shall not modify solid waste hauler fees for the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The City also agreed in the 2004 Agreement that, until April 27, 2014, it would not provide private roll-off services or otherwise become a competitor to private solid waste companies in providing these services.

The Company believed that the Ordinance violated the law and was contrary to the 2004 Agreement in numerous respects, including because it originally required that waste collected within the City's jurisdiction be hauled only by permitted haulers who entered into franchise agreements with the City, and that such haulers could only dispose of such waste at facilities designated or authorized by the City, a concept also referred to as "flow control". The lawsuit sought to require the City to specifically perform the 2004 Agreement, and to enjoin temporarily and permanently the City's enforcement of the Ordinance to the extent such enforcement would breach the 2004 Agreement. The lawsuit also sought a declaratory judgment that: (1) the Ordinance violated the Contracts Clauses of the Texas and United States Constitutions, and constituted an improper taking and an inverse condemnation under the Texas Constitution; (2) the City and its Mayor and City Manager must prospectively comply with the 2004 Agreement; and (3) the 2004 Agreement is valid, enforceable and complies with Texas law. The Company also sought costs of suit and such other relief at law or in equity to which it may be entitled. The Company did not seek money damages.

The Company and the City have negotiated and reached an agreed resolution to their differences. As a result of these efforts, on December 21, 2010, the El Paso City Council approved a series of amendments to the Ordinance to address certain concerns of the Company and other haulers that operate within the City's jurisdiction. On March 29, 2011, the El Paso City Council approved an amendment to the Ordinance that postponed the effective date of the requirement that haulers enter into franchise agreements with the City until September 1, 2011. In addition, on July 19, 2011, the El Paso City Council amended the Ordinance to postpone the effective date of its flow control provisions from September 1, 2011, to September 1, 2014. On August 9, 2011, the El Paso City Council adopted an ordinance entering into a Franchise Agreement with the Company's subsidiary, El Paso Disposal. The Franchise Agreement grants El Paso Disposal a franchise to provide solid waste collection services within the City's jurisdiction for forty (40) months from September 1, 2011. The Franchise Agreement expressly recognizes the existence of the 2004 Agreement and provides that the rights, defenses and claims of the Company and its subsidiaries lawfully existing and enforceable under or arising from the 2004 Agreement are independent of and not superseded by the Franchise Agreement. On August 24, 2011, the Company and its subsidiaries filed a motion pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 162 to non-suit without prejudice the lawsuit, expressly reserving their rights at law, under the Franchise Agreement, the 2004 Agreement or otherwise. On August 31, 2011, the trial court signed an order dismissing the lawsuit without prejudice. The order of dismissal became a final order on September 30, 2011, by operation of law.

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**Colonie, New York Landfill Privatization Litigation**

One of the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries, Capital Region Landfills, Inc. ( CRL ) and the Town of Colonie, New York ( Colonie ), entered into a Solid Waste Facility Operating Agreement, dated August 4, 2011 ( Agreement ). CRL was selected to operate the Town's solid waste management operations, which include a landfill, pursuant to a request for proposals initiated by Colonie pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law section 120-w. CRL commenced operating the Town's solid waste management operations pursuant to the Agreement on September 19, 2011. By notice of petition and petition, dated September 29, 2011, filed in New York State Supreme Court for the County of Albany, seven individuals commenced a proceeding pursuant to Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules of the State of New York against Colonie, its Town Board and its Supervisor, Paula A. Mahan. The case is captioned, *Connors, et al. v. Town of Colonie, et al.*, Index No. 006312/2011 (Sup. Ct., Albany Co.). The Petitioners are: Michael Connors, II, Anna M. Denney, Derrick D. Denney, Kirk E. Denney, Amy Steenburgh, Brian D. Steenburgh and Mary Lou Swatling. On October 17, 2011, an amended petition, dated October 11, 2011, was served on the Town, naming CRL and the Company as additional Respondents. The petition alleges that the Petitioners are residents of Colonie, and own or reside on property abutting or in close proximity to the landfill, or which is affected by the Agreement. Petitioners claim that the Agreement is the functional equivalent of a lease and therefore should be subject to the permissive referendum requirements of New York State Town Law sections 64(2) and 90. The petition asserts that Respondents failed, within ten days of the Town Board's adoption of a July 28, 2011 resolution authorizing Colonie to enter into the Agreement with CRL, to post and publish notice setting forth the date of adoption of the resolution, an abstract of the Town Board's action and a statement that the resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum. Petitioners seek judgment (i) annulling and setting aside the resolution, (ii) declaring the Agreement invalid, unlawful and unenforceable, (iii) restraining and enjoining Respondents from attempting to enforce the resolution or the Agreement, and (iv) awarding Petitioners costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this proceeding; and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. At this early stage, the Company is not able to determine the likelihood of any outcome in this matter. If, however, as a result of this litigation, after the parties have exhausted all appeals, the Agreement is nullified and CRL is unable to continue to operate the Colonie Landfill, the Agreement requires Colonie to repay to CRL an amount equal to a prorated amount of \$23,000 of the initial payment made by CRL to Colonie plus the amount of any capital that CRL has invested in the Colonie Landfill. The prorated amount owed to CRL by Colonie would be calculated by dividing the \$23,000 plus the amount of invested capital by the number of years of remaining airspace at the Colonie Landfill, as measured from the effective date of the Agreement, and then multiplying the result by the number of years of remaining airspace at the Colonie Landfill, as measured from the date the Agreement is nullified. Furthermore, if the Agreement is nullified as a result of the litigation, Colonie would resume responsibility for all final capping, closure and post-closure liabilities for the Colonie Landfill.

**16. SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

On October 18, 2011, the Company announced that its Board of Directors increased its regular quarterly cash dividend by \$0.015, from \$0.075 to \$0.09, and then declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.09 per share on the Company's common stock. The dividend will be paid on November 16, 2011, to stockholders of record on the close of business on November 2, 2011.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are forward-looking in nature, including statements related to our ability to provide adequate cash to fund our operating activities, our ability to draw on our credit facility or raise additional capital, the impact of global economic conditions on our volume, business and results of operations, the effects of landfill special waste projects on volume results, the effects of seasonality on our business and results of operations, demand for recyclable commodities and recyclable commodity pricing, our expectations with respect to capital expenditures, our expectations with respect to our ability to obtain expansions of permitted landfill capacity, our expectations with respect to future dividend payments, our expectations with respect to the outcomes of our legal proceedings and our expectations with respect to the purchase of fuel and fuel prices. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as believes, expects, may, will, anticipates, or the negative thereof or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy.

Our business and operations are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and, consequently, actual results may differ materially from those projected by any forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those projected include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Our acquisitions may not be successful, resulting in changes in strategy, operating losses or a loss on sale of the business acquired;

- A portion of our growth and future financial performance depends on our ability to integrate acquired businesses into our organization and operations;

- Downturns in the worldwide economy adversely affect operating results;

- Our results are vulnerable to economic conditions and seasonal factors affecting the regions in which we operate;

- We may be subject in the normal course of business to judicial, administrative or other third party proceedings that could interrupt or limit our operations, require expensive remediation, result in adverse judgments, settlements or fines and create negative publicity;

- We may be unable to compete effectively with larger and better capitalized companies and governmental service providers;

- We may lose contracts through competitive bidding, early termination or governmental action;

- Price increases may not be adequate to offset the impact of increased costs or may cause us to lose volume;

- Increases in the price of fuel may adversely affect our business and reduce our operating margins;

- Increases in labor and disposal and related transportation costs could impact our financial results;

- Efforts by labor unions could divert management attention and adversely affect operating results;

- We could face significant withdrawal liability if we withdraw from participation in one or more underfunded multiemployer pension plans in which we participate;

- Increases in insurance costs and the amount that we self-insure for various risks could reduce our operating margins and reported earnings;

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Competition for acquisition candidates, consolidation within the waste industry and economic and market conditions may limit our ability to grow through acquisitions;

Our indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition; we may incur substantially more debt in the future;

Each business that we acquire or have acquired may have liabilities or risks that we fail or are unable to discover, including environmental liabilities;

Liabilities for environmental damage may adversely affect our financial condition, business and earnings;

Our accruals for our landfill site closure and post-closure costs may be inadequate;

The financial soundness of our customers could affect our business and operating results;

We depend significantly on the services of the members of our senior, regional and district management team, and the departure of any of those persons could cause our operating results to suffer;

Our decentralized decision-making structure could allow local managers to make decisions that adversely affect our operating results;

We may incur charges related to capitalized expenditures of landfill development projects, which would decrease our earnings;

Because we depend on railroads for our intermodal operations, our operating results and financial condition are likely to be adversely affected by any reduction or deterioration in rail service;

Our financial results are based upon estimates and assumptions that may differ from actual results;

The adoption of new accounting standards or interpretations could adversely affect our financial results;

Our financial and operating performance may be affected by the inability to renew landfill operating permits, obtain new landfills and expand existing ones;

Future changes in laws or renewed enforcement of laws regulating the flow of solid waste in interstate commerce could adversely affect our operating results;

Fluctuations in prices for recycled commodities that we sell and rebates we offer to customers may cause our revenues and operating results to decline;

Extensive and evolving environmental, health, safety and employment laws and regulations may restrict our operations and growth and increase our costs;

Climate change regulations may adversely affect operating results;

Extensive regulations that govern the design, operation and closure of landfills may restrict our landfill operations or increase our costs of operating landfills;

Alternatives to landfill disposal may cause our revenues and operating results to decline; and

Unusually adverse weather conditions may interfere with our operations, harming our operating results.

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These risks and uncertainties, as well as others, are discussed in greater detail in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. There may be additional risks of which we are not presently aware or that we currently believe are immaterial which could have an adverse impact on our business. We make no commitment to revise or update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect events or circumstances that may change.

**OVERVIEW**

The solid waste industry is a local and highly competitive business, requiring substantial labor and capital resources. The participants compete for collection accounts primarily on the basis of price and, to a lesser extent, the quality of service, and compete for landfill business on the basis of tipping fees, geographic location and quality of operations. The solid waste industry has been consolidating and continues to consolidate as a result of a number of factors, including the increasing costs and complexity associated with waste management operations and regulatory compliance. Many small independent operators and municipalities lack the capital resources, management, operating skills and technical expertise necessary to operate effectively in such an environment. The consolidation trend has caused solid waste companies to operate larger landfills that have complementary collection routes that can use company-owned disposal capacity. Controlling the point of transfer from haulers to landfills has become increasingly important as landfills continue to close and disposal capacity moves farther from collection markets.

Generally, the most profitable industry operators are those companies that are vertically integrated or enter into long-term collection contracts. A vertically integrated operator will benefit from: (1) the internalization of waste, which is bringing waste to a company-owned landfill; (2) the ability to charge third-party haulers tipping fees either at landfills or at transfer stations; and (3) the efficiencies gained by being able to aggregate and process waste at a transfer station prior to landfilling.

We are an integrated solid waste services company that provides solid waste collection, transfer, disposal and recycling services in mostly exclusive and secondary markets. We also provide intermodal services for the rail haul movement of cargo and solid waste containers in the Pacific Northwest through a network of intermodal facilities. We also treat and dispose of non-hazardous waste that is generated in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas primarily at a facility in Southwest Louisiana. We seek to avoid highly competitive, large urban markets and instead target markets where we can provide either solid waste services under exclusive arrangements, or markets where we can be integrated and attain high market share. In markets where waste collection services are provided under exclusive arrangements, or where waste disposal is municipally funded or available at multiple municipal sources, we believe that controlling the waste stream by providing collection services under exclusive arrangements is often more important to our growth and profitability than owning or operating landfills. As of September 30, 2011, we served more than two million residential, commercial and industrial customers from a network of operations in 29 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. As of that date, we owned or operated a network of 140 solid waste collection operations, 57 transfer stations, seven intermodal facilities, 39 recycling operations, 43 municipal solid waste landfills, two construction and demolition landfills and one exploration and production waste treatment and disposal facility.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities in the consolidated financial statements. As described by the SEC, critical accounting estimates and assumptions are those that may be material due to the levels of subjectivity and judgment necessary to account for highly uncertain matters or the susceptibility of such matters to change, and that have a material impact on the financial condition or operating performance of a company. Such critical accounting estimates and assumptions are applicable to our reportable segments. Refer to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for a complete description of our critical accounting estimates and assumptions.





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For a description of the new accounting standards that affect us, see Note 3 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included under Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

**GENERAL**

Our revenues are derived from one industry segment, which includes the collection, transfer, recycling and disposal of non-hazardous solid waste. No single contract or customer accounted for more than 10% of our total revenues at the consolidated or reportable segment level during the periods presented. The table below shows for the periods indicated our total reported revenues attributable to services provided (dollars in thousands).

	<b>Three months ended September 30,</b>				<b>Nine months ended September 30,</b>			
	<b>2011</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2010</b>	
Collection	\$ 282,176	61.1%	\$ 244,936	61.8%	\$ 796,783	61.9%	\$ 712,114	63.1%
Disposal and transfer	138,680	30.0	125,473	31.7	381,961	29.6	342,390	30.3
Intermodal, recycling and other	40,829	8.9	25,885	6.5	109,301	8.5	74,505	6.6
	461,685	100.0%	396,294	100.0%	1,288,045	100.0%	1,129,009	100.0%
Less: intercompany elimination	(57,723)		(50,509)		(162,431)		(145,207)	
Total revenue	\$ 403,962		\$ 345,785		\$ 1,125,614		\$ 983,802	

Our Chief Operating Decision Maker evaluates performance and determines resource allocations based on several factors, of which the primary financial measure is operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets. Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets is not a measure of operating income, operating performance or liquidity under GAAP and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. Our management uses operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in the evaluation of segment operating performance as it is a profit measure that is generally within the control of the operating segments.

We manage our operations through three geographic operating segments, which are also our reportable segments. Each operating segment is responsible for managing several vertically integrated operations, which are comprised of districts. In April 2011, as a result of the County Waste acquisition (described in Note 7 to the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q), we realigned our reporting structure and changed our three geographic operating segments from Western, Central and Southern to Western, Central and Eastern. As part of this realignment, the states of Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas, which were previously part of the Southern region, are now included in the Central region. Also as part of this realignment, the state of Michigan, which was previously part of the Central region, is now included in the Eastern region. Additionally, the states of New York and Massachusetts, which we now operate in as a result of the County Waste acquisition, are included in the Eastern region. The segment information presented herein reflects the realignment of these districts. Under the current orientation, our Western Region is comprised of operating locations in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and western Wyoming; our Central Region is comprised of operating locations in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and eastern Wyoming; and our Eastern Region is comprised of operating locations in Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.



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Revenues, net of intercompany eliminations, for our reportable segments are shown in the following table for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Three months ended</b>		<b>Nine months ended</b>	
	<b>September 30,</b>		<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Western	\$ 197,260	\$ 188,538	\$ 559,377	\$ 531,502
Central	112,851	100,579	323,762	285,292
Eastern	93,851	56,668	242,475	167,008
Corporate				
	\$ 403,962	\$ 345,785	\$ 1,125,614	\$ 983,802

Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets for our reportable segments is shown in the following table for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	<b>Three months ended</b>		<b>Nine months ended</b>	
	<b>September 30,</b>		<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Western	\$ 65,306	\$ 60,500	\$ 177,593	\$ 164,737
Central	40,174	33,792	115,261	94,794
Eastern	27,179	17,379	70,856	52,074
Corporate <sup>(a)</sup>	1,695	2,021	3,351	3,758
	\$ 134,354	\$ 113,692	\$ 367,061	\$ 315,363

(a) Corporate functions include accounting, legal, tax, treasury, information technology, risk management, human resources, training and other administrative functions.

A reconciliation of Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets to Income before income tax provision is included in Note 9 to the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Significant changes in revenue and operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets for our reportable segments for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011, compared to the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2010, are discussed below:

**Segment Revenue**

Revenue in our Western segment increased \$8.8 million, or 4.6%, to \$197.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$188.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. For the three months ended September 30, 2011, the components of the increase consisted of revenue acquired from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010, of \$0.1 million, net price increases of \$4.5 million, recyclable commodity sales increases of \$4.4 million, intermodal revenue increases of \$1.1 million and other revenue increases of \$0.1 million, partially offset by volume decreases of \$1.4 million.

Revenue in our Western segment increased \$27.9 million, or 5.2%, to \$559.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$531.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the components of the increase consisted of revenue acquired from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010, of \$0.6 million, net price increases of \$12.6 million, recyclable commodity sales increases of \$12.2 million, intermodal revenue increases of \$3.9 million and other revenue increases of \$0.3 million, partially offset by decreases of \$1.0 million from divested operations and volume

decreases of \$0.7 million.

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Revenue in our Central segment increased \$12.3 million, or 12.2%, to \$112.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$100.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. For the three months ended September 30, 2011, the components of the increase consisted of revenue acquired from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010, of \$7.4 million, net price increases of \$4.8 million and recyclable commodity sales increases of \$0.7 million, partially offset by volume decreases of \$0.6 million.

Revenue in our Central segment increased \$38.5 million, or 13.5%, to \$323.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$285.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the components of the increase consisted of revenue acquired from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010, of \$25.1 million, net price increases of \$14.7 million and recyclable commodity sales increases of \$1.2 million, partially offset by volume decreases of \$2.5 million.

Revenue in our Eastern segment increased \$37.2 million, or 65.6%, to \$93.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$56.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. For the three months ended September 30, 2011, the components of the increase consisted of revenue acquired from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010, of \$32.9 million, net price increases of \$2.8 million, volume increases of \$1.2 million and recyclable commodity sales increases of \$0.3 million.

Revenue in our Eastern segment increased \$75.5 million, or 45.2%, to \$242.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$167.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the components of the increase consisted of revenue acquired from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010, of \$66.2 million, net price increases of \$7.1 million, volume increases of \$2.0 million and recyclable commodity sales increases of \$0.6 million, partially offset by other revenue decreases of \$0.4 million.

**Segment Operating Income before Depreciation, Amortization and Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets**

Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in our Western segment increased \$4.8 million, or 7.9%, to \$65.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$60.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in our Western segment increased \$12.9 million, or 7.8%, to \$177.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$164.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increases were primarily due to increased revenues, decreased disposal expenses, decreased third party trucking and transportation expenses at our collection and disposal operations and decreased expenses for uncollectible accounts receivable, partially offset by increased rail transportation expenses at our intermodal operations, increased franchise fees and taxes on revenues, increased expenses associated with the cost of purchasing recyclable commodities, increased direct and administrative labor expenses, increased diesel fuel expense, increased truck and equipment repair expenses and increased legal expenses.

Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in our Central segment increased \$6.4 million, or 18.9%, to \$40.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$33.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in our Central segment increased \$20.5 million, or 21.6%, to \$115.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$94.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increases were primarily due to income generated from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010 and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2010 and 2011: increased revenues, partially offset by increased disposal expenses, increased third party trucking and transportation expenses, increased taxes on revenues, increased direct labor expenses, increased diesel fuel expense and increased truck and equipment repair expenses.

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Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in our Eastern segment increased \$9.8 million, or 56.4%, to \$27.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$17.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets in our Eastern segment increased \$18.8 million, or 36.1%, to \$70.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$52.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increases were primarily due to income generated from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 and the following changes at operations owned in comparable periods in 2010 and 2011: increased revenues, partially offset by increased third party trucking and transportation expenses, increased taxes on revenues, increased direct labor expenses, increased diesel fuel expense, increased truck and equipment repair expenses, increased landfill leachate disposal costs at certain landfills we own and increased expenses for uncollectible accounts receivable.

Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets at Corporate decreased \$0.3 million, or 16.1%, to \$1.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$2.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Operating income before depreciation, amortization and gain (loss) on disposal of assets at Corporate decreased \$0.4 million, or 10.8%, to \$3.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$3.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Our estimated recurring corporate expenses, which can vary from the actual amount of incurred corporate expenses, are allocated to our three geographic operating segments.

**Table of Contents****RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 AND 2010**

The following table sets forth items in our condensed consolidated statements of income as a percentage of revenues for the periods indicated.

	<b>Three months ended</b>		<b>Nine months ended</b>	
	<b>September 30,</b>		<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Revenues	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of operations	56.6	56.0	56.6	56.7
Selling, general and administrative	10.2	11.1	10.7	11.2
Depreciation	9.6	10.0	9.7	10.1
Amortization of intangibles	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1
Loss on disposal of assets	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Operating income	22.1	21.9	21.6	20.8
Interest expense	(3.0)	(2.7)	(2.8)	(3.1)
Interest income	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Loss on extinguishment of debt				(1.0)
Other income (expense), net	(0.2)	0.4	(0.1)	0.2
Income tax provision	(7.4)	(7.7)	(7.3)	(6.7)
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Net income attributable to Waste Connections	11.5%	11.9%	11.3%	10.1%

**Revenues.** Total revenues increased \$58.2 million, or 16.8%, to \$404.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$345.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Total revenues increased \$141.8 million, or 14.4%, to \$1.126 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$983.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

Acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010, increased revenues by approximately \$40.3 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011. Acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010, increased revenues by approximately \$90.9 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

During the three months ended September 30, 2011, the net increase in prices charged to our customers was \$12.1 million, consisting of \$9.0 million of core price increases and \$3.1 million of fuel, materials and environmental surcharges. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the net increase in prices charged to our customers was \$34.3 million, consisting of \$26.8 million of core price increases and \$7.5 million of fuel, materials and environmental surcharges.

Volume decreases in our existing business during the three months ended September 30, 2011, decreased revenues by approximately \$0.8 million. Volume decreases in our existing business during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, decreased revenues by approximately \$1.1 million. The net decreases in volume were primarily attributable to decreases in commercial hauling activity, partially offset by increases in landfill special waste volumes and roll off hauling activity.



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Increased recyclable commodity volumes collected and increased recyclable commodity prices during the three months ended September 30, 2011, increased revenues by \$5.4 million. Increased recyclable commodity volumes collected and increased recyclable commodity prices during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, increased revenues by \$14.0 million. The increases in recyclable commodity prices were primarily due to increased overseas demand for recyclable commodities.

Other revenues increased by \$1.2 million during the three months ended September 30, 2011. Other revenues increased by \$3.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increases were primarily due to an increase in cargo volume at our intermodal operations.

**Cost of Operations.** Total cost of operations increased \$35.0 million, or 18.0%, to \$228.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$193.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. The increase was primarily attributable to operating costs associated with acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010, increased rail transportation expenses at our intermodal operations, increased franchise fees and taxes on revenues due to increased tax rates and increased landfill volumes, increased expenses associated with the cost of purchasing recyclable commodities due to recyclable commodity pricing increases, increased labor expenses, increased diesel fuel expense resulting from higher market prices for fuel, increased truck, equipment and container repair expenses and increased landfill leachate disposal costs at certain landfills we own, partially offset by a decrease in auto and workers compensation insurance expense under our high deductible insurance program due to a reduction in projected losses on open claims.

Total cost of operations increased \$79.5 million, or 14.3%, to \$637.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$558.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase was primarily attributable to operating costs associated with acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010, increased rail transportation expenses at our intermodal operations, increased third party trucking and transportation expenses due to increased waste disposal internalization, increased franchise fees and taxes on revenues due to increased tax rates and increased landfill volumes, increased expenses associated with the cost of purchasing recyclable commodities due to recyclable commodity pricing increases, increased labor expenses, increased employee medical benefit expenses resulting from increased claims cost and severity, increased diesel fuel expense resulting from higher market prices for fuel and increased truck, equipment and container repair expenses, partially offset by a decrease in auto and workers compensation expense under our high deductible insurance program due to a reduction in projected losses.

Cost of operations as a percentage of revenues increased 0.6 percentage points to 56.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from 56.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2010, due primarily to acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010 having higher disposal costs as a percentage of revenue relative to our company average, increased diesel fuel expense, increased truck, equipment and container repair expenses, increased rail transportation expenses and increased expenses associated with the cost of purchasing recyclable commodities, partially offset by leveraging existing personnel to support increases in landfill volumes, recyclable commodity revenue and intermodal revenue, higher gross margins on landfill special waste volumes and decreased auto and workers compensation insurance expenses.

Cost of operations as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.1 percentage points to 56.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from 56.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, due primarily to higher gross margins on landfill special waste volumes, decreased auto and workers compensation expense and leveraging existing personnel to support increases in landfill volumes, recyclable commodity revenue and intermodal revenue, partially offset by acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010 having higher disposal costs as a percentage of revenue relative to our company average and increased diesel fuel expense.

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**SG&A.** SG&A expenses increased \$2.5 million, or 6.7%, to \$41.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$38.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. The increase was primarily the result of additional personnel expenses from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three months ended September 30, 2010, increased payroll and payroll-related expenses, increased equity compensation expense and increased cash incentive compensation expense, partially offset by decreased direct acquisition expenses and decreased employee deferred compensation expense resulting from deferred compensation liabilities to employees being reduced as a result of declines in the market value of investments to which employee deferred compensation balances are tracked.

SG&A expenses increased \$10.6 million, or 9.6%, to \$121.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$110.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase was primarily the result of additional personnel expenses from acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the nine months ended September 30, 2010, increased payroll and payroll-related expenses, increased equity compensation expense and increased cash incentive compensation expense, partially offset by decreased employee deferred compensation expense resulting from deferred compensation liabilities to employees being reduced as a result of declines in the market value of investments to which employee deferred compensation balances are tracked.

SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.9 percentage points to 10.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from 11.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2010. SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.5 percentage points to 10.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from 11.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The decreases as a percentage of revenues were primarily attributable to leveraging our administrative activities to support increases in landfill volumes, recyclable commodity revenue and intermodal revenue, and acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 having lower SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenue than our company average.

**Depreciation.** Depreciation expense increased \$4.5 million, or 12.9%, to \$38.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$34.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Depreciation expense increased \$9.5 million, or 9.6%, to \$108.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$99.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increases were primarily attributable to depreciation and depletion associated with acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, increased depreciation expense associated with additions to our fleet and equipment purchased to support our existing operations, and increased depletion expense associated with increases in landfill volumes.

Depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.4 percentage points to 9.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from 10.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues decreased 0.4 percentage points to 9.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from 10.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The decreases were due primarily to acquisitions closed during, or subsequent to, the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 having depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues below our company average and leveraging existing equipment to service increases in landfill volumes, recyclable commodity revenue and intermodal revenue.

**Amortization of Intangibles.** Amortization of intangibles expense increased \$1.5 million, or 42.1%, to \$5.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$3.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Amortization of intangibles expense increased \$4.0 million, or 36.9%, to \$14.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$10.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Amortization of intangibles expense as a percentage of revenues increased 0.3 percentage points to 1.3% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from 1.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Amortization of intangibles expense as a percentage of revenues increased 0.2 percentage points to 1.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from 1.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

The increases were primarily attributable to the amortization of contracts and customer lists acquired during, or subsequent to, the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010.

**Operating Income.** Operating income increased \$13.6 million, or 18.0%, to \$89.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$75.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. Operating income increased \$38.1 million, or 18.6%, to \$242.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$204.6 million for the

nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increases were primarily attributable to increased revenues, partially offset by increased operating costs, increased SG&A expense, and increased depreciation expense and amortization of intangibles expense.

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Operating income as a percentage of revenues increased 0.2 percentage points to 22.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from 21.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2010. The increase as a percentage of revenues was due to the previously described 0.9 percentage point decrease in SG&A expense and 0.4 percentage point decrease in depreciation expense, partially offset by the 0.6 percentage point increase in cost of operations, 0.3 percentage point increase in amortization expense and 0.2 percentage point increase in loss (gain) on disposal of assets.

Operating income as a percentage of revenues increased 0.8 percentage points to 21.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from 20.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase as a percentage of revenues was due to the previously described 0.1 percentage point decrease in cost of operations, 0.5 percentage point decrease in SG&A expense and 0.4 percentage point decrease in depreciation expense, partially offset by the 0.2 percentage point increase in amortization expense.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense increased \$2.6 million, or 27.7%, to \$12.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$9.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010. The increase was due to interest expense associated with the April 2011 issuance of our 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes, partially offset by a reduction in the fixed interest rate paid on \$175 million of interest rate swaps. In February 2011, three interest rate swaps with a combined notional amount of \$175 million and fixed interest rate of 4.37% expired and we commenced a new \$175 million interest rate swap with a fixed interest rate of 2.85%.

Interest expense increased \$1.1 million, or 3.6%, to \$31.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$30.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase was due to interest expense associated with the April 2011 issuance of our 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes, partially offset by funding the redemption of our 2026 Notes with borrowings under our credit facility at lower interest rates and a reduction in the amortization of our debt discount and debt issuance costs on the redeemed 2026 Notes and the aforementioned changes in our interest rate swaps.

**Loss on Extinguishment of Debt.** Loss on extinguishment of debt for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, consisted of an expense charge of \$9.7 million associated with the redemption of our 2026 Notes and a charge of \$0.5 million associated with the redemption of our Wasco Bonds.

**Income Tax Provision.** Income taxes increased \$3.3 million, or 12.3%, to \$29.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, from \$26.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2010, as a result of increased pre-tax income. Income taxes increased \$16.1 million, or 24.3%, to \$82.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$66.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

Our effective tax rates for the three months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, were 39.1% and 39.2%, respectively. Our effective tax rates for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, were 39.2% and 40.0%, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, we recorded a \$1.5 million increase in the income tax provision associated with an adjustment in deferred tax liabilities resulting from a voter-approved increase in Oregon state income tax rates and changes to the geographic apportionment of our state income taxes.

**Table of Contents****LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

The following table sets forth certain cash flow information for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands):

	<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 297,724	\$ 246,022
Net cash used in investing activities	(328,240)	(100,808)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	57,203	(141,297)
Net increase in cash and equivalents	26,687	3,917
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	9,873	9,639
Cash and equivalents at end of period	\$ 36,560	\$ 13,556

**Operating Activities Cash Flows**

For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, net cash provided by operating activities was \$297.7 million. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, net cash provided by operating activities was \$246.0 million. The \$51.7 million net increase in cash provided by operating activities was due primarily to the following:

- 1) An increase in net income of \$28.3 million;
- 2) An increase in deferred taxes of \$21.0 million due primarily to the recognition during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, of tax benefits totaling \$16.4 million associated with an Internal Revenue Service approved change in our tax method for deducting depreciation expense for certain landfills as well as other tax deductible timing differences associated with depreciation;
- 3) An increase in depreciation and amortization expense of \$13.5 million; less
- 4) A decrease in cash flows from operating assets and liabilities, net of effects from acquisitions, of \$12.5 million to cash provided by operating assets and liabilities of \$1.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from cash provided by operating assets and liabilities of \$14.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The significant components of the \$1.9 million in cash inflows from changes in operating assets and liabilities for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, include the following:
  - a) an increase in cash resulting from an increase in accrued liabilities of \$22.3 million due primarily to increased accrued interest expense due to increased debt balances and the timing of interest payments, increased current taxes payable, increased property taxes payable, increased liabilities for auto and workers compensation claims, and increased wages and accrued vacation liabilities;
  - b) an increase in cash resulting from a \$5.3 million decrease in prepaid expenses and other current assets due primarily to decreases in prepaid income taxes, partially offset by an increase in prepaid insurance expense and parts inventory;
  - c) an increase in cash resulting from an increase in deferred revenue of \$2.4 million due primarily to increased revenues and timing of billing for services; less
  - d) a decrease in cash resulting from a \$23.5 million increase in accounts receivable due to an increase in revenues; less
  - e) a decrease in cash resulting from a \$3.7 million decrease in accounts payable due primarily to the timing of payments.

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As of September 30, 2011, we had a working capital deficit of \$12.1 million, including cash and equivalents of \$36.6 million. Our working capital deficit decreased \$25.9 million from \$38.0 million at December 31, 2010. To date, we have experienced no loss or lack of access to our cash or cash equivalents; however, we can provide no assurances that access to our cash and cash equivalents will not be impacted by adverse conditions in the financial markets. Our strategy in managing our working capital is generally to apply the cash generated from our operations that remains after satisfying our working capital and capital expenditure requirements, along with stock repurchase and dividend programs, to reduce our indebtedness under our credit facility and to minimize our cash balances.

**Investing Activities Cash Flows**

Net cash used in investing activities increased \$227.4 million to \$328.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from \$100.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The significant components of the increase include the following:

- 1) An increase in payments for acquisitions of \$230.6 million primarily due to the recent acquisition of County Waste;
- 2) A decrease in proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment of \$2.5 million; less
- 3) A decrease in capital expenditures for property and equipment of \$2.1 million due to decreases in expenditures for trucks, equipment and land, partially offset by an increase in expenditures for site costs at various landfills, buildings and computers.

**Financing Activities Cash Flows**

Net cash flows provided by financing activities increased \$198.5 million to \$57.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, from cash flows used in financing activities of \$141.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The significant components of the increase include the following:

- 1) An increase in net long-term borrowings of \$224.8 million due primarily to the issuance of new debt to fund the acquisition of County Waste;
- 2) A decrease in payments to repurchase our common stock of \$31.2 million; less
- 3) An increase in cash dividends paid of \$25.5 million with the initiation of a quarterly cash dividend in November 2010; less
- 4) A decrease in proceeds from option and warrant exercises of \$18.3 million due to a decrease in the number of options and warrants exercised in the nine month period ended September 30, 2011; less
- 5) An increase in debt issuance costs of \$6.4 million in conjunction with the new credit agreement entered into during the nine months ended September 30, 2011; less
- 6) A decrease in the excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation of \$4.4 million.

Our business is capital intensive. Our capital requirements include acquisitions and fixed asset purchases. We will also make capital expenditures for landfill cell construction, landfill development, landfill closure activities and intermodal facility construction in the future.

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Our Board of Directors has authorized a common stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$800.0 million of our common stock through December 31, 2012. Under the program, stock repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time at management's discretion. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including our capital structure, the market price of the common stock and overall market conditions. As of September 30, 2011 and 2010, we had repurchased in aggregate 38.3 million and 33.6 million shares, respectively, of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$733.7 million and \$598.7 million, respectively. As of September 30, 2011, the remaining maximum dollar value of shares available for purchase under the program was approximately \$66.3 million.

On October 19, 2010, our Board of Directors declared a three-for-two split of our common stock, in the form of a 50% stock dividend, payable to stockholders of record as of October 29, 2010. Shares resulting from the split were issued on November 12, 2010. All share and per share amounts for all periods presented have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the stock split.

In addition, on October 19, 2010, our Board of Directors declared the initiation of a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.075 per share, as adjusted for the three-for-two stock split described above. We also paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.075 per share on our common stock, totaling \$8.5 million on each of March 1, 2011, May 20, 2011 and August 17, 2011. On October 18, 2011, we announced that our Board of Directors increased our regular quarterly cash dividend by \$0.015, from \$0.075 to \$0.09, and then declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.09 per share on our common stock. The dividend will be paid on November 16, 2011, to stockholders of record on the close of business on November 2, 2011. The Board will review the cash dividend periodically, with a long-term objective of increasing the amount of the dividend. We cannot assure you as to the amounts or timing of future dividends.

We made \$84.1 million in capital expenditures during the nine months ended September 30, 2011. We expect to make capital expenditures of approximately \$135 million in 2011 in connection with our existing business. We have funded and intend to fund the balance of our planned 2011 capital expenditures principally through internally generated funds and borrowings under our credit facility. In addition, we may make substantial additional capital expenditures in acquiring solid waste collection and disposal businesses. If we acquire additional landfill disposal facilities, we may also have to make significant expenditures to bring them into compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, obtain permits or expand our available disposal capacity. We cannot currently determine the amount of these expenditures because they will depend on the number, nature, condition and permitted status of any acquired landfill disposal facilities. We believe that our cash and equivalents, credit facility and the funds we expect to generate from operations will provide adequate cash to fund our working capital and other cash needs for the foreseeable future. However, disruptions in the capital and credit markets could adversely affect our ability to draw on our credit facility or raise other capital. Our access to funds under the credit facility is dependent on the ability of the banks that are parties to the facility to meet their funding commitments. Those banks may not be able to meet their funding commitments if they experience shortages of capital and liquidity or if they experience excessive volumes of borrowing requests within a short period of time.

As of September 30, 2011, we had \$519.0 million outstanding under our credit facility, exclusive of outstanding standby letters of credit of \$80.4 million. As of September 30, 2011, we were in compliance with all applicable covenants in our credit agreement.

On July 11, 2011, we, along with certain of our subsidiaries, entered into an Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "credit agreement") with Bank of America, N.A. and the other banks and lending institutions party thereto, as lenders, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as co-syndication agents.

Our credit agreement is comprised of a \$1.2 billion revolving credit facility (the "credit facility") which matures on July 11, 2016. We have the ability under the credit agreement to increase commitments under the revolving credit facility from \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion, subject to conditions including that no default, as defined in the credit agreement, has occurred, although no existing lender has any obligation to increase its commitment. We used proceeds from the credit agreement in order to refinance our previous \$845 million credit facility, which had a maturity of September 27, 2012.





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Under the credit agreement, there is no maximum amount of standby letters of credit that can be issued; however, the issuance of standby letters of credit reduces the amount of total borrowings available. The credit agreement requires us to pay a commitment fee ranging from 0.200% per annum to 0.350% per annum of the unused portion of the facility. The borrowings under the credit agreement bear interest, at our option, at either the base rate plus the applicable base rate margin on base rate loans, or the LIBOR rate plus the applicable LIBOR margin on LIBOR loans. The base rate for any day is a fluctuating rate per annum equal to the highest of: (1) the federal funds rate plus one half of one percent (0.500%); (2) the LIBOR rate plus one percent (1.000%), and (3) the rate of interest in effect for such day as publicly announced from time to time by Bank of America as its prime rate. The LIBOR rate is determined by the administrative agent pursuant to a formula in the credit agreement. The applicable margins under the credit agreement vary depending on our leverage ratio, as defined in the credit agreement, and range from 1.150% per annum to 2.000% per annum for LIBOR loans and 0.150% per annum to 1.000% per annum for base rate loans. The interest rate applicable under the credit agreement is currently the LIBOR rate plus 1.400% per annum, a 0.775% per annum increase in the corresponding interest rate under our previous credit facility. The borrowings under the credit agreement are not collateralized.

The credit agreement contains representations and warranties and places certain business, financial and operating restrictions on us relating to, among other things, indebtedness, liens and other encumbrances, investments, mergers and acquisitions, asset sales, sale and leaseback transactions, and dividends, distributions and redemptions of capital stock. The credit agreement requires that we maintain specified financial ratios. We expect to use the credit agreement for acquisitions, capital expenditures, working capital, standby letters of credit and general corporate purposes.

On April 1, 2011, we entered into a Second Supplement to Master Note Purchase Agreement with certain accredited institutional investors, pursuant to which we issued and sold to the investors on that date \$250.0 million of senior uncollateralized notes at fixed interest rates with interest payable in arrears semi-annually on October 1 and April 1, beginning on October 1, 2011, in a private placement. Of these notes, \$100.0 million will mature on April 1, 2016 with an annual interest rate of 3.30% (the 2016 Notes ), \$50.0 million will mature on April 1, 2018 with an annual interest rate of 4.00% (the 2018 Notes ), and \$100.0 million will mature on April 1, 2021 with an annual interest rate of 4.64% (the 2021 Notes ). The 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes are uncollateralized obligations and rank equally in right of payment with the 2015 Notes, the 2019 Notes and obligations under our credit facility. The 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes are subject to representations, warranties, covenants and events of default. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, payment of the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes may be accelerated by the holders of the respective notes. The 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes may also be prepaid by us at any time at par plus a make-whole amount determined in respect of the remaining scheduled interest payments on the respective notes, using a discount rate of the then current market standard for United States treasury bills plus 0.50%. In addition, we will be required to offer to prepay the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes upon certain changes in control.

We may issue additional series of senior uncollateralized notes pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Master Note Agreement, provided that the purchasers of the outstanding notes, including the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes and 2021 Notes, shall not have any obligation to purchase any additional notes issued pursuant to the Master Note Agreement and the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes and any additional notes issued pursuant to the Master Note Agreement shall not exceed \$750.0 million. We currently have \$600.0 million of Notes outstanding under the Master Note Agreement.

We used the proceeds from the sale of the 2016 Notes, 2018 Notes, and 2021 Notes to fund a portion of the purchase price for the County Waste acquisition, which is described below.

On April 1, 2011, we completed the acquisition of Hudson Valley Waste Holding, Inc., and its wholly-owned subsidiary, County Waste and Recycling Service, Inc. (collectively, County Waste ). The operations include six collection operations, three transfer stations and one recycling facility across six markets: Orange County, New York; Greater Albany, New York; Springfield, Massachusetts; Fulton County, New York; Warrant and Washington Counties, New York; and Greene, Columbia and Ulster Counties, New York. We paid \$299.0 million for the purchased operations plus amounts paid for the purchase of accounts receivable and other prepaid assets and estimated working capital, which amounts are subject to post-closing adjustments. No other consideration, including contingent

consideration, was transferred by us to acquire these operations.

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As of September 30, 2011, we had the following contractual obligations:

<b>Recorded Obligations</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Payments Due by Period</b>			
		<b>(amounts in thousands)</b>			
		<b>Less Than 1 Year</b>	<b>1 to 3 Years</b>	<b>3 to 5 Years</b>	<b>Over 5 Years</b>
Long-term debt	\$ 1,179,802	\$ 5,302	\$ 9,441	\$ 803,469	\$ 361,590
Cash interest payments	\$ 297,902	\$ 48,242	\$ 92,414	\$ 77,749	\$ 79,497

Long-term debt payments include:

- 1) \$519.0 million in principal payments due July 2016 related to our credit facility. Our credit facility bears interest, at our option, at either the base rate plus the applicable base rate margin (approximately 3.65% at September 30, 2011) on base rate loans, or the Eurodollar rate plus the applicable Eurodollar margin (approximately 1.64% at September 30, 2011) on Eurodollar loans. As of September 30, 2011, our credit facility allowed us to borrow up to \$1.2 billion.
- 2) \$175.0 million in principal payments due 2015 related to our 2015 Notes. Holders of the 2015 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2015 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2015 Notes bear interest at a rate of 6.22%.
- 3) \$100.0 million in principal payments due 2016 related to our 2016 Notes. Holders of the 2016 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2016 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2016 Notes bear interest at a rate of 3.30%.
- 4) \$50.0 million in principal payments due 2018 related to our 2018 Notes. Holders of the 2018 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2018 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2018 Notes bear interest at a rate of 4.00%.
- 5) \$175.0 million in principal payments due 2019 related to our 2019 Notes. Holders of the 2019 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2019 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2019 Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.25%.
- 6) \$100.0 million in principal payments due 2021 related to our 2021 Notes. Holders of the 2021 Notes may require us to purchase their notes in cash at a purchase price of 100% of the principal amount of the 2021 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon a change in control, as defined in the Master Note Purchase Agreement. The 2021 Notes bear interest at a rate of 4.64%.
- 7) \$38.5 million in principal payments related to our tax-exempt bonds, which bear interest at variable rates (between 0.17% and 0.29%) at September 30, 2011. The tax-exempt bonds have maturity dates ranging from 2012 to 2033.
- 8) \$19.4 million in principal payments related to our notes payable to sellers. Our notes payable to sellers bear interest at rates between 2.50% and 10.35% at September 30, 2011, and have maturity dates ranging from 2012 to

2036.

- 9) \$2.9 million in principal payments related to our notes payable to third parties. Our notes payable to third parties bear interest at rates between 6.7% and 10.9% at September 30, 2011, and have maturity dates ranging from 2012 to 2019.

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The following assumptions were made in calculating cash interest payments:

- 1) We calculated cash interest payments on the credit facility using the Eurodollar rate plus the applicable Eurodollar margin at September 30, 2011. We assumed the credit facility is paid off when it matures in July 2016.
- 2) We calculated cash interest payments on our interest rate swaps using the stated interest rate in the swap agreement less the Eurodollar rate through the term of the swaps.

Unrecorded Obligations <sup>(1)</sup>	Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period				
	Total	Less Than 1 Year	1 to 3 Years	3 to 5 Years	Over 5 Years
Operating leases	\$ 73,971	\$ 10,355	\$ 18,588	\$ 13,045	\$ 31,983

- (1) We are party to operating lease agreements. These lease agreements are established in the ordinary course of our business and are designed to provide us with access to facilities at competitive, market-driven prices. These arrangements have not materially affected our financial position, results of operations or liquidity during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, nor are they expected to have a material impact on our future financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

We have obtained financial surety bonds, primarily to support our financial assurance needs and landfill operations. We provided customers and various regulatory authorities with surety bonds in the aggregate amounts of approximately \$319.4 million and \$285.7 million at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. These arrangements have not materially affected our financial position, results of operations or liquidity during the nine months ended September 30, 2011, nor are they expected to have a material impact on our future financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

From time to time, we evaluate our existing operations and their strategic importance to us. If we determine that a given operating unit does not have future strategic importance, we may sell or otherwise dispose of those operations. Although we believe our reporting units would not be impaired by such dispositions, we could incur losses on them. The disposal tonnage that we received in the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, at all of our landfills during the respective period, is shown below (tons in thousands):

	Nine months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	Number of Sites	Total Tons	Number of Sites	Total Tons
Owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site agreements	40	10,785	38	9,875
Operated landfills	5	499	6	472
	45	11,284	44	10,347

**NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES****Free Cash Flow**

We present free cash flow, a non-GAAP financial measure, supplementally because it is widely used by investors as a valuation and liquidity measure in the solid waste industry. We define free cash flow as net cash provided by operating activities, plus proceeds from disposal of assets, plus or minus change in book overdraft, plus excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation,



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less capital expenditures for property and equipment and distributions to noncontrolling interests. This measure is not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP liquidity or financial measures. Management uses free cash flow as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. Other companies may calculate free cash flow differently. Our free cash flow for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, is calculated as follows (amounts in thousands):

	<b>Nine months ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 297,724	\$ 246,022
Less: Change in book overdraft	(937)	(374)
Plus: Proceeds from disposal of assets	3,238	5,786
Plus: Excess tax benefit associated with equity-based compensation	4,500	8,935
Less: Capital expenditures for property and equipment	(84,051)	(86,121)
Less: Distributions to noncontrolling interests	(675)	
Free cash flow	\$ 219,799	\$ 174,248

**Adjusted Operating Income Before Depreciation and Amortization**

We present adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization, a non-GAAP financial measure, supplementally because it is widely used by investors as a performance and valuation measure in the solid waste industry. We define adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization as operating income, plus depreciation and amortization expense, plus closure and post-closure accretion expense, plus or minus any gain or loss on disposal of assets. We further adjust this calculation to exclude the effects of items management believes impact the ability to assess the operating performance of our business. This measure is not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP financial measures. Management uses adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. Other companies may calculate adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization differently. Our adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, is calculated as follows (amounts in thousands):

	<b>Three months ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine months ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Operating income	\$ 89,314	\$ 75,685	\$ 242,688	\$ 204,642
Plus: Depreciation and amortization	44,006	38,057	123,631	110,149
Plus: Closure and post-closure accretion	484	443	1,451	1,323
Plus/less: Loss (gain) on disposal of assets	1,034	(50)	742	572
Adjustments:				
Plus: Acquisition-related transaction costs (a)	183	782	1,278	1,177
Adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization	\$ 135,021	\$ 114,917	\$ 369,790	\$ 317,863

(a) Reflects the addback of acquisition-related costs.





**Table of Contents****Reconciliation of Net Income to Adjusted Net Income and Adjusted Net Income per diluted share**

Adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share, both non-GAAP financial measures, are provided supplementally because they are widely used by investors as a valuation measure in the solid waste industry. We provide adjusted net income to exclude the effects of items management believes impact the comparability of operating results between periods. Adjusted net income has limitations due to the fact that it may exclude items that have an impact on our financial condition and results of operations. Adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share are not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP financial measures. Management uses adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. Other companies may calculate adjusted net income and adjusted net income per diluted share differently.

	<b>Three months ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine months ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Reported net income attributable to Waste Connections	\$ 46,329	\$ 40,986	\$ 127,281	\$ 98,959
Adjustments:				
Loss on extinguishment of debt, net of taxes (a)				6,320
Acquisition-related transaction costs, net of taxes (b)	114	485	1,037	730
Loss (gain) on disposal of assets, net of taxes (c)	641	(31)	460	777
Impact of deferred tax adjustment (d)				1,547
Adjusted net income attributable to Waste Connections	\$ 47,084	\$ 41,440	\$ 128,778	\$ 108,333
Diluted earnings per common share attributable to Waste Connections common stockholders:				
Reported net income	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.35	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.84
Adjusted net income	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.35	\$ 1.13	\$ 0.92

(a) Reflects the elimination of costs associated with early redemption of outstanding debt.

(b) Reflects the elimination of acquisition-related costs.

(c) Reflects the elimination of a loss (gain) on disposal of assets.

(d) Reflects the elimination of an increase to the income tax provision associated with an adjustment in our deferred tax liabilities primarily resulting from a voter-approved increase in Oregon state income tax rates.

**INFLATION**

Other than volatility in fuel prices, inflation has not materially affected our operations in recent years. Consistent with industry practice, many of our contracts allow us to pass through certain costs to our customers, including increases in landfill tipping fees and, in some cases, fuel costs. Therefore, we believe that we should be able to increase prices to offset many cost increases that result from inflation in the ordinary course of business. However, competitive pressures or delays in the timing of rate increases under our contracts may require us to absorb at least part of these

cost increases, especially if cost increases exceed the average rate of inflation. Management's estimates associated with inflation have an impact on our accounting for landfill liabilities.

**Table of Contents****SEASONALITY**

We expect our operating results to vary seasonally, with revenues typically lowest in the first quarter, higher in the second and third quarters and lower in the fourth quarter than in the second and third quarters. This seasonality reflects the lower volume of solid waste generated during the late fall, winter and early spring because of decreased construction and demolition activities during winter months in the U.S. We expect the fluctuation in our revenues between our highest and lowest quarters to be approximately 7% to 10%. In addition, some of our operating costs may be higher in the winter months. Adverse winter weather conditions slow waste collection activities, resulting in higher labor and operational costs. Greater precipitation in the winter increases the weight of collected waste, resulting in higher disposal costs, which are calculated on a per ton basis.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

In the normal course of business, we are exposed to market risk, including changes in interest rates and prices of certain commodities. We use hedge agreements to manage a portion of our risks related to interest rates and fuel prices. While we are exposed to credit risk in the event of non-performance by counterparties to our hedge agreements, in all cases such counterparties are highly rated financial institutions and we do not anticipate non-performance. We do not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. We monitor our hedge positions by regularly evaluating the positions at market and by performing sensitivity analyses over the unhedged fuel and variable rate debt positions.

At September 30, 2011, our derivative instruments included two interest rate swap agreements that effectively fix the interest rate on the applicable notional amounts of our variable rate debt as follows (dollars in thousands):

<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>Notional Amount</b>	<b>Fixed Interest Rate Paid*</b>	<b>Variable Interest Rate Received</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
March 2009	\$ 175,000	2.85%	1-month LIBOR	February 2011	February 2014
August 2011	\$ 150,000	0.7975%	1-month LIBOR	April 2012	January 2015

\* plus applicable margin.

Under derivatives and hedging guidance, the interest rate swap agreements are considered cash flow hedges for a portion of our variable rate debt, and we apply hedge accounting to account for these instruments. The notional amount and all other significant terms of the swap agreements are matched to the provisions and terms of the variable rate debt being hedged.

We have performed sensitivity analyses to determine how market rate changes will affect the fair value of our unhedged floating rate debt. Such an analysis is inherently limited in that it reflects a singular, hypothetical set of assumptions. Actual market movements may vary significantly from our assumptions. Fair value sensitivity is not necessarily indicative of the ultimate cash flow or earnings effect we would recognize from the assumed market rate movements. We are exposed to cash flow risk due to changes in interest rates with respect to the unhedged floating rate balances owed at September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, of \$382.5 million and \$325.4 million, respectively, including floating rate debt under our credit facility and floating rate municipal bond obligations. A one percentage point increase in interest rates on our variable-rate debt as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, would decrease our annual pre-tax income by approximately \$3.8 million and \$3.3 million, respectively. All of our remaining debt instruments are at fixed rates, or effectively fixed under the interest rate swap agreements described above; therefore, changes in market interest rates under these instruments would not significantly impact our cash flows or results of operations, subject to counterparty default risk.

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The market price of diesel fuel is unpredictable and can fluctuate significantly. We purchase approximately 27 million gallons of diesel fuel per year; therefore, a significant increase in the price of fuel could adversely affect our business and reduce our operating margins. To manage a portion of this risk, in 2008, we entered into multiple fuel hedge agreements related to forecasted diesel fuel purchases.

At September 30, 2011, our derivative instruments included two fuel hedge agreements as follows:

<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>Notional Amount (in gallons per month)</b>	<b>Diesel Rate Paid Fixed</b>	<b>Diesel Rate Received Variable</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
December 2008	400,000	\$ 2.950	DOE Diesel Fuel Index*	January 2011	December 2011
December 2008	400,000	\$ 3.030	DOE Diesel Fuel Index*	January 2012	December 2012

\* If the national U.S. on-highway average price for a gallon of diesel fuel ( average price ), as published by the Department of Energy, exceeds the contract price per gallon, we receive the difference between the average price and the contract price (multiplied by the notional number of gallons) from the counterparty. If the average price is less than the contract price per gallon, we pay the difference to the counterparty.

Under derivatives and hedging guidance, both of the fuel hedges are considered cash flow hedges for a portion of our forecasted diesel fuel purchases, and we apply hedge accounting to account for these instruments.

We have performed sensitivity analyses to determine how market rate changes will affect the fair value of our unhedged diesel fuel purchases. Such an analysis is inherently limited in that it reflects a singular, hypothetical set of assumptions. Actual market movements may vary significantly from our assumptions. Fair value sensitivity is not necessarily indicative of the ultimate cash flow or earnings effect we would recognize from the assumed market rate movements. For the year ending December 31, 2011, we expect to purchase approximately 27 million gallons of diesel fuel, of which 22.2 million gallons will be purchased at market prices and 4.8 million gallons will be purchased at prices that are fixed under our fuel hedges. During the three month period of October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, we expect to purchase approximately 5.5 million gallons of unhedged diesel fuel at market prices; therefore, a \$0.10 per gallon increase in the price of fuel over the remaining three months in 2011 would decrease our pre-tax income during this period by approximately \$0.6 million.

We market a variety of recyclable materials, including cardboard, office paper, plastic containers, glass bottles and ferrous and aluminum metals. We own and operate 39 recycling processing operations and sell other collected recyclable materials to third parties for processing before resale. Certain of our municipal recycling contracts in the state of Washington specify benchmark resale prices for recycled commodities. If the prices we actually receive for the processed recycled commodities collected under the contract exceed the prices specified in the contract, we share the excess with the municipality, after recovering any previous shortfalls resulting from actual market prices falling below the prices specified in the contract. To reduce our exposure to commodity price risk with respect to recycled materials, we have adopted a pricing strategy of charging collection and processing fees for recycling volume collected from third parties. In the event of a decline in recycled commodity prices, a 10% decrease in average recycled commodity prices from the average prices that were in effect during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, would have had a \$5.6 million and \$3.6 million impact on revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

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Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the fiscal quarter covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, our management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and our management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded as of September 30, 2011, that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level such that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports: (1) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms; and (2) is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2011, there was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents****PART II OTHER INFORMATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

Information regarding our legal proceedings can be found in Note 15 of our condensed consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this report and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

Our Board of Directors has authorized a common stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$800 million of our common stock through December 31, 2012. Under the program, stock repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time at management's discretion. The timing and amounts of any repurchases will depend on many factors, including our capital structure, the market price of our common stock and overall market conditions. As of September 30, 2011, we have repurchased approximately 38.3 million shares of our common stock at a cost of \$733.7 million. The table below reflects repurchases we have made for the three months ended September 30, 2011 (in thousands, except share and per share amounts):

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price Paid Per Share<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program</b>	<b>Maximum Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program</b>
7/1/11 7/31/11		\$		\$ 108,993
8/1/11 8/31/11	1,362,836	31.32	42,687	66,306
9/1/11 9/30/11				66,306
	1,362,836	31.32	42,687	

(1) This amount represents the weighted average price paid per common share. This price includes a per share commission paid for all repurchases.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

See Exhibit Index immediately following the signature page of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.**

Date: October 19, 2011

BY: /s/ Ronald J. Mittelstaedt  
Ronald J. Mittelstaedt,  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: October 19, 2011

BY: /s/ Worthing F. Jackman  
Worthing F. Jackman,  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

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<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibits</b>
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on July 24, 2007)
3.2	Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant, effective May 15, 2009 (incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on April 23, 2009)
4.1	Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2011
10.1+	Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan, amended and restated as of September 22, 2011
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a)
32.1	Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

+ Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

\* In accordance with Regulation S-T, the XBRL-formatted interactive data files that comprise these Exhibits shall be deemed furnished and not filed.