

WASTE CONNECTIONS INC/DE  
Form 10-Q  
August 05, 2005

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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 June 30, 2005

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.)*

35 Iron Point Circle, Suite 200, Folsom, CA 95630

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

(916) 608-8200

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*(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 is an accelerated filer (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 July 29, 2005:

46,936,573 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)

|   | Decemb<br>200<br>----- |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                        |
| Current assets:   |                        |
| Cash and equivalents  | \$                     |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,414 and \$2,096 at December 31, 2004 and June 30, 2005, respectively | 8                      |
| Deferred tax asset  | 1                      |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets   | -----                  |
| Total current assets  | 10                     |
| Property and equipment, net   | 64                     |
| Goodwill  | 64                     |
| Intangible assets, net  | 6                      |
| Restricted cash   | 1                      |
| Other assets, net   | 2                      |
|   | -----                  |
|   | \$ 1,49                |
|   | =====                  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>   |                        |
| Current liabilities:  |                        |
| Accounts payable  | \$ 3                   |
| Book overdraft  | 3                      |
| Accrued liabilities   | 2                      |
| Deferred revenue  | 2                      |
| Current portion of long-term debt and notes payable   | -----                  |
| Total current liabilities   | 11                     |
| Long-term debt and notes payable  | 48                     |
| Other long-term liabilities   | 14                     |
| Deferred income taxes   | -----                  |
| Total liabilities   | 75                     |
| Commitments and contingencies   |                        |
| Minority interests  | 2                      |
| Stockholders' equity:   |                        |
| Preferred stock: \$0.01 par value; 7,500,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding   |                        |
| Common stock: \$0.01 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized;  |                        |

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47,605,791 and 47,548,631 shares issued and outstanding at  
December 31, 2004 and June 30, 2005, respectively  
Additional paid-in capital  
Deferred stock compensation  
Treasury stock: at cost, 739,505 shares outstanding at June 30, 2005  
Retained earnings  
Accumulated other comprehensive income

Total stockholders' equity

44  
(  
26  
-----  
70  
-----  
\$ 1,49  
=====

See accompanying notes.



WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
(Unaudited)  
(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|   | Three Months Ended<br>June 30, |            |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2004                           | 2005       |
| Revenues  | \$ 156,050                     | \$ 180,265 |
| Operating expenses:                                       |                                |            |
| Cost of operations  | 87,469                         | 103,616    |
| Selling, general and administrative                       | 14,899                         | 17,096     |
| Depreciation and amortization                             | 13,228                         | 15,938     |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of assets                         | 19                             | (12)       |
| Operating income  | 40,435                         | 43,627     |
| Interest expense  | (5,174)                        | (5,575)    |
| Other income (expense), net                               | (1,439)                        | 65         |
| Income before minority interests and income tax provision | 33,822                         | 38,117     |
| Minority interests  | (3,054)                        | (3,426)    |
| Income tax provision                                      | (11,476)                       | (12,905)   |
| Income from continuing operations                         | 19,292                         | 21,786     |
| Loss on discontinued operations, net of tax (Note 4)      | (121)                          | (378)      |
| Net income  | \$ 19,171                      | \$ 21,408  |
| Basic earnings per common share:                          |                                |            |
| Income from continuing operations                         | \$ 0.41                        | \$ 0.47    |
| Discontinued operations                                   | (0.01)                         | (0.01)     |
| Net income per common share                               | \$ 0.40                        | \$ 0.46    |
| Diluted earnings per common share:                        |                                |            |
| Income from continuing operations                         | \$ 0.39                        | \$ 0.45    |
| Discontinued operations                                   | --                             | (0.01)     |
| Net income per common share                               | \$ 0.39                        | \$ 0.44    |
| Shares used in calculating basic income per share         | 47,425,227                     | 46,727,722 |
| Shares used in calculating diluted income per share       | 49,443,469                     | 48,558,866 |

See accompanying notes.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY AND COMPREHENSIVE  
 INCOME  
 Six Months Ended June 30, 2005  
 (in thousands, except share and per share amounts)  
 (Unaudited)

|   | Comprehensive<br>Income | Common Stock |        |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|--------|
|   |                         | Shares       | Amount |
| Balances at December 31, 2004   |                         | 47,605,791   | \$ 476 |
| Issuance of common stock warrants to consultants                            |                         | --           | --     |
| Vesting of restricted stock   |                         | 25,983       | --     |
| Cancellation of unvested restricted stock                                   |                         | --           | --     |
| Issuance of unvested restricted stock                                       |                         | --           | --     |
| Amortization of deferred stock compensation                                 |                         | --           | --     |
| Exercise of stock options and warrants,<br>including tax benefit of \$6,443 |                         | 1,211,657    | 12     |
| Repurchase of common stock  |                         | (1,294,800)  | (13)   |
| Stock options granted below fair market value                               |                         | --           | --     |
| Net income  | \$ 40,767               | --           | --     |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings  | 768                     | --           | --     |
| Income tax effect of other comprehensive income                             | (286)                   | --           | --     |
| Comprehensive income  | \$ 41,249               | --           | --     |
| Balances at June 30, 2005   |                         | 47,548,631   | \$ 475 |

See accompanying notes.



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

Cash flows from operating activities:

Net income \$  
Adjustments to reconcile net income to  
net cash provided by operating activities:  
Gain on disposal of assets  
Depreciation  
Amortization of intangibles  
Deferred income taxes, net of acquisitions  
Minority interests  
Amortization of debt issuance costs  
Stock-based compensation  
Interest income on restricted cash  
Closure and post-closure accretion  
Tax benefit on the exercise of stock options  
Net change in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions

Net cash provided by operating activities

Cash flows from investing activities:

Payments for acquisitions, net of cash acquired  
Capital expenditures for property and equipment  
Proceeds from disposal of assets  
Net change in other assets

Net cash used in investing activities

Cash flows from financing activities:

Proceeds from long-term debt  
Principal payments on notes payable and long-term debt  
Change in book overdraft  
Distributions to minority interest holders  
Proceeds from option and warrant exercises  
Payments for repurchase of common stock  
Debt issuance costs

Net cash used in financing activities

Net increase in cash and equivalents

Cash and equivalents at beginning of period

Cash and equivalents at end of period \$

Non-cash financing activity:

Liabilities assumed and notes payable issued to sellers of  
businesses acquired \$

See accompanying notes.

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WASTE CONNECTIONS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share, per share and per ton amounts)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SUMMARY

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements relate to Waste Connections, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the "Company") as of June 30, 2005 and for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2004 and 2005. The consolidated financial statements of the Company include the accounts of Waste Connections, Inc. and its wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Operating results for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2005.

The Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2005, the condensed consolidated statements of income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, the condensed consolidated statements of stockholders' equity and comprehensive income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005 are unaudited. In the opinion of management, such financial statements include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the Company's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows for the periods presented. The consolidated financial statements presented herein should be read in conjunction with the Company's 2004 annual report on Form 10-K.

In preparing the Company's consolidated financial statements, several estimates and assumptions are made that affect the accounting for and recognition of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. These estimates and assumptions must be made because certain information that is used in the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements is dependent on future events, cannot be calculated with a high degree of precision from data available or is not capable of being readily calculated based on generally accepted methodologies. In some cases, these estimates are particularly difficult to determine and the Company must exercise significant judgment. The estimates and the assumptions having the greatest amount of uncertainty, subjectivity and complexity are related to the Company's

accounting for landfills, self-insurance, allocation of acquisition purchase price and asset impairments. Another area that involves estimation is the amount of potential exposure the Company may have with respect to litigation, claims and assessments in accordance with SFAS No. 5, "Accounting for Contingencies." Actual results for all estimates could differ materially from the estimates and assumptions that the Company uses in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements.

## 2. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

### SFAS 123(R)

On December 16, 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment" ("SFAS 123(R)"), which is a revision of SFAS 123. SFAS 123(R) supersedes APB 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees" and amends FASB Statement No. 95, "Statement of Cash Flows." Generally, the approach in SFAS 123(R) is similar to the approach described in SFAS 123. However, SFAS 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative.

SFAS 123(R) must be adopted no later than January 1, 2006. Early adoption will be permitted in periods in which financial statements have not yet been issued. The Company expects to adopt SFAS 123(R) on January 1, 2006.

SFAS 123(R) permits public companies to adopt its requirements using one of two methods:

A "modified prospective" method in which compensation cost is recognized beginning with the effective date based on (a) the requirements of SFAS 123(R) for all share-based payments granted after the effective date and (b) the requirements of SFAS 123 for all awards granted to employees prior to the effective date of SFAS 123(R) that remain unvested on the effective date.

A "modified retrospective" method which includes the requirements of the modified prospective method described above, but also permits entities to restate based on the amounts previously recognized under SFAS 123 for purposes of pro forma disclosures either for (a) all prior periods presented or (b) prior interim periods of the year of adoption.

The Company is currently evaluating the adoption alternatives.

As permitted by SFAS 123, the Company currently accounts for share-based payments to employees using APB 25's intrinsic value method and, as such, generally recognizes no compensation cost for employee stock options. Accordingly, the adoption of SFAS 123(R)'s fair value method will have a significant impact on the Company's results of operations, although it will have no impact on the Company's overall cash flows or financial position. The impact of adoption of SFAS 123(R) cannot be predicted at this time because it will depend on levels of share-based payments granted in the future. However, had the Company adopted SFAS 123(R) in prior periods, the impact of that standard would have approximated the impact of SFAS 123 as described in the disclosure of pro forma net income and earnings per share included within Note 5 to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

SFAS 123(R) also requires the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost to be reported as a financing cash flow, rather than as an operating cash flow as required under current literature. This requirement will reduce net operating cash flows and increase net financing cash flows in periods after adoption. While the Company cannot estimate what those amounts will be in the future (because they depend on, among other things, when employees exercise stock options), the amount of operating cash flows recognized in prior periods for such excess tax deductions were \$3,419 and \$6,443 for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, respectively.

## FIN 47

In March 2005, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 47, "Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations" ("FIN 47"), which clarifies the impact that uncertainty surrounding the timing or method of settling an obligation should have on accounting for that obligation under SFAS 143. FIN 47 is effective December 31, 2005 for calendar year companies. The Company does not expect the provisions of FIN 47 to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

## 3. RECLASSIFICATION

Certain amounts reported in the Company's prior years' consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the 2005 presentation.

## 4. DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

In the third and fourth quarters of 2004, the Company disposed of all of its operations in the state of Georgia and a hauling operation in Washington. The operations in Georgia were exchanged for hauling, transfer and disposal operations in Tennessee and Mississippi. In the second quarter of 2005, the Company disposed of a hauling operation in Utah and exited a landfill operating contract with a finite term in California. The three and six month periods ending June 30, 2004 and 2005 have been restated to present the results for these operations as discontinued operations.

The table below reflects the discontinued operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005 as follows:

|   | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended<br/>June 30, 2004</b> | <b>Six Months<br/>Ended<br/>June 30, 2004</b> |
|---|---|---|
|   | -----   | -----   |
| Revenues  | \$ 4,511  | \$ 8,946                                      |
| Operating expenses:                             |   |   |
| Cost of operations                              | 3,421   | 6,941   |
| Selling, general and administrative             | 545   | 1,148   |
| Depreciation and amortization                   | 623   | 1,241   |
| Loss on disposal of assets and operations       | 115   | 123   |
|   | -----   | -----   |
| Operating loss                                  | (193)   | (507)   |
| Other income, net                               | --  | --  |
|   | -----   | -----   |
| Loss from operations of discontinued operations | (193)   | (507)   |
| Income tax benefit                              | 72  | 189   |
|   | -----   | -----   |
| Loss on discontinued operations                 | \$ (121)  | \$ (318)                                      |
|   | =====   | =====   |
|   | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended<br/>June 30, 2005</b> | <b>Six Months<br/>Ended<br/>June 30, 2005</b> |
|   | -----   | -----   |

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|   |    |       |    |       |
|---|----|-------|----|-------|
| Revenues  | \$ | 294   | \$ | 1,367 |
| Operating expenses:                             |    |       |    |       |
| Cost of operations                              |    | 906   |    | 2,041 |
| Selling, general and administrative             |    | 95    |    | 195   |
| Depreciation and amortization                   |    | 92    |    | 250   |
| Gain on disposal of assets and operations       |    | (197) |    | (197) |
|   |    | ----- |    | ----- |
| Operating loss                                  |    | (602) |    | (922) |
| Other income, net                               |    | --    |    | --    |
|   |    | ----- |    | ----- |
| Loss from operations of discontinued operations |    | (602) |    | (922) |
| Income tax benefit                              |    | 224   |    | 343   |
|   |    | ----- |    | ----- |
| Loss on discontinued operations                 | \$ | (378) | \$ | (579) |
|   |    | ===== |    | ===== |

5. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

As permitted under the provisions of SFAS 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS 123"), the Company has elected to account for stock-based compensation using the intrinsic value method prescribed by APB 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees." Under the intrinsic value method, compensation cost is the excess, if any, of the quoted market price or fair value of the stock at the grant date or other measurement date over the amount an employee must pay to acquire the stock.

Pro forma information regarding net income and earnings per share is required by SFAS 123, and has been determined as if the Company had accounted for its employee stock options under the fair value method of that Statement using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. For purposes of pro forma disclosures, the estimated fair value of the options is amortized to expense over the options' vesting period.

The following table summarizes the Company's pro forma net income and pro forma basic and diluted earnings per share for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005:

|   | Three Months Ended<br>June 30, |           |       |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|
|   | 2004                           | 2005      | 2004  |
|   | -----                          | -----     | ----- |
| Net income, as reported   | \$ 19,171                      | \$ 21,408 | \$ 35 |
| Add: stock-based employee compensation expense included in reported net income, net of related tax effects                            | 159                            | 161       |       |
| Deduct: total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value method for all awards, net of related tax effects | (2,024)                        | (1,794)   | (4    |
|   | -----                          | -----     | ----- |
| Pro forma net income  | \$ 17,306                      | \$ 19,775 | \$ 31 |
|   | =====                          | =====     | ===== |
| Earnings per share:   |                                |           |       |

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|                       |    |      |    |      |    |
|-----------------------|----|------|----|------|----|
| Basic - as reported   | \$ | 0.40 | \$ | 0.46 | \$ |
| Basic - pro forma     | \$ | 0.36 | \$ | 0.42 | \$ |
|                       |    |      |    |      |    |
| Diluted - as reported | \$ | 0.39 | \$ | 0.44 | \$ |
| Diluted - pro forma   | \$ | 0.36 | \$ | 0.41 | \$ |

### 6. LANDFILL ACCOUNTING

At June 30, 2005, the Company owned 22 landfills, and operated, but did not own, five landfills under life-of-site operating contracts and six landfills under operating contracts with finite terms. The Company also owns two municipal solid waste landfill sites and one construction and demolition landfill site that are permitted for operation, but were not constructed as of June 30, 2005. In October 2004, the Company gave notice to terminate the operating contract for one landfill with a finite term, from which the Company generated approximately \$900 of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2004. The contract for this landfill expired in April 2005.

The Company's landfills have site costs with a net book value of \$398,516 at June 30, 2005. With the exception of three owned landfills that only accept construction and demolition waste and one construction and demolition landfill permitted for operation, but not constructed, all landfills that the Company owns or operates are municipal solid waste landfills. For the Company's six landfills operated under agreements with finite terms, the owner of the property, generally a municipality, usually owns the permit and is generally responsible for closure and post-closure obligations. The Company is responsible for all closure and post-closure liabilities for three of the five operating landfills that it operates under life-of-site operating agreements.

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

1. The land where the expansion is being sought is contiguous to the current disposal site, which is either owned by the Company or the property is under option, purchase, operating or other similar agreement;
2. Total development costs, final capping costs, and closure/post-closure costs have been determined;
3. Internal personnel have performed a financial analysis of the proposed expansion site and have determined that it has a positive financial and operational impact;
4. Internal or external personnel are actively working to obtain the necessary approvals to obtain the landfill expansion permit;
5. Obtaining the expansion is considered probable. For a pursued expansion to be considered probable, there must be no significant known technical, legal, community, business, or political restrictions or similar issues existing that could impair the success of the expansion; and
6. The land where the expansion is being sought has the proper zoning or proper zoning can readily be obtained.

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Based on remaining permitted capacity as of June 30, 2005, 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 approximately 49 years. The Company is currently 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 59 years, with lives ranging from 1 to 244 years.

The Company uses the units of consumption method to calculate the depletion rate at the landfills it owns and the landfills it operates under life-of-site operating agreements. This methodology divides the costs associated with acquiring, permitting and developing the permitted and expansion areas of the landfill by the total remaining permitted and probable expansion disposal capacity of that landfill. The resulting per unit depletion rate is applied to each ton of waste disposed at the landfill and is recorded as expense for that period. During the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, the Company expensed approximately \$7,440 and \$8,296, respectively, or an average of \$2.35 and \$2.59 per ton consumed, respectively, related to landfill depletion.

The Company reserves for closure and post-closure maintenance obligations at the landfills it owns and certain landfills it operates under life-of-site operating agreements. Final capping costs are included in the calculation of closure and post-closure liabilities. The Company calculates the net present value of its closure and post-closure commitments recorded in 2005 assuming a 2.5% inflation rate and a 7.5% discount rate. The resulting closure and post-closure obligation is recorded on the balance sheet as an addition to site costs and amortized to depletion expense as the landfill's airspace is consumed. During the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, the Company expensed approximately \$205 and \$342, respectively, or an average of \$0.06 and \$0.11 per ton consumed, respectively, related to closure and post-closure accretion expense.

The following is a reconciliation of the Company's closure and post-closure liability balance from December 31, 2004 to June 30, 2005:

|   |    |        |
|---|----|--------|
| Closure and post-closure liability at December 31, 2004   | \$ | 5,860  |
| Increase in closure and post-closure liability from changes<br>in annual engineering cost estimates |    | 1,558  |
| Liabilities incurred  |    | 557    |
| Accretion expense   |    | 342    |
| Third party closure and post-closure liability  |    | 6,739  |
|   |    | -----  |
| Closure and post-closure liability at June 30, 2005   | \$ | 15,056 |
|   |    | =====  |

The Company owns two landfills for which the prior owner is obligated to reimburse Waste Connections for certain costs the Company incurs for final capping, closure and post-closure activities on the portion of the landfill utilized by the prior owner. Prior to January 1, 2005, the Company netted the expected reimbursement from the prior owner within its closure and post-closure obligation. In 2005, the Company is accruing the prior owner's portion of the closure and post-closure obligation of \$6,739 as of June 30, 2005 within the balance sheet classification of other long-term liabilities, and the Company recorded a corresponding receivable of \$6,739 from the prior owner in long-term other assets.

At June 30, 2005, \$11,419 of the Company's restricted cash balance was for purposes of settling future closure and post-closure liabilities.

## 7. ACQUISITIONS



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During the six months ended June 30, 2004, the Company acquired seven non-hazardous solid waste collection and disposal businesses. Aggregate consideration for the acquisitions consisted of \$10,212 in cash (net of cash acquired), \$4,346 in notes payable to sellers, common stock warrants valued at \$172, and the assumption of debt totaling \$11,179.

During the six months ended June 30, 2005, the Company acquired six non-hazardous solid waste collection and disposal businesses. Aggregate consideration for the acquisitions consisted of \$10,298 in cash (net of cash acquired), common stock warrants valued at \$6 and the assumption of debt totaling \$1,921.

The results of operations of the acquired businesses have been included in the Company's consolidated financial statements from their respective acquisition dates.

The purchase prices have been allocated to the identified intangible assets and tangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their estimated fair values at the dates of acquisition, with any residual amounts allocated to goodwill. The purchase price allocations are considered preliminary until the Company is no longer waiting for information that it has arranged to obtain and that is known to be available or obtainable. Although the time required to obtain the necessary information will vary with circumstances specific to an individual acquisition, the "allocation period" for finalizing purchase price allocations generally does not exceed one year from the consummation of a business combination. In 2005, the Company completed a final review of the income tax basis of the assets acquired in an acquisition completed prior to 2005. Based on the Company's review, the income tax basis of the assets acquired was revised and is less than the amount the Company initially recorded. In addition, the fair value of the assets recorded required revision based on the Company's 2005 review. As a result, the Company recorded a net increase of approximately \$19,800 to goodwill and a corresponding increase of approximately \$19,800 to deferred income tax liabilities as of June 30, 2005. The impact on the Company's income statements for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2005 and on any prior period was inconsequential.

As of June 30, 2005, the Company had seven acquisitions for which purchase price allocations were preliminary, mainly as a result of pending working capital valuations. The Company believes the potential changes to its preliminary purchase price allocations will not have a material impact on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

A summary of the preliminary purchase price allocations for the acquisitions consummated in the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005 is as follows:

|  | 2004<br>Acquisitions | 2005<br>Acquisitions |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | -----                | -----                |
| Acquired assets:                             |                      |                      |
| Accounts receivable                          | \$ 1,109             | \$ 892               |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets    | 60                   | 52                   |
| Property and equipment                       | 9,387                | 7,978                |
| Goodwill                                     | 13,087               | 4,858                |
| Long-term franchise agreements and contracts | 5,087                | 90                   |
| Other intangibles                            | 259                  | --                   |
| Non-competition agreements                   | 118                  | 102                  |
| Assumed liabilities:                         |                      |                      |
| Accounts payable                             | (1,421)              | (314)                |
| Accrued liabilities                          | (1,540)              | (1,169)              |
| Debt and other liabilities assumed           | (15,524)             | (1,921)              |
| Deferred revenue                             | (95)                 | (264)                |
| Deferred taxes                               | (143)                | --                   |
|  | -----                | -----                |
| Total cash consideration, net                | \$ 10,384            | \$ 10,304            |
|  | =====                | =====                |

During the six months ended June 30, 2005, the Company paid \$2,556 of acquisition-related liabilities accrued at December 31, 2004. During the six months ended June 30, 2004, the Company paid \$2,161 of acquisition-related liabilities accrued at December 31, 2003.

The six acquisitions acquired in the six months ended June 30, 2005 were not significant to the Company's results of operations.

Goodwill and intangibles, net, acquired in the six months ended June 30, 2004, totaling \$12,121 and \$5,094, respectively, are expected to be deductible for tax purposes. Goodwill and intangibles, net, acquired in the six months ended June 30, 2005, totaling \$4,858 and \$128, respectively, are expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

## 8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill, consist of the following as of June 30, 2005:

|   | <b>Gross<br/>Carrying<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Accumulated<br/>Amortization</b> | <b>Net<br/>Carrying<br/>Amount</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | -----                                | -----                               | -----                              |
| Amortizable intangible assets:                  |                                      |                                     |                                    |
| Long-term franchise agreements<br>and contracts | \$ 51,889                            | (4,566)                             | 47,323                             |
| Non-competition agreements                      | 4,092                                | (3,198)                             | 894                                |
| Other, net                                      | 3,531                                | (1,278)                             | 2,253                              |
|   | -----                                | -----                               | -----                              |
|   | 59,512                               | (9,042)                             | 50,470                             |
| Nonamortized intangible assets:                 |                                      |                                     |                                    |
| Indefinite-lived intangible assets              | 17,202                               | --                                  | 17,202                             |
|   | -----                                | -----                               | -----                              |
| Intangible assets, exclusive of goodwill        | \$ 76,714                            | (9,042)                             | 67,672                             |
|   | =====                                | =====                               | =====                              |

The weighted-average amortization period for non-competition agreements and long-term contracts acquired during the six months ended June 30, 2005 are 7 and 14.3 years, respectively.

The amounts assigned to indefinite-lived intangible assets consist of the value of certain perpetual rights to provide solid waste collection and transportation services in specified territories. These indefinite-lived intangible assets were subject to amortization prior to the Company's adoption of SFAS No. 142.

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

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| For the year ended December 31, 2005 | \$ 2,409 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2006 | 2,242    |
| For the year ended December 31, 2007 | 2,069    |
| For the year ended December 31, 2008 | 1,864    |
| For the year ended December 31, 2009 | 1,791    |

## 9. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following:

|   | December 31,<br>2004 |    |
|---|----------------------|----|
|   | -----                |    |
| Revolver under Credit Facility, bearing interest ranging from 3.3% to 6.0%  | \$ 261,000           | \$ |
| 2022 Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes, bearing interest ranging from 2.7% to 3.7%   | 175,000              |    |
| 2001 Wasco Bonds, bearing interest from 7.0% to 7.2%  | 12,560               |    |
| California Tax-Exempt Bonds, bearing interest ranging from 1.6% to 3.09%  | 25,685               |    |
| Notes payable to sellers in connection with acquisitions, bearing interest at 5.2% to 7.5%, principal and interest payments due periodically with due dates ranging from 2005 to 2036 | 9,214                |    |
| Notes payable to third parties, bearing interest at 4.8% to 11%, principal and interest payments due periodically with due dates ranging from 2005 to 2010                            | 15,150               |    |
|   | -----                |    |
|   | 498,609              |    |
| Less - current portion  | (9,266)              |    |
|   | -----                |    |
|   | \$ 489,343           | \$ |
|   | =====                |    |

\*Interest rates in the table above represent the range of interest rates incurred during the six month period ended June 30, 2005.

The Company has entered into interest rate swap agreements to hedge risk associated with fluctuations in interest rates. The interest rate swap agreements have a notional amount of \$250,000, expire in 2007, and effectively fix the interest rate on the notional amount at an average interest rate of 2.55%, plus applicable margin. These interest rate swap agreements are considered highly effective as cash flow hedges for a portion of the Company's variable rate debt, and the Company applies hedge accounting pursuant to SFAS No. 133 to account for these instruments. The notional amounts and all other significant terms of the swap agreements are matched to the provisions and terms of the variable rate debt being hedged.

## 10. DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE CALCULATION

The following table sets forth the numerator and denominator used in the computation of basic and diluted net income per share for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005:

Three Months Ended

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|   | June 30,   |            |
|---|------------|------------|
|   | 2004       | 2005       |
| Numerator:  |            |            |
| Net income for basic earnings per share   | \$ 19,171  | \$ 21,408  |
| Interest expense on convertible subordinated notes due 2006, net of tax effects | 231        | --         |
| Net income for diluted earnings per share                                       | \$ 19,402  | \$ 21,408  |
| Denominator:  |            |            |
| Basic shares outstanding  | 47,425,227 | 46,727,722 |
| Dilutive effect of convertible subordinated notes due 2006                      | 910,333    | --         |
| Dilutive effect of convertible subordinated notes due 2022                      | --         | 576,015    |
| Dilutive effect of options and warrants   | 1,086,709  | 1,230,130  |
| Dilutive effect of restricted stock   | 21,200     | 24,999     |
| Diluted shares outstanding  | 49,443,469 | 48,558,866 |

The Company's 2006 Convertible Subordinated Notes were redeemed in April 2004. Prior to redemption, these notes were convertible at any time at the option of the holders into a total of 5,917,163 shares of common stock. These shares were included in the computation of diluted net income per share for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004. The Company's 2022 Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes are convertible, under certain circumstances, into 5,424,668 shares of common stock. The Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2022 were exchanged in 2004 and now require (subject to certain exceptions) payment of the principal value in cash and net share settle of the conversion value in excess of the principal value of the notes upon conversion. In accordance with EITF 04-8, the Company has included the dilutive effect of the conversion value in excess of the principal value of the notes in the computation of diluted net income per share for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, all outstanding stock options and warrants were included in the computation of diluted earnings per share as they were all dilutive.

## 11. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Comprehensive income includes changes in the fair value of interest rate swaps that qualify for hedge accounting. The difference between net income and comprehensive income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005 is as follows:

|  | Three Months Ended<br>June 30, |        |
|--|--------------------------------|--------|
|  | 2004                           | 2005   |
| Net income   | 19,171                         | 21,408 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate swaps, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$2,660 and \$(604) |                                |        |

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for the three months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, respectively, and \$1,572 and \$286 for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, respectively

|                      |        |         |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
|                      | 4,529  | (1,019) |
| Comprehensive income | 23,700 | 20,389  |

The components of other comprehensive income and related tax effects for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005 are as follows:

|  | <b>Three months ended June 30, 2004</b> |                   |                   |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Gross</b>                            | <b>Tax effect</b> | <b>Net of tax</b> |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings           | \$ 889                                  | \$ 329            | \$ 560            |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps | 6,300                                   | 2,331             | 3,969             |
|  | \$ 7,189                                | \$ 2,660          | \$ 4,529          |

|  | <b>Three months ended June 30, 2005</b> |                   |                   |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Gross</b>                            | <b>Tax effect</b> | <b>Net of tax</b> |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings           | \$ (306)                                | \$ (114)          | \$ (192)          |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps | (1,317)                                 | (490)             | (827)             |
|  | \$ (1,623)                              | \$ (604)          | \$ (1,019)        |

|  | <b>Six months ended June 30, 2004</b> |                   |                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Gross</b>                          | <b>Tax effect</b> | <b>Net of tax</b> |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings           | \$ 1,366                              | \$ 506            | \$ 860            |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps | 2,883                                 | 1,066             | 1,817             |
|  | \$ 4,249                              | \$ 1,572          | \$ 2,677          |

|  | <b>Six months ended June 30, 2005</b> |                   |                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Gross</b>                          | <b>Tax effect</b> | <b>Net of tax</b> |
| Amounts reclassified into earnings           | \$ (305)                              | \$ (113)          | \$ (192)          |
| Changes in fair value of interest rate swaps | 1,073                                 | 399               | 674               |
|  | \$ 768                                | \$ 286            | \$ 482            |

The estimated amount of the existing unrealized gains as of June 30, 2005 (based on the interest rate yield curve at that date) included in accumulated other comprehensive income expected to be reclassified into pre-tax earnings within the next 12 months is \$3,190. The timing of actual amounts reclassified into earnings is dependent on future movements in interest rates.

## 12. SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM

On May 3, 2004, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had authorized a common stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$200,000 of common stock over a two-year period. 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 six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, the Company repurchased 1,029,300 and 2,034,305 shares, respectively, of its common stock under this program at a cost of \$27,887 and \$71,101, respectively. As of June 30, 2005, the Company held 739,505 shares of treasury stock at a cost of \$26,159. These shares were cancelled and retired in July 2005. As of June 30, 2005, the remaining maximum dollar value of shares available for purchase under the program is approximately \$64,960.

## 13. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company's subsidiary, Rhino Solid Waste, Inc., 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 approved the permit for the facility on January 30, 2002. Colonias Development Council, or CDC, a nonprofit organization, opposed the permit at the public hearing and appealed the Department's decision to the Court of Appeals 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. In *Colonias Dev. Council v. Rhino Env'tl. Servs. (In re Rhino Env'tl. Servs.)*, 134 N.M. 637, 640 (N.M. Ct. App., 2003), the Court of Appeals affirmed the Department's decision to grant the landfill permit. CDC then appealed that decision to the Supreme Court of the state of New Mexico. On July 18, 2005, the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals' decision, and remanded the matter back to the Department to conduct a limited public hearing on certain evidence CDC claims 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. At June 30, 2005, the Company had \$8,017 of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. If the Company is not ultimately issued a permit to operate the municipal solid waste landfill, the Company will be required to expense in a future period the \$8,017 of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped property and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material adverse effect on our reported income for that period.

The Company owns undeveloped property in Harper County, Kansas, where it is seeking permits to construct and operate a municipal solid waste landfill. In 2002, the Company received a special use permit from Harper County for zoning the landfill and in 2003 it received a draft permit from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to construct and operate the landfill. On April 1, 2002, a citizens' group calling itself "Tri-County Concerned Citizens" filed an action in the District Court of Harper County, Kansas, against the Board of Commissioners of Harper County challenging the permit. The Company intervened in the case. In July 2003, the District Court invalidated the previously issued zoning permit. On August 20, 2004, the Kansas Court of Appeals reversed the District Court ruling and upheld the zoning permit. The landfill opponents appealed this decision to the Kansas Supreme Court, which denied the appeal on December 14, 2004, and ordered the District Court to re-instate the previously approved zoning permit. At June 30, 2005, the Company had \$4,694 of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. The Company believes it will receive the final permit. If the Company does not receive the final permit, however, the Company will be required to expense in a future period the \$4,694 of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped property and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material

adverse effect on its reported income for that period.

The Company is a party to various claims and suits pending for alleged damages to persons and property and alleged liabilities occurring during the normal operations of the solid waste management business. In the case of *Karen Collieran, Conservator of the Estate of Robert Rooney v. Waste Connections of Nebraska, Inc.*, which was filed in the District Court of Valley County, Nebraska, on October 31, 2003, the plaintiff seeks recovery for damages allegedly suffered by Father Robert Rooney when the bicycle he was riding collided with one of the Company's garbage trucks in Valley County, Nebraska. The complaint alleges that Father Rooney suffered serious bodily injury, including traumatic brain injury. The plaintiff seeks recovery of past medical expenses of approximately \$430 and an unspecified amount for future medical expenses and home healthcare, past pain and suffering, future pain and suffering, lost income, loss of earning capacity, and permanent injury and disability. The Company's primary defense is that the plaintiff is not entitled to any damages under Nebraska law because the negligence of Father Rooney was equal to or greater than any negligence on the part of the driver, and the Company intends to defend this case vigorously on these and other grounds. This case is in the pre-trial discovery stage, and the Company has not accrued any potential loss as of June 30, 2005; however, an adverse outcome in this case coupled with a significant award to the plaintiff could have an adverse effect on the Company's reported income in the period incurred.

In the case of *Cristobal Lozoya v. Waste Connections of Oklahoma, Inc. et al.*, which was filed in the District Court of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, on September 27, 2004, the plaintiff seeks recovery for injuries he suffered in an accident at the Company's Oklahoma City landfill. The defendants are Waste Connections of Oklahoma, the individual operator of the equipment involved in the accident, and a personnel agency that employed the operator. The plaintiff has alleged that the defendants' actions and/or omissions constituted gross negligence and a reckless disregard for the rights and safety of others, thereby entitling plaintiff to punitive damages in an unspecified amount. The Company intends to defend this action vigorously and to seek contribution for any damage award from the personnel agency. If the case proceeds to trial and punitive damages are awarded, they would not be covered by insurance. This case is in the early stages of discovery, and the Company has not accrued any potential loss for punitive damages as of June 30, 2005; however, an adverse outcome in this case coupled with a significant award to the plaintiff could have a material adverse effect on the Company's reported income in the period incurred.

From time to time, the Company pays fines or penalties in environmental proceedings relating primarily to its transfer and disposal facilities. As of June 30, 2005, there was one proceeding and one threatened proceeding of which the Company is aware involving its subsidiaries in which penalties in excess of \$100 are being sought. In neither of these proceedings does the Company reasonably believe that monetary sanctions, exclusive of interest and costs, will exceed \$100. The complaint filed in the proceeding includes allegations that one of the Company's subsidiaries committed violations under state environmental laws at a transfer station it operates and failed to comply with the facility permit requirements relating to record keeping and site operations. The letter the Company received threatening legal action alleges that another subsidiary committed violations under state law at a landfill it operates, failed to operate the landfill in accordance with the operational plan specified in the solid waste facility permit for the landfill, related permit conditions and the approved site application, and failed to comply with related operational requirements. While the Company has not filed a response to the complaint or formally responded to the letter it received, it is currently engaged in settlement negotiations with the state agency involved in both proceedings. The Company does not believe that the fines or other penalties in either of these matters, individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition, operating results or cash flows.

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 other 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 citizens' groups or 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 above, as of June 30, 2005, there is no current proceeding or litigation involving the Company that the Company believes will have a material adverse impact on its business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

#### 14. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On July 25, 2005, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized a \$100,000 increase to its existing \$200,000 common stock repurchase program. The Board also extended the program's term through March 31, 2007 from its existing term end of May 2, 2006. 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.

### 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. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes," "expects," "may," "will," "should," "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: (1) increases in insurance costs and the amount that we self-insure for various risks could reduce our operating margins and reported earnings; (2) further increases in the price of fuel may adversely affect our business; (3) increases in labor and disposal and related transportation costs could reduce our operating margins; (4) our acquisitions may not be successful, resulting in changes in strategy, operating losses or a loss on sale of the business acquired; (5) the geographic concentration of our business makes our results vulnerable to economic and seasonal factors affecting the regions in which we operate; (6) our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement and other factors and considerations may limit the number of shares repurchased under our stock repurchase program; (7) our growth may be limited by the inability to renew or successfully defend challenges to landfill operating permits, obtain new landfills and expand existing ones; (8) we may incur additional charges related to capitalized expenditures, which would decrease our earnings; (9) extensive and evolving environmental laws and regulations may restrict our operations and growth and increase our costs; (10) we may be subject in the normal course of business to judicial and administrative proceedings that could interrupt our operations, require expensive remediation or other payments and create negative publicity; (11) our adoption of new accounting standards or interpretations could adversely impact our results; and (12) unusually adverse weather conditions may interfere with our operations, harming our operating results.

These risks and uncertainties, as well as others, are discussed in greater detail in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, 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.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere herein.



## OVERVIEW

We are an integrated solid waste services company that provides solid waste collection, transfer, disposal and recycling services in mostly secondary markets in the Western and Southern U.S. As of June 30, 2005, we served more than one million residential, commercial and industrial customers from a network of operations in 22 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. As of that date, we owned or operated a network of 103 solid waste collection operations, 32 transfer stations, 26 recycling operations, 30 municipal solid waste landfills, three construction and demolition landfills, and two municipal solid waste landfill sites and one construction and demolition landfill site that are permitted for operation, but not constructed. We also provide intermodal services for the rail haul movement of cargo containers in the Pacific Northwest through a network of six intermodal facilities.

## 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 Securities and Exchange Commission, 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 our financial condition or operating performance. There was only one change to our critical accounting estimates and assumptions in the six months ended June 30, 2005 which is described below. Refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a complete description of our critical accounting estimates and assumptions.

### Landfill final capping, closure and post-closure obligations

. Consistent with the prior year, we accrue for estimated final capping, closure and post-closure maintenance obligations at the landfills we own, and certain landfills that we operate, but do not own, under life-of-site operating agreements.

We own two landfills for which the prior landfill owner is obligated to reimburse Waste Connections for certain costs that we incur for final capping, closure and post-closure activities on the portion of the landfill utilized by the prior owner. Prior to January 1, 2005, we netted the expected reimbursement from the prior owner within our closure and post-closure obligation. Effective January 1, 2005, we are accruing for the prior owner's portion of the closure and post-closure obligation within the balance sheet classification of other long-term liabilities, and we recorded a corresponding receivable in long-term other assets from the prior owner for this balance. We accrue the closure and post-closure liability and corresponding receivable at the same inflation and discount rates used for all our landfills.

## GENERAL

Our solid waste revenues consist mainly of fees we charge customers for collection, transfer, disposal and recycling services. Our collection business also generates revenues from the sale of recyclable commodities, which have significant variability. The largest part of our collection revenues comes from providing residential, commercial and industrial services. We frequently perform these services under service agreements, municipal contracts, or franchise agreements with governmental entities. Our existing franchise agreements and all of our existing municipal contracts give us the exclusive right to provide specified waste services in the specified territory during the contract term. These exclusive arrangements are awarded, at least initially, on a competitive bid basis and subsequently on a bid or negotiated basis. We also provide residential collection services on a subscription basis with individual households.

More than 50% of our revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2005, were derived from market areas where services are provided predominantly under exclusive franchise agreements, long-term municipal contracts and

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governmental certificates, or G Certificates. G Certificates grant us perpetual and exclusive collection rights in the covered areas in the state of Washington. Contracts with counties and municipalities and G Certificates provide relatively consistent cash flow during the terms of the contracts. Since we bill most residential customers quarterly, subscription agreements also provide a stable source of revenues for us.

We charge transfer station and landfill customers a tipping fee on a per ton and/or per yard basis for disposing their solid waste at the transfer stations and landfill facilities. Many of our transfer station and landfill customers have entered into one to ten year disposal contracts with us, most of which provide for annual indexed price increases.

We typically determine the prices of our solid waste services by the collection frequency and level of service, route density, volume, weight and type of waste collected, type of equipment and containers furnished, the distance to the disposal or processing facility, the cost of disposal or processing, and prices charged by competitors for similar services. The terms of our contracts sometimes limit our ability to pass on price increases. Long-term solid waste collection contracts often contain a formula, generally based on a published price index, that automatically adjusts fees to cover increases in some, but not all, operating costs, or that limit increases to less than 100% of the increase in the applicable price index.

Our revenues from intermodal services consist mainly of fees we charge customers for the movement of cargo containers between our intermodal facilities. We also generate revenue from the storage, maintenance and repair of cargo containers, and the sale or lease of containers and chassis.

The table below shows for the periods indicated our total reported revenues attributable to services provided.

|                          | <b>Three Months Ended June 30,</b> |              |                   |              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                          | <b>2004</b>                        |              | <b>2005</b>       |              |
|                          | \$                                 | %            | \$                | %            |
| Collection               | 117,235                            | 65.5         | 126,485           | 61.3         |
| Disposal and transfer    | 53,829                             | 30.0         | 59,654            | 28.9         |
| Intermodal               | --                                 | --           | 10,193            | 4.9          |
| Recycling and other      | 8,015                              | 4.5          | 10,005            | 4.9          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 179,079</b>                  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>\$ 206,337</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Intercompany elimination | \$ 23,029                          |              | \$ 26,072         |              |
|                          | <b>Six Months Ended June 30,</b>   |              |                   |              |
|                          | <b>2004</b>                        |              | <b>2005</b>       |              |
|                          | \$                                 | %            | \$                | %            |
| Collection               | 228,010                            | 66.2         | 245,567           | 62.4         |
| Disposal and transfer    | 101,027                            | 29.3         | 109,534           | 27.8         |
| Intermodal               | --                                 | --           | 20,228            | 5.1          |
| Recycling and other      | 15,468                             | 4.5          | 18,476            | 4.7          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 344,505</b>                  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>\$ 393,805</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Intercompany elimination | \$ 43,631                          |              | \$ 49,096         |              |

Cost of operations includes labor and benefits, tipping fees paid to third-party disposal facilities, equipment maintenance, workers' compensation, vehicle insurance, claims expense, third-party transportation expense, fuel, the cost of materials we purchase for recycling, district and state taxes and host community fees and royalties. Our significant costs of operations in the first half of 2005 were labor, third-party disposal and transportation, cost of vehicle maintenance, taxes and fees and fuel. We use a number of programs to reduce overall cost of operations, including increasing the use of automated routes to reduce labor and workers' compensation exposure, comprehensive maintenance and health and safety programs, and increasing the use of transfer stations to further enhance internalization rates. For the remainder of 2005, we are obligated to purchase approximately 6.4 million gallons of diesel fuel, or approximately 75% of our current estimated fuel consumption during the period, under a fixed-price fuel contract that expires on December 31, 2005, at a price per gallon below current market prices. For the six months ended June 30, 2005, we estimate that the contract provided a benefit of approximately \$5.6 million compared to average market prices. For the remainder of 2005, we estimate that the contract could provide a benefit of approximately \$6.4 million compared to average market prices estimated for the three months ended June 30, 2005.

Selling, general and administrative, or SG&A, expenses include management, sales force, clerical and administrative employee compensation and benefits, legal, accounting and other professional services, bad debt expense, and rent expense for our corporate headquarters.

Depreciation expense includes depreciation of equipment and fixed assets over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. Depletion expense includes depletion of landfill site costs and total future development costs as remaining airspace of the landfill is consumed. Remaining airspace at our landfills includes both permitted and expansion airspace. Amortization expense includes the amortization of definite-lived intangible assets, consisting primarily of long-term franchise agreements and contracts and non-competition agreements, over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets, consisting primarily of certain perpetual rights to provide solid waste collection and transportation services in specified territories, are not amortized.

At June 30, 2005, we had 312.7 million tons of permitted remaining airspace capacity and 66.5 million tons of probable expansion airspace capacity at our 27 owned and operated landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements. We do not measure remaining airspace capacity at the six landfills we operate under contracts with finite terms. Based on remaining permitted capacity as of June 30, 2005, and projected annual disposal volumes, the average remaining landfill life for our owned landfills and landfills operated under life-of-site operating agreements is approximately 49 years. The operating agreements for which the contracted term is less than the life of the landfill have expiration dates from 2005 to 2017.

The disposal tonnage that we received in the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005 at all of our landfills owned or operated during the respective period is shown below (tons in thousands):

|   | June 30, 2004      |               | June 30, 2005      |               |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
|   | Number<br>of Sites | Total<br>Tons | Number<br>of Sites | Total<br>Tons |
| Owned landfills or landfills operated<br>under life-of-site contracts | 25                 | 3,049         | 27                 | 3,209         |
| Landfills classified as discontinued operati                          | 2                  | 209           | 1                  | 54            |
| Operated landfills  | 8                  | 405           | 6                  | 419           |
|   | 35                 | 3,663         | 34                 | 3,682         |

We capitalize some third-party expenditures related to pending acquisitions or development projects, such as legal, engineering and interest expenses. We expense indirect acquisition costs, such as executive and corporate overhead, public relations and other corporate services, as we incur them. We charge against net income any unamortized capitalized expenditures and advances (net of any portion that we believe we may recover through sale or otherwise) that may become impaired, such as those that relate to any operation that is permanently shut down and any pending acquisition or landfill development project that we believe will not be completed. We routinely evaluate all capitalized costs, and expense those related to projects that we believe are not likely to succeed. At June 30, 2005, we had less than \$0.1 million in capitalized expenditures relating to pending acquisitions.

Our subsidiary, Rhino Solid Waste, Inc., owns undeveloped property in Chaparral, New Mexico. On January 30, 2002, the New Mexico Environment Department granted a final order approving a permit to operate a municipal solid waste landfill on the property. The Supreme Court of the state of New Mexico set aside that final order on July 18, 2005, and remanded the matter to the Department for further consideration. For further description, see Part II, Item 1 (Legal Proceedings) of this Form 10-Q. At June 30, 2005, we had \$8.0 million of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. If we are not ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill, we will be required to expense in a future period the \$8.0 million of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped property and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material adverse effect on our reported income for that period.

We own undeveloped property in Harper County, Kansas, where we are seeking permits to construct and operate a municipal solid waste landfill. For further description, see Note 13 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included under Part I, Item 1 of this Form 10-Q. At June 30, 2005, we had \$4.7 million of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. We believe we will receive the final permit. If we do not receive the final permit, however, we will be required to expense in a future period the \$4.7 million of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped property and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material adverse effect on our reported income for that period.

We periodically evaluate our intangible assets for potential impairment indicators. If any impairment indicators are present, a test of recoverability is performed by comparing the carrying value of the asset or asset group to its undiscounted expected future cash flows. If the carrying values are in excess of undiscounted expected future cash flows, impairment is measured by comparing the fair value of the asset to its carrying value. If the fair value of an asset is determined to be less than the carrying amount of the asset or asset group, an impairment in the amount of the difference is recorded in the period that the impairment indicator occurs. As of June 30, 2005, there have been no material adjustments to the carrying amounts of intangibles resulting from these evaluations. Additionally, we test goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment annually using the process prescribed in SFAS No. 142. As of June 30, 2005, there have been no adjustments to the carrying amounts of goodwill or indefinite-lived intangible assets. As of June 30, 2005, goodwill and other intangible assets represented 47.6% of total assets and 103.7% of stockholders' equity.

#### NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

For a description of the new accounting standards that affect us, see Note 2 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included under Part I, Item 1 of this Form 10-Q.

#### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE AND SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2004 AND 2005

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

|   | Three Months Ended<br>June 30, |         |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|
|   | 2004                           | 2005    |
| Revenues                                    | 100.0 %                        | 100.0 % |
| Cost of operations                          | 56.0                           | 57.5    |
| Selling, general and administrative         | 9.6                            | 9.5     |
| Depreciation and amortization               | 8.5                            | 8.8     |
| Gain on disposal of assets                  | --                             | --      |
| Operating income                            | 25.9                           | 24.2    |
| Interest expense                            | (3.3)                          | (3.1)   |
| Other income (expense), net                 | (0.9)                          | --      |
| Minority interests                          | (2.0)                          | (1.9)   |
| Income tax provision                        | (7.3)                          | (7.1)   |
| Loss on discontinued operations, net of tax | (0.1)                          | (0.2)   |
| Net income                                  | 12.3 %                         | 11.9 %  |

### Revenues

. Total revenues increased \$24.2 million, or 15.5%, to \$180.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$156.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Acquisitions closed subsequent to June 30, 2004, increased revenues approximately \$15.9 million. Increases in recyclable commodity prices increased revenues by \$0.3 million and increased prices charged to our customers and volume changes in our existing business resulted in a net revenue increase of approximately \$8.0 million.

Revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2005 increased \$43.8 million or 14.6%, to \$344.7 million from \$300.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. Acquisitions closed subsequent to June 30, 2004, and the full-period inclusion of revenues from acquisitions closed during the six months ended June 30, 2004, increased revenues approximately \$30.5 million. Increases in recyclable commodity prices increased revenues by \$0.6 million, and increased prices charged to our customers and volume changes in our existing customer base resulted in a net revenue increase of \$12.7 million.

### Cost of Operations

. Total cost of operations increased \$16.1 million, or 18.5%, to \$103.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$87.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Cost of operations increased \$28.8 million, or 17.0%, to \$197.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from \$169.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases were attributable to operating costs associated with acquisitions closed subsequent to June 30, 2004, higher fuel costs, increased labor expenses, third party transportation costs and equipment maintenance costs associated with higher collection and disposal volumes, and increased auto and workers' compensation self-insurance expenses related to an increase in accrual rates, partially offset by decreases in medical insurance expenses under our self-insured medical program due to a decrease in the severity of reported claims in 2005 as compared to the same period in 2004.

Cost of operations as a percentage of revenues increased 1.5 percentage points to 57.5% for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from 56.0% for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Cost of operations as a percentage of revenues increased 1.2 percentage points to 57.4% for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from 56.2% for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases as a percentage of revenues were primarily attributable to increased fuel costs,

third party transportation costs, maintenance and repair expenses, and the acquisition of companies subsequent to June 30, 2004, having operating margins below our company average, partially offset by a decrease in disposal expenses associated with improved waste volume internalization and a decrease in the severity of our medical claims.

### SG&A

. SG&A expenses increased \$2.2 million, or 14.7%, to \$17.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$14.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. SG&A expenses increased \$4.3 million, or 14.5%, to \$34.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from \$29.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases in SG&A expenses for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2005, from the prior year periods, were primarily the result of additional personnel from acquisitions closed subsequent to June 30, 2004, increased payroll expense due to increased headcount to support our base operations and increased salaries, and increased professional fees and related costs associated with auditing internal controls required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, remained relatively unchanged from the prior year periods. SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues remained relatively unchanged due to the increase in professional fees and related costs associated with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act as a percentage of revenues being offset by the acquisition of companies subsequent to June 30, 2004, which had lower SG&A expenses as a percentage of revenues.

### Depreciation and Amortization

. Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$2.7 million, or 20.5%, to \$15.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$13.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$4.4 million, or 17.3%, to \$30.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from \$26.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases were primarily attributable to depreciation associated with acquisitions closed subsequent to June 30, 2004, increased depletion expenses resulting from increases in disposal volumes at our landfills, and increased depreciation expense resulting from new equipment acquired subsequent to June 30, 2004, to support our base operations.

Depreciation and amortization expense as a percentage of revenues increased 0.3 percentage points to 8.8% for the three months ended June 30, 2005, as compared to 8.5% for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Depreciation and amortization expense as a percentage of revenues increased 0.1 percentage points to 8.8% for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from 8.7% for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases in depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues were the result of depreciation expense associated with new equipment purchased or acquired subsequent to June 30, 2004, and increased depletion expense resulting from increases in disposal volumes at our landfills offset by a decrease in depreciation expense as a percentage of revenues due to the intermodal acquisition closed in the fourth quarter of 2004; intermodal equipment is depreciated over longer useful lives than our other equipment.

### Operating Income

. Operating income increased \$3.2 million, or 7.9%, to \$43.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$40.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Operating income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, increased \$6.4 million, or 8.3%, to \$82.3 million from \$75.9 million during the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases were primarily attributable to the growth in revenues, partially offset by increased operating costs, recurring SG&A expenses to support the revenue growth, and increased depreciation and amortization expenses.

Operating income as a percentage of revenues decreased 1.7 percentage points to 24.2% for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from 25.9% during the three months ended June 30, 2004. Operating income as a percentage of revenues decreased 1.3 percentage points to 23.9% for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from 25.2% for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The decreases were due to the aforementioned percentage of revenue increases in cost of operations, SG&A expense, and depreciation and amortization expenses.

### Interest Expense

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. Interest expense increased \$0.4 million, or 7.8%, to \$5.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$5.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. The increase in interest expense was attributable to increased interest rates on floating rate debt not fixed under our swap agreements and higher average debt balances as compared to the prior year period. For the six months ended June 30, 2005, interest expense decreased by \$1.5 million or 12.4% to \$10.5 million as compared to \$12.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The decrease was attributable to declines in our total outstanding debt balances, partially offset by increased interest rates on floating rate debt not fixed under our swap agreements. The decrease in our debt balances was primarily due to the redemption in April 2004 of our \$150 million aggregate principal amount, 5.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2006, which resulted in the conversion of \$123.6 million of the outstanding note principal into our common stock, partially offset by additional borrowings to fund acquisitions and repurchases of our common stock.

### Other Income (Expense), Net

. The increase in other income (expense), net, for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, was primarily due to the early redemption in April 2004 of our \$150 million 5.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2006, which resulted in a pre-tax charge of \$1.5 million, which did not recur in 2005.

### Minority Interests

. Minority interests increased \$0.3 million, or 12.2%, to \$3.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$3.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Minority interests increased \$0.4 million or 7.5%, to \$6.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from \$5.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases in minority interests were due to increased earnings by our majority-owned subsidiaries.

### Provision for Income Taxes

. Income taxes increased \$1.4 million, or 12.5%, to \$12.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$11.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Income taxes increased \$3.3 million or 15.7%, to \$24.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005, from \$21.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases were due to increased pre-tax earnings. Our effective tax rates for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, were 37.2%, which was relatively consistent with our effective tax rates for the three and six months ended June 30, 2004, of 37.3% and 37.2% respectively.

### Net Income

. Net income increased \$2.2 million, or 11.7%, to \$21.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005, from \$19.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004. Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, increased \$5.4 million, or 15.2%, to \$40.8 million, from \$35.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004. The increases were primarily attributable to increased operating income, decreased interest expense, and the \$1.5 million pre-tax charge in April 2004 related to the early redemption of our \$150 million aggregate principal amount, 5.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2006, which did not recur in 2005, and partially offset by increased minority interests expense and income tax expense.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our business is capital intensive. Our capital requirements include acquisitions and fixed asset purchases. We expect that we will also make capital expenditures for landfill cell construction, landfill development, landfill closure activities and intermodal facility construction in the future. We plan to meet our capital needs primarily through internally generated funds and borrowings under our credit facility.

As of June 30, 2005, we had a working capital deficit of \$8.6 million, including cash and equivalents of \$7.4 million. Our working capital deficit decreased \$5.1 million, from \$13.7 million at December 31, 2004. 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 to reduce our indebtedness under our credit facility and to minimize our cash balances.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net cash provided by operating activities was \$97.5 million. Of this amount, \$16.2 million was provided by changes in working capital for the period. The primary components of the reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities for the six months ended June 30, 2005,

consist of non-cash expenses, including \$30.8 million of depreciation and amortization, \$6.1 million of minority interest expense, \$6.4 million of tax benefit from stock option exercises, less a \$4.1 million decrease in deferred tax liabilities.

For the six months ended June 30, 2004, net cash provided by operating activities was \$86.2 million. Of this amount, \$2.7 million was provided by working capital for the period. The primary components of the reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities for the six months ended June 30, 2004, consist of non-cash expenses, including \$27.3 million of depreciation and amortization, \$5.7 million of minority interest expense, \$3.4 million of tax benefit from stock option exercises and the deferral of \$9.9 million of income tax expense resulting from temporary differences between the recognition of income and expenses for financial reporting and income tax purposes.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net cash used in investing activities was \$42.4 million. Of this amount, \$12.9 million was used to fund the cash portion of acquisitions and to pay a portion of acquisition costs that were included as a component of accrued liabilities at December 31, 2004. Cash used for capital expenditures was \$34.3 million, which was primarily for investments in fixed assets, consisting of trucks, containers, other equipment and landfill development. Cash provided by investing activities primarily included \$3.9 million of proceeds from the disposal of assets and \$1.0 million of net reductions of restricted cash.

For the six months ended June 30, 2004, net cash used in investing activities was \$41.6 million. Of this amount, \$12.4 million was used to fund the cash portion of acquisitions and to pay a portion of acquisition costs that were included as a component of accrued liabilities at December 31, 2003. Cash used for capital expenditures was \$33.9 million, which was primarily for investments in fixed assets, consisting of trucks, containers, other equipment and landfill development. Cash provided by investing activities primarily included \$3.9 million of net reductions of restricted cash.

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net cash used in financing activities was \$51.3 million, which primarily included \$8.1 million of net borrowings under our various debt arrangements for the funding of capital expenditures and acquisitions, \$23.8 million of proceeds from stock option and warrant exercises, less \$71.1 million to repurchase shares of our common stock, \$6.7 million of change in book overdraft and \$5.3 million of cash distributions to minority interest holders.

For the six months ended June 30, 2004, net cash used in financing activities was \$44.3 million, which primarily included \$19.3 million of proceeds from stock option and warrant exercises, less \$27.5 million of net payments under our various debt arrangements, \$27.9 million to repurchase shares of our common stock, \$2.0 million of change in book overdraft and \$5.9 million of cash distributions to minority interest holders.

We made approximately \$34.3 million in capital expenditures for property and equipment during the six months ended June 30, 2005. We expect to make capital expenditures of between \$75 and \$80 million in 2005 in connection with our existing business, depending on the construction timing for certain new landfills. We intend to fund our planned 2005 capital expenditures principally through existing cash, 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 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.

As of June 30, 2005, \$275 million was outstanding under our senior secured revolving credit facility, exclusive of outstanding stand-by letters of credit of \$55.0 million. The \$14.0 million increase in outstanding borrowings under our



credit facility in the first half of 2005 was primarily due to funding repurchases of our common stock, new acquisitions, and capital expenditures, partially offset by cash generated from operations and the proceeds from stock option exercises. As of June 30, 2004 and 2005, we were in compliance with all applicable covenants in our credit facility.

As of June 30, 2005, we had the following contractual obligations (in thousands):

| Recorded Obligations               | Principal Payments Due by Period |                     |                 |                 |                 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                    | Total                            | Less Than<br>1 Year | 2 to 3<br>Years | 4 to 5<br>Years | Over 5<br>Years |
| Long-term debt (1), (2)            | 508,482                          | 9,793               | 13,788          | 291,768         | 193,133         |
| Total contractual cash obligations | 508,482                          | 9,793               | 13,788          | 291,768         | 193,133         |

- Long-term debt payments include \$275 million in principal payments due in 2009 related to our senior secured revolving credit facility. As of June 30, 2005, our credit facility allowed us to borrow up to \$650 million. The known future obligations for debt do not include interest expense obligations.
- Holders of the Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2022 may require the Company to purchase their notes in cash at a price of par plus accrued interest, if any, upon a change in control of the Company, as defined in the indenture, or, for the first time, on May 1, 2009.

| Unrecorded Obligations                 | Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period |                     |                 |                 |                 |
|--|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | Total                                      | Less Than<br>1 Year | 2 to 3<br>Years | 4 to 5<br>Years | Over 5<br>Years |
| Operating leases (3)                   | 50,488                                     | 6,093               | 9,991           | 7,676           | 26,728          |
| Unconditional purchase obligations (3) | 5,500                                      | 5,500               | --              | --              | --              |
| Total commercial commitments           | 55,988                                     | 11,593              | 9,991           | 7,676           | 26,728          |

(3) We are party to operating lease agreements and unconditional purchase obligations. These lease agreements and purchase obligations are established in the ordinary course of our business and are designed to provide us with access to facilities and products at competitive, market-driven prices. Our unconditional purchase obligation is a fixed-price fuel purchase contract under which we have 6.4 million gallons remaining to be purchased in equal monthly amounts before the contract expires on December 31, 2005, for a total unconditional purchase obligation of \$5.5 million, plus taxes and transportation costs upon delivery, which is less than the current market price for fuel.

We have obtained stand-by letters of credit and financial surety bonds. These stand-by letters of credit and financial surety bonds are generally obtained to support our financial assurance needs and landfill operations. We had provided customers and various regulatory authorities with surety bonds in the aggregate amounts of approximately \$121.4 million and \$116.9 million at December 31, 2004 and June 30, 2005, respectively. These arrangements did not materially affect our financial position, results of operations or liquidity during the six months ended June 30, 2005, nor do we expect they will have a material impact on our future financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

The minority interest holders of a majority-owned subsidiary of Waste Connections have a currently exercisable option (the put option) to require Waste Connections to complete the acquisition of this majority-owned subsidiary by purchasing their minority ownership interests at fair market value. The put option calculates the fair market value of the subsidiary based on its current operating income before depreciation and amortization, as defined in the put option agreement. The put option does not have a stated termination date. At June 30, 2005, the minority interest holders' pro rata share of the subsidiary's fair market value is estimated to be worth between \$74 million and \$88 million. Because the put is calculated at fair market value, no amounts have been accrued relative to the put option.

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 operations would not be impaired by such dispositions, we could incur losses as a result of them.

#### FREE CASH FLOW

We are providing free cash flow, a non-GAAP financial measure, because it is widely used by investors as a valuation and liquidity measure in the solid waste industry. This measure is not a substitute for, and should be used in conjunction with, GAAP financial measures. Management uses free cash flow as one of the principal measures to evaluate and monitor the ongoing financial performance of our operations. We define free cash flow as net cash provided by operating activities, plus cash proceeds from disposal of assets, plus or minus any change in book overdraft, less capital expenditures and distributions to minority interest holders. Other companies may calculate free cash flow differently. Our free cash flow for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, is calculated as follows (in thousands):

|  | Six Months Ended<br>June 30, |           |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2004                         | 2005      |
| Net cash provided by operating activities        | \$ 86,173                    | \$ 97,484 |
| Less: Change in book overdraft                   | (2,025)                      | (6,742)   |
| Plus: Cash proceeds from disposal of assets      | 752                          | 3,933     |
| Less: Capital expenditures                       | (33,895)                     | (34,271)  |
| Less: Distributions to minority interest holders | (5,929)                      | (5,341)   |
| Free cash flow                                   | \$ 45,076                    | \$ 55,063 |

#### INFLATION

To date, inflation has not materially affected our operations. Consistent with industry practice, many of our contracts allow us to pass through certain costs to our customers, including increases in landfill tipping fees. 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 may require us to absorb at least part of these cost increases, especially if cost increases, such as the rising cost of fuel over the past 12 to 18 months, exceed the average rate of inflation. Management's estimates associated with inflation have an impact on our accounting for landfill liabilities.

#### SEASONALITY

Based on historic trends, 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. We expect the fluctuation in our revenues between our highest and lowest quarters to be approximately 10% to 12%. 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. 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. 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.

In May 2003, we entered into two forward-starting interest rate swap agreements. Each interest rate swap agreement has a notional amount of \$87.5 million and effectively fixes the interest rate on the notional amount at interest rates ranging from 2.67% to 2.68%, plus applicable margin. The effective date of the swap agreements was February 2004 and each swap agreement expires in February 2007. These interest rate swap agreements are effective as cash flow hedges for a portion of our variable rate debt and we apply hedge accounting pursuant to SFAS No. 133 to account for these instruments. The notional amounts and all other significant terms of the swap agreements are matched to the provisions and terms of the variable rate debt being hedged.

In March 2004, we entered into two additional three-year interest rate swap agreements. Each interest rate swap agreement has a notional amount of \$37.5 million and effectively fixed the interest rate on the notional amount at an interest rate of 2.25%, plus applicable margin. The effective date of the swap agreements was March 2004 and each swap agreement expires in March 2007. These interest rate swap agreements are effective as cash flow hedges for a portion of our variable rate debt and we apply hedge accounting pursuant to SFAS No. 133 to account for these instruments. The notional amounts 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 market risk sensitive hedge positions and all other 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 net floating rate balances owed at December 31, 2004 and June 30, 2005, of \$218.2 million and \$231.3 million, respectively, including floating rate debt under our credit facility, our 2022 Notes, various floating rate notes payable to third parties and floating rate municipal bond obligations, offset by our debt effectively fixed under interest rate

swap agreements. A one percent increase in interest rates on our variable-rate debt as of December 31, 2004 and June 30, 2005 would decrease our annual pre-tax income by approximately \$2.2 million and \$2.3 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.

We market a variety of recyclable materials, including cardboard, office paper, plastic containers, glass bottles and ferrous and aluminum metals. We own and operate 26 recycling processing operations and sell other collected recyclable materials to third parties for processing before resale. Certain of our municipal recycling contracts in 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. Although there can be no assurance of market recoveries, in the event of a decline in recycled commodity prices, a 10% decrease in average recycled commodity prices from the prices that were in effect at June 30, 2004 and 2005 would have had the same impact as a \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million decrease in revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2005, respectively.

Although fuel and energy costs currently account for less than 4% of our total revenues, the price of fuel is volatile and rose substantially in 2004 and in the six month period ending June 30, 2005. If we purchased diesel fuel at market prices to meet our current aggregate consumption levels, a ten cent increase in the price of diesel fuel would result in a decrease in our annual pre-tax income by approximately \$1.7 million. In order to mitigate the impact of adverse fuel price changes, we entered into a fixed-price fuel purchase contract in 2003. We purchase approximately 75% of our current annual fuel consumption under the contract, which expires on December 31, 2005. As of June 30, 2005, we had 6.4 million gallons remaining to be purchased in equal monthly amounts at a total price of \$5.5 million, plus taxes and transportation costs upon delivery, which is less than the current market price for fuel. For the six months ended June 30, 2005, we estimate that the contract provided a benefit of approximately \$5.6 million compared to average market prices.

#### ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As required by Rule 13a-15(b) and 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, 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 Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the fiscal quarter covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded as of June 30, 2005, 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 June 30, 2005, 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.

## PART II

### - OTHER INFORMATION

#### ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There have not been any material developments in any of the three legal proceedings described in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, including the Harper County case, the case of *Karen Colleran, Conservator of the Estate of Robert Rooney v. Waste Connections of Nebraska, Inc.*, and the case of *Cristobal Lazoya v. Waste Connections of Oklahoma, Inc. et al.* Refer to Note 13 of the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements in Part I for a description of these legal proceedings.

Our subsidiary, Rhino Solid Waste, Inc., 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 approved the permit for the facility on January 30, 2002. Colonias Development Council, or CDC, a nonprofit organization, opposed the permit at the public hearing and appealed the Department's decision to the Court of Appeals 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. In *Colonias Dev. Council v. Rhino Envtl. Servs. (In re Rhino Envtl. Servs.)*, 134 N.M. 637, 640 (N.M. Ct. App., 2003), the Court of Appeals affirmed the Department's decision to grant the landfill permit. CDC then appealed that decision to the Supreme Court of the state of New Mexico. On July 18, 2005, the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals' decision, and remanded the matter back to the Department to conduct a limited public hearing on certain evidence CDC claims 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. At June 30, 2005, we had \$8.0 million of capitalized expenditures related to this landfill development project. If we are not ultimately issued a permit to operate the landfill, we will be required to expense in a future period the \$8.0 million of capitalized expenditures, less the recoverable value of the undeveloped property and other amounts recovered, which would likely have a material adverse effect on our reported income for that period.

From time to time, we pay fines or penalties in environmental proceedings relating primarily to our transfer and disposal facilities. As of June 30, 2005, there was one proceeding and one threatened proceeding of which we are aware involving our subsidiaries in which penalties in excess of \$0.1 million are being sought. In neither of these proceedings do we reasonably believe that monetary sanctions, exclusive of interest and costs, will exceed \$0.1 million. The complaint filed in the proceeding includes allegations that one of our subsidiaries committed violations under state environmental laws at a transfer station it operates and failed to comply with the facility permit requirements relating to record keeping and site operations. The notice we received threatening legal action alleges that another subsidiary committed violations under state law at a landfill it operates, failed to operate the landfill in accordance with the operational plan specified in the solid waste facility permit for the landfill, related permit conditions and the approved site application, and failed to comply with related operational requirements. While we have not filed a response to the complaint or formally responded to the letter we received, we are currently engaged in settlement negotiations with the state agency involved in both proceedings. We do not believe that the fines or other penalties in either of these matters, individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flows.

Additionally, we are a party to various legal and administrative proceedings resulting from the ordinary course of business and the extensive governmental regulation of the solid waste industry. Our management does not believe that these proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flows.

## ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

On May 3, 2004, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized a common stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$200 million of our common stock over a two-year period. On July 25, 2005, we announced that our Board of Directors approved an increase in, and extension of, the common stock repurchase program. We are now authorized to purchase up to \$300 million of our common stock through March 31, 2007. Under the program, we may repurchase stock 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. From inception of the program through June 30, 2005, we have repurchased 4.5 million shares of our common stock at a cost of \$144.0 million, of which \$135.1 million were purchased under the approved program. The table below reflects repurchases we have made for the three months ended June 30, 2005:

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

| Period           | Total Number<br>of Shares<br>Purchased | Average<br>Price Paid<br>Per Share (1) | Total Number<br>of Shares<br>Purchased as<br>Part of Publicly<br>Announced Program | Maximum<br>Approximate Dollar<br>Value of Shares that<br>May Yet Be Purchased<br>Under the Program (2) |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 4/1/05 - 4/30/05 | 394,025                                | \$ 34.78                               | 394,025  | \$ 177,414   |
| 5/1/05 - 5/31/05 | 307,000                                | 36.08                                  | 307,000  | 166,338  |
| 6/1/05 - 6/30/05 | 38,480                                 | 35.81                                  | 38,480   | 164,960  |
| Total            | 739,505                                | 35.37                                  | 739,505  |  |

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

(2) Gives effect to increase in authorization under the program announced on July 25, 2005.

## ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Our Annual Meeting of stockholders was held on May 25, 2005.

Our stockholders reelected Eugene V. Dupreau as a Class I director by the votes indicated below:

Total Votes For:K8,444,771

Total Votes Withheld:N,492,276

Our stockholders reelected Robert H. Davis as a Class I director by the votes indicated below:

Total Votes For:K8,054,660

Total Votes Withheld:

N,882,387

In addition, our stockholders ratified the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year 2005 by the votes indicated below:

Total Votes For:L4,634,010

Total Votes Against:J58,548

Total Votes Abstained:L4,489

## ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

### Description of Exhibits

#### Exhibit Number

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3.1 (n)     | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, in effect as of the date hereof   |
| 3.2 (o)     | Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant, in effect as of the date hereof   |
| 4.1 (a)     | Form of Common Stock Certificate   |
| 4.2 (g)     | Form of Note for the Registrant's Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2022  |
| 4.3 (g) (+) | Indenture between the Registrant, as Issuer, and State Street Bank and Trust Company of California, N.A., as Trustee, dated as of April 30, 2002 |
| 4.4 (p)     | Note No. 1 for the Registrant's new Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2022  |
| 4.5 (p) (+) | Indenture between the Registrant, as Issuer, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, dated as of July 21, 2004                           |
| 4.6 (p)     | Note No. 2 for the Registrant's new Floating Rate Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2022  |
| 10.1 (c)    | Second Amended and Restated 1997 Stock Option Plan   |
| 10.2 (a)    | Form of Option Agreement   |

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- 10.3 (a) Form of Warrant Agreement
- 10.4 (a) Form of Stock Purchase Agreement dated as of September 30, 1997
- 10.5 (d) Second Amended Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Darrell Chambliss, dated as of June 1, 2000
- 10.6 (a) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Eugene V. Dupreau, dated as of February 23, 1998
- 10.7 (a) Form of Indemnification Agreement entered into by the Registrant and each of its directors and officers
- 10.8 (b) (+) Loan Agreement, dated as of June 1, 1998, between Madera Disposal Systems, Inc. and the California Pollution Control Financing Authority
- 10.9 (b) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and David M. Hall, dated as of July 8, 1998
- 10.10 (f) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and James M. Little, dated as of September 13, 1999
- 10.11 (f) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Jerri L. Hunt, dated as of October 25, 1999
- 10.12 (r) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Eric O. Hansen, dated as of January 1, 2001
- 10.13 (h) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Kenneth O. Rose, dated as of May 1, 2002
- 10.14 (h) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Robert D. Evans, dated as of May 10, 2002
- 10.15 (i) 2002 Senior Management Equity Incentive Plan
- 10.16 (i) 2002 Stock Option Plan
- 10.17 (j) 2002 Restricted Stock Plan
- 10.18 (k) Consultant Incentive Plan
- 10.19 (l) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and David G. Eddie, dated as of May 15, 2001
- 10.20 (l) Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Worthing F. Jackman, dated as of April 11, 2003
- 10.21 (m) Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Ronald J. Mittelstaedt, dated as of March 1, 2004
- 10.22 (o) Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan, dated July 1, 2004
- 10.23 (o) 2004 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and restated July 20, 2004



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- 10.24 (p) Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Steven Bouck, dated as of October 1, 2004
- 10.25 (q) Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Term Loan Agreement, dated as of November 17, 2004
- 10.26 (r) Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement between the Registrant and Ronald J. Mittelstaedt, dated as of March 1, 2004 (and as amended March 22, 2005)
- 10.27 (r) Compensation Plan for Independent Directors, dated March 1, 2005
- 10.28 Amendment No. 1 to the Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Term Loan Agreement, dated as of June 30, 2005
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer
- 32.1 Certificate of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer

(a) Incorporated by reference to the exhibits filed with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, Registration No. 333- 48029.

(b) Incorporated by reference to the exhibits filed with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-4, Registration No. 333- 59199.

(c) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form S-8, filed on July 24, 2000.

(d) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on November 14, 2000.

(e) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on August 7, 2000.

(f) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-K filed on March 13, 2000.

(g) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form S-3 filed on July 29, 2002.

(h) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on August 13, 2002.

(i) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form S-8 filed on February 21, 2002.

(j) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form S-8 filed on June 19, 2002.

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- (k) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form S-8 filed on January 8, 2003.
- (l) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on August 13, 2003.
- (m) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on April 22, 2004.
- (n) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form T-3 filed on June 16, 2004.
- (o) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on July 22, 2004.
- (p) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on October 22, 2004.
- (q) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-K filed on February 28, 2005.
- (r) Incorporated by reference to the exhibit filed with the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on May 3, 2005.
- (+) Filed without exhibits and schedules (to be provided supplementally on request of the Commission).

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: August 5, 2005

BY: /s/ Ronald J. Mittelstaedt

Ronald J. Mittelstaedt,

Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 5, 2005

BY: /s/ Worthing F. Jackman

Worthing F. Jackman,

Executive Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer

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