

**Minutes**  
**AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING**  
**2300 County Center Drive, La Plaza A, Room A212**  
**Santa Rosa, California 95404**

**Zoom link:**

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/95452631348?pwd=amRpWng4Ykc4YkhCRWV3WEtEb2RxZz09>

<b><u>Absent (In alphabetical order)</u></b>	<b><u>In attendance (In alphabetical order)</u></b>
<b>Amber Johnson- Zero Waste Sonoma</b>	<b>Alisa Johnson- SCRR</b>
<b>Arthur Deicke- EPS</b>	<b>Alyssa Messer – 3rd District Rep</b>
<b>Brandon Hart – TPW – Integrated Waste/ Sonoma</b>	<b>Amanda Rivers- SCRR</b>
<b>Brian Bauer- Resynergi</b>	<b>Bob Cipolla- Plastic Grass Resistance</b>
<b>Casey Fritz- Zero Waste by Sonoma County</b>	<b>Catherine Dodd- Member of the public</b>
<b>Emily Harris- Recycology</b>	<b>Celia Furber- Recology</b>
<b>Greg Carr- 1st district rep</b>	<b>Courtney Scott- Zero Waste Sonoma</b>
<b>Jennifer Lyle, Sonoma County</b>	<b>Dan Nobel- Association of Compost Producers</b>
<b>Katie Cushwa- Zero Waste Sonoma</b>	<b>Francie Finn- Cow Shades</b>
<b>Leslye Choate- LEA</b>	<b>J. Glen Morelli – TPW – Integrated Waste</b>
<b>Leslie Lukacs – Zero Waste Sonoma</b>	<b>Kenny Davis</b>
<b>Max Bridges- League of Women Voters</b>	<b>Kyle LaRue- Director of Zero Waste and Compliance</b>
<b>Michael LeRusso</b>	<b>Liz Bortolotto – Chair</b>
<b>Sunny Galbraith – 350 Sonoma County, city of Sebastopol</b>	<b>Luana Pinasco- Committee member</b>
<b>Tasha Wright- City of Santa Rosa (Water Dept)</b>	<b>Mark Soiland- City of Cotati Representative</b>
<b>Trish Pisenti- Sonoma County</b>	<b>Michael Anderson- Marketing and Recycling Historian</b>
<b>Stu Clark – 4th District Rep</b>	<b>Samantha Stevens- County of Sonoma/LEA</b>
<b>Xinci Tan – Zero Waste Sonoma</b>	<b>Sloan Pagal- Zero Waste Sonoma</b>
	<b>Taryn Obaid</b>
	<b>Terry Taylor- town of Windsor</b>
	<b>Tiffany Seder- Sonoma County Public Infrastructure</b>

## Item

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of draft minutes from June 13, 2024 meeting

**Motion: Mike Anderson**

**Seconded: Celia Furber**

**Motion passed**

3. Guest presentation: Francie Finn, Cow Shades, Solar, Biochar on working lands

**Presentation:** Cow shades was developed 4 years ago. Background: as a solar professional who drove around Sonoma County, it's observed that there are a lot of cows who do not have a break from the heat. Cows have a lower tolerance for heat than people. The idea formed about reclaiming used solar panels to provide the shading. As of right now, farmers are struggling with PG&E increased rates and costs. In the past they used to be exempt from time of use, but that is no longer the case. This in addition to demand chargers (which is as big as their regular rate) is creating a significant strain. As Francie started developing this offering to dairy farms, the goal was to get them off grid to eliminate these demand chargers. If we can start building more irrigation and building off grid, it can help. A lot of focus has been on the central valley due to the severity of the heat stress and the risk posed to these cows. If the core temperature of the cows does not drop, then it cannot regulate, and they will die. There must be multiple different solutions. Shade is a good start, but it is not a solution. We need to look at thermal storage, cooling, and misting. They have worked with a lot of technologies there to cool down the environment to support. The health of the cow is not the only concern, the cow will produce less milk because they are in a stressed situation (which further impacts the farmer). These systems address sustainability. Dairy farms will be regulated for carbon emissions, there have been research to reduce cow methane production. Excessive heat has been worse, especially in the central valley. We are looking at rising temperature and long-term risk. 20k+ cows succumbed to heat last year. The economic loss was significant. Cows that are born from cow who experience heat stress will also be impacted by the conditions and limits development (e.g. they don't produce as much as a cow who was not born of a cow in heat distress). It is designed to be an all-in-one situation. They grid system is currently being implemented and the goal is for this to be a good case study to present to other dairy farmers. In this case study they are looking for opportunities to find other reclaimed resources to support the efforts.

***Are you using reclaimed solar panels at this point? [context provided by Courtney Scott at ZWS]***

***Over the year, there have been 6 solar panel collection events. They have collected around 700 but have been able to reuse 80. when the panels are collected, they are assessed for damage, then energy capacity, and if there is capacity to reuse then there would be an end-of-life use at the farm. Since so few panels of passed testing, there is no opportunity to collaborate and share these resources with cow shades.***

***Dairy farmers are facing another pressure. Store water requirements are shutting down dairy farms. The economics of doing things to their property to defend themselves in court is resulting in farms closing. There is a possibility if cow shades can target a large enough area, then the cows can be centralized to that area and that can be another angle to promote the work and address the runoff issues. Absolutely. We need to provide all the innovation they can keep because it is driving farmers out of California.***

4. Update of Central Landfill Tour – Mark Soiland

**Presentation:** a few weeks ago, the tour was hosted. It started in the administration building. A few things stood out in the town; they are using solar powered technology for monitoring wells, so the gas is optimized coming out of the wells. In the past this was more manual and inefficient. This gas is now piped to the improved methane system. They have been making greenhouse gas reductions to methane burning process. The active garbage cell is being managed efficiently and impressive management system. The power generation upgrades have also been impressive. They are looking at down the line how to keep this facility

open but being as efficient and effective as possible. There is 16 years of life left in the landfill now, but there are plans in place to have this move further west. They are also attempting to recover drywall and are making improvements and are expanding. Their daily tonnage is way under the allowable limit (which is great). They have the minimal amount of ground open.

**Questions:**

*Was the drywall and rock by the z wall- it was in the active area but off to where they temporarily finished.*

*Are they capturing some of the methane? It is the same method they had, but they have optimized how they are oxygenating the gas and how they are optimizing how they are burning this off.*

*Is it not the case that the Marin County/Sonoma County border does not have a liner and is polluting the bay and there are people in the bay are living off well water- we believe that liner is on its sunset. Sonoma county has numerous closed landfills that need to be closed.*

5. Update on Compost Coalition of Sonoma County - Dan Noble

**Presentation:** here is an overview of where we are going with the compost coalition. This, in part, was created to comply with SB 1383 and early in its history the coalition worked with other composters. There is an attempt to get the many kinds of composters in the association, but there have been issues that came to light in doing so. It has been a process and created opportunities for learning and reflection. There is a subcommittee as part of the LTF. The processes for the LTF have changed over the years (previously they would provide approvals, but now it is more about notification). The different types of composters can be categorized as community, commercial, private, and public composters (which can be broken down further like manure composters). They are currently in the process of doing an action plan. Part of this process is developing definitions for things like "organic waste" since there is no precedent in the legislation for what this means, and the definition can change. Definitions- what is a bio resource? Anything that lives or dies. What is defined as primary is food, feed, fiber, and fuel. Secondary is defined as clippings, scraps, manure, biosolids, forest.

We have 5 state agencies overseeing our industry and they are interrelated.

**Questions:**

*What is going on with these definitions? These are just terms for managing circular economy.*

*How does this fit into what we are doing? Compost is the core/hub of any county's bioresource management plan.*

*Is there any legislation that is defining what compostable packaging is? Yes. While the county has not banned*

*"compostable" packaging, we do have a representative at the state level that is trying to address this issue. Part of the process of a circular economy is collaboration across the other industries and stakeholders that are involved.*

**Is there a slide about the ad hoc subcommittee and who is involved?** *We do have that information and participants tend to be composting community members, but don't yet have regular community members.*

6. Update on Reuseable Cup Pilot in Petaluma, Repair Fairs, Zero Waste Week – Sloane Pagal

**Reusable Cup Pilot:** we had representatives in the past. The cups are being used for a default beverage container for multiple participating restaurants in Petaluma (like at quick service restaurants). There are 60 return bins throughout Petaluma. Pickups will be rolling out as the project moves along. The lids are disposable. There is a company called MUSE and they are the third-party company that manages the pickups, cleaning, and redistribution. The cup design was chosen out of a focus group to communicate through color and slogan. Leslie is down in Petaluma; the pilot project was getting out there in local and national use. We will be even more on the map in terms of reuse. They will see how it pans out and the return rate. It is impressive how closed loop is running this project and this can be a case study for other counties. There is a lot of potential data to come from this. Technically the cups are recyclable, but the goal is to reduce the number of cups being recycled and increase the promotion. There are multiple sizes of the cups as well. In September, there will be an upcoming field trip and details will be provided during the next LTF.

**Zero waste week:** Will be hosted in October. To encourage more participation is the creation of a

passport and a chance to enter for different prizes. One of the events is the reuse and repair fair. There will also be a clothing swap. Some other updates- zero waste submitted electronic annual report and it was found that there is a lot of diversion happening that is not necessarily reflected in these reports. Our total landfill disposal did go up, but so did composting. There will be the California resource recovery in August, zero waste will be traveling down there are reporting on that.

**Questions:**

*The biggest negative feedback is that people are telling the cashiers that hot beverages in plastic is bad or that that #5 is recycled. It is sturdy, it does not buckle, and overall, it has been doable. Was the community involved in decisions around this pilot? Yes.*

7. Presentation on Current Zero Waste State Legislation – Alyssa Messer

**Presentation:** overview of deck and introduction of newer bills. There is another bill in process and there are a lot of people and organizations aiming to support the new AB 2346. It has gone through the house and senate. Things are looking good for approval. There is a little status. It is in senate appropriations and there is a big sign on letter. By adding activities that are already happening, and this is a big deal is crossing multiple industries.

**Questions:**

No public questions.

8. Update Conscious Container – Liz Bortolotto

**To follow up during the next LTF.**

9. Public Comments\*

**Catherine Dodd:** here to speak to the casino. Requesting as individuals, that we make a public comment before the deadline. Koi Nation Shiloh and Resort and Casino Project is being proposed. The Environmental Impact Statement does not speak to a realistic waste profile. We need people to comment by the 26th.

10. Member Announcements and Comments

**None**

11. Next Regular Meeting Date/Suggestions for Agenda Items -  
October 10, 2024

12. Adjournment

**Motion: Alyssa Messer**

**Seconded: Taryn Obaid**

**Motion passed**

\*PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public desiring to speak on items that are within the jurisdiction of the Local Task Force shall have an opportunity during each regular meeting of the Local Task Force. When recognized by the Chair, each person should give his/her name and address and limit comments to 3 minutes, with the discretion of the Chair to modify that time limit.