



Minutes of August 20, 2026 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on August 20, 2026, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, California.

Board Members Present:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez
City of Cotati – ABSENT
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – Dan Hennessey
City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

Staff Present:

Counsel: Ethan Walsh
Staff: Leslie Lukacs, Thora Collard, Xinci Tan, Courtney Scott, Sloane Pagal, Kristen Sales, Rajesh Jyothiswaran, Amber Johnson
Agency Clerk: Amber Johnson

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting

Regular session was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Introductions

2. Agenda Approval

Motion: For approval of the agenda.

First: City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

Second: City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez
City of Cotati – ABSENT
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – Dan Hennessey
City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

- None

4. Consent (w/attachments)

4.1 Minutes of the July 16, 2026 Regular Meeting

4.2 July, August, and September 2026 Outreach Calendar

4.3 Zero Waste Sonoma FY 2024-25 Audit of Financial Statements

4.4 Budget Adjustment to the FY 26/27 Budget for Rollover Projects from FY 25/26

4.5 Zero Waste Sonoma Regular Meeting Location Change

Board Comments:

- None

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: For approval of the consent calendar.

First: City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

Second: City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez

City of Cotati – ABSENT

City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – Dan Hennessey

City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer

City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli

Town of Windsor – JB Leep

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Presentation and Conclusion of the Food Service Ware Technical Assistance Project with Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. [Pagal]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Helping businesses understand how to properly sort products will ultimately contribute to the bigger picture.
- Why were larger online retailers not contacted as part of this project?
- How are reusables being washed and sanitized at the end of events?
- Are reusable products required to meet Health Department requirements for commercial dishwashing?
- Given the increase in the grant award amount, why was there not a corresponding increase in participation?
- Are there plans to implement enforcement or penalties?
- Most of the businesses visited were local, while larger businesses were visited later in the project. What was the rationale for engaging larger chains later in the project?
- There are good recommendations in the report. Can you share it with Circular Action Alliance (CAA)?
- Is there a plan to continue or expand this project?

- This is a very noble cause, and it is a large undertaking. It is important to continue this work.
- Outreach to large online retailers would be a valuable addition to the project.
- Where were businesses purchasing their single-use products?

Public Comments:

- None

6. Final Report on the USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant Project [Tan]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Is there a date scheduled for the countywide convening?
- Are there any points of distribution existing in Cloverdale?
- Community education is important to help residents understand how food pantries support the community while also helping to reduce food waste.
- Does SB 1383 address greenhouse gas emissions associated with food recovery?
- It is impressive to see the grant funding going to such good use.
- What was Zero Waste Sonoma's role in this project and how will it continue?
- Does the USDA have data on how many people benefited from the grant project?
- Has CalRecycle provided any indication of additional funding opportunities in the future?
- How will ZWS prioritize and allocate existing funding through November?

Public Comments:

- None

7. Introduction to Senate Bill (SB) 54 – Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act [Lukacs]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Who does this program report to?
- If a hauler and jurisdiction are engaged in franchise negotiations, is there a preauthorization process for reimbursable costs?
- How is Zero Waste Sonoma tracking labor?
- What is the role of the midsize manufacturers who use packaging that isn't compliant?
- Where is the exemption found?
- Is there a product compliance list?
- What is the role of the midsize producers and are there exemptions?
- Will the list of covered materials be in the draft plan?
- When will the waste characterization study be presented?
- What influence may Circular Action Alliance (CAA) have on the individual packaging producers?
- Have there been any discussions about improving the size and visibility of recycling labels on products?

Public Comments:

- None

8. Boardmember Comments – NO ACTION

9. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT

10. Staff Comments

- Next meeting will be held at our new location, 195 Concourse Blvd, Suite B Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

11. Next ZWS meeting: September 17, 2026

12. Adjourn: 10:42 a.m.

Submitted by: Amber Johnson