



## Minutes of January 15, 2026 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on January 15, 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 – Susan Harvey  
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer  
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter  
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – ABSENT  
City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer  
City of Sonoma – ABSENT  
County of Sonoma – ABSENT  
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

### Staff Present:

Counsel: Ethan Walsh  
Staff: Leslie Lukacs, Thora Collard, Xinci Tan, Katherine Cushwa, Courtney Scott, Sloane Pagal, Kristen Sales, Rajesh Jyothiswaran  
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

### 3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None

### 4. Election of Officers

**Motion:** For approval of the Election of Officers

**First:** City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

**Second:** City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

### Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	ABSENT
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -7- NOES -0- ABSENT -3- ABSTAIN -0-

**Motion passed.**

**5. Consent (w/attachments)**

- 5.1 Minutes of the November 20, 2025 Meeting
- 5.2 November, December 2025, January, February 2026 Outreach Calendar
- 5.3 Annual Review of the ZWS Rules of Governance
- 5.4 FY 24/25 Year End Financials

**Board Comments:**

None

**Public Comments:**

None

**Motion:** For approval of the consent calendar.

**First:** City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

**Second:** City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

**Vote Count:**

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	ABSENT
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	ABSENT
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -7- NOES -0- ABSENT -3- ABSTAIN -0-

**Motion passed.**

**Regular Calendar**

**6. Discussion and Possible Action on the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Work Plan**

**Board Comments/Action Items:**

- How much staff time will be needed to implement the artificial turf ban?
- Is there a plan to continue or make changes to the compost rebate program?
- What is the status of the county composting facility? How long will it take to develop? The increase to ratepayers will be significant over the time of development.
- The faster we can get organics processed through the county facility, the better we will be.
- Is the county aware of the current issues with organics?
- Did Redwood give an explanation on the severity of changes in tonnage and rates?
- Is there anything CalRecycle can do to help with these issues? This is a significant financial hit to Zero Waste Sonoma.
- We are so far away from getting organics processed in the county. If residents have significant increases in their rates, it may lead them to do the wrong thing.

- Is CalRecycle able to help with fine tuning legislation? If there is a capacity issue across the state, it seems the legislation is not working as is. It cannot be put back onto the people as an unfunded mandate.
- Has Zero Waste Sonoma worked with anyone from Cal Cities to assist with fast tracking the permit process for new compost facilities?
- CalRecycle should be managing and helping everyone meet their goals.
- Would the cost increase on garbage bills be per month?
- If we cannot work on the supply side of compost, maybe we should work on the demand. Could we use the compost rebate funds to incentivize folks who are doing the correct measures when it comes to composting?
- If we have a capacity issue then what are other ways we can solve it, other than transporting it elsewhere?
- If residents were aware that their rates were going to increase, and that there were actions they could take to help keep them lower, they might be more likely to do so.
- If we could encourage more organics capacity processing in home backyards as opposed to hauling them, then it is something we should investigate more.
- Windsor does not charge residents specifically for their green bins.
- If the public was to be more educated on the capacity issue they may be more likely to help by backyard composting rather than putting it all into the green bin.

**Public Comments:**

- Dan Noble, co-chair of the Compost Coalition of Sonoma County and a Santa Rosa resident, has been focused on what it takes to build a circular resource economy. This conversation is central to that transition. One of the major challenges is developing new compost facilities. Financial models play a significant role in shaping waste management policy and landfill diversion efforts, and despite ongoing work in this area, it remains a persistent challenge.

**5. Boardmember Comments**

- Does ZWS have educational materials on home composting?
- Cloverdale public works staff is using the recycled paint from the HHW facility around the city.
- The Cloverdale community thrift store is now operated by the Cloverdale Grange, run by volunteers. Before opening they had no merchandise but within 3 days of donations they filled the auditorium. They opened on January 10<sup>th</sup> and that same day they sold \$2,600 worth of merchandise. This will generate around \$6,000-\$7,000 a month in profit that will be returned into benefits for the community. This is the only thrift store between Healdsburg and Ukiah, so it is also serving other populations as well as keeping items out of the landfill.
- Want to highlight Cloverdale business, Sonoma County Trading Company, they are a great example of a zero-waste lifestyle and how folks can make these changes.
- Cotati and Rohnert Park are kicking off Eco-Wise Workshop Series, a collaborative series of workshops designed to inspire sustainability for everyday life.
- Are we still searching for speakers for the Zero Waste Symposium this year?
- Wasteless Windsor is trying to have a larger impact on recycling and composting in all town events as well as other organizations.

6. **Executive Director Report** – VERBAL REPORT

7. **Staff Comments**

- Zero Waste Headquarters is coming along. We are aiming to have mostly used furniture throughout the building.
- The county has put together a working group to ban the sale of nitrous oxide canisters. They are extremely abused. If there is anyone that should or would like to be involved, please reach out to Courtney.
- Windsor now has an automated CRV buyback recycling station.

8. **Next ZWS meeting:** February 19, 2026

9. **Adjourn:** 10:04 a.m.

Submitted by: Amber Johnson