

MINUTES
AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 10, 2024
12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
2300 County Center Drive, La Plaza A, Room A212
Santa Rosa, California 95404

Zoom link:

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

Absent (In alphabetical order)

Aryam Blanco- Sonoma County Environmental Health
Casey Fritz- Zero Waste by Sonoma County
Celia Furber- Recology
Chloe Ballard Town of Windsor
Dan Nobel- Association of Compost Producers
Danielle Walsh- Sonoma County LEA
Greg Carr- 1st district rep
Hugo Mata- SOS and LatinX Hub
Jennifer Lyle, Sonoma County
Katie Cushwa- Zero Waste Sonoma
Kenny Davis- Resynergi
Kristen Sales- Zero waste
Leslie Lukacs – Zero Waste Sonoma
Leslye Choate- LEA
Max Bridges- League of Women Voters
Michael LeRusso
Michael Anderson- Marketing and Recycling Historian
Renee Gundy, city of Santa rosa
Stephen Zollman- Sebastapol city
Sunny Galbraith – 350 Sonoma County, city of Sebastopol
Tasha Wright- City of Santa Rosa (Water Dept)
Trish Pisenti- Sonoma County

In attendance (In alphabetical order)

Alissa Johnson- Sonoma County Resource Recovery
Alyssa Messer – 3rd District Rep
Amanda Rivers
Amber Johnson- Zero Waste Sonoma
Arthur Deicke- EPS
Brandon Hart – TPW – Integrated Waste/ Sonoma
Emily Harris- Recology
Francie Finn- Member of public
J. Glen Morelli – TPW – Integrated Waste
Kyle LaRue- Director of Zero Waste and Compliance
Luana Pinasco- Committee member
Liz Bortolotto – Chair
Mark Soiland- City of Cotati Representative
Samantha Stevens- County of Sonoma/LEA
Shawn Kara- City Santa Rosa
Sloan Pagal- Zero Waste Sonoma
Stu Clark – 4th District Rep
Terry Taylor- town of Windsor
Taryn Obaid- Climate Seat
Xinci Tan – Zero Waste Sonoma (by phone)

Item

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Approval of draft minutes from August 8, 2024, meeting

Motion: ALYSSA MESSER

Second: MARK SOILAND

Motion passed

3. Update on Zero Waste Week, Sloane

Presentation: To Begin next week, Sonoma County Zero Waste will be at SRJC for the living fair, reuse, and repair fair 10/19 2-5 (People can bring in and bring in their item for repair, small items/ décor/ etc.), outside library is reuse fair and clothing swap. There will be music, food, and many activities. There is a conscious effort to apply reuse to all aspects of these events. There will be clean up for the regional park. There are some facilities tours that will be coming up. Napa and Marin are joining this year, and we are continuing to expand in other communities. There are regenerative agriculture film screenings being hosted. There is a social before

that. There will be 51 events and they will be more details on <https://northbayzerowasteweek.org/> there will also be a craft area, costumes, decoration swaps, compost, and some local organizations tables.

Question:

Does Sonoma County have a video of their working in the other organizations can rent or show in their community (especially for those who cannot tour the facilities in person)? *Yes! There is a YouTube video that is a virtual tour of the MERF and is on the website as well. It's under the resources page on the Recology website?* Will there be a cleanup on Saturday by the LTF? *Yes*

4. Compost Hubs, Compost Facility news, Xinci Tan

Presentation:

[Mark Soiland] Some of these compost hubs are in place and are coming up. The compost that we want to make available for homeowners is the typical mid-grade compost. This is where the hub is great. This is where Xinci has a mandate on the state. It is positive that the governor signed AB 2346 that is a great thing.

[Xinci] there are 4 compost hub locations (Children's museum in Santa Rosa), (Veronda- Falletti ranch in Cotati), (Petaluma Bouny), (Healdsburg Badgers). There are 2 more pending in the upcoming year.

Question:

Can you tell us more about the compost facility- *I am on the project team for the county of Sonoma for the compost facility that is being built by the airport. An update on that is that the Sonoma County Airport is being built on a landfill that has been closed for 30 years. A feasibility study was completed last year. It is developing and making some progress. There has not been a lot of public outreach in order to first complete the initial studies. I can talk a bit about the Stage Gulch project that is being developed independently. It is privately invested in private land. Stage Gulch is asking for around 12 acres to be approved to be removed from the Williamson Act. They just had their first meeting at one of the county offices for design. There were opportunities for public comments and design. The topic of traffic came up during the meeting. The design of the facility is meant to be a circular with concentric circles that would be turned inwards with unique technology. The process and technology are unique and they are currently going through the permitting process.*

Tell us about AB 2346: *this was sponsored by stop waste. Both mark and Xinci were on the working group. It will be introducing some additional pathways for compliance, specifically procurement. It will have the counties procure organic waste products. These targets are high and there has been a lot of feedback that something needs to be done. This bill allows for investments into infrastructure (like compost facility or hubs) to count towards procurement targets. Instead of it being an annual target, it can be a 5-year target. The benefit allows people to invest as much as they need to and span it out over 5 years. This bill also allows work with food recovery as part of the procurement target. This and the investment in food recovery is limited to around 10% of the procurement target. We will have to wait a year or two until this is put into law before we can take advantage of that. Also, if your compost market is mature enough, this is considered in your data collection and reporting on the procurement target.*

On another note, there is a startup company called bravo bin that is pitching the idea of attaching a camera to attach to the truck to identify contamination and associate the contamination that we see in the truck to the address. This is important because we are seeing an increase in organic bin contamination, and this has been hard to address because this gets consolidated. We have been getting regular contamination fines from the facility due to this. This has been an issue that Zero waste and Recology have been working on for a while. Recology has an investment in this program called third eye which is very similar. Since this Bravo Bin company reached out, we piloted a days' worth of data collection and SCRR was very interested. The data to be looked at and we are excited to see what this looks like. An update for this will follow.

[Mark] *something to add to this is that on the property there is camera to observe and collect contamination. Lighting and documentation of this manner has been a huge factor in behavior change and mitigating contamination. It is a massive behavior changing intervention that has been shown to be effective.*

Has anyone addressed the privacy issue related to this technology: *it is something that we will need to talk about, and it is on the agenda to follow up with Zero Waste's lawyers. As of right now there is data being collected across the state when doing route review. We cannot speak to the legal side of things at this time. We can say that once it goes into the bin on the curb, the content belongs to the hauler. [Kyle] there is a grant released by CalRecycle that could be applicable to this and could provide financial support as we explore this further.*

Bravo Bin does the same thing that the other company does, they do have GPS coordination to identify which house is placing contamination in the bin and can point that to a specific home.

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

Presentation: *for next session*

Question. *for the next session*

6. Presentation on 2024 State Legislation – Alyssa Messer

Presentation: PPT presentation on bills passed and vetoed, but it is not a comprehensive list of all bills that have been presented in the legislative session. SB 1066 is expected to come back in the next legislative session but has been vetoed.

Question:

Did the governor say why SB 1066 vetoed? *It seems to be that it was not up to standards. There has been a great deal of negotiations, and the required steps were taken. There is not a clear reason as to why this was vetoed but it will likely come up in the next session.*

What are the next steps? Are there alternatives? *LED flares are proposed as one alternative, but during the day they are less effective as well.*

Are you getting them at the hazardous waste programs now? *There was one event, but the transportation and disposal cost are incredibly expensive, so we want procedures to be involved in the end-of-life disposal. Marine flares are not accepted at the HHW facility here, but they do show up from time to time. There are very limited options for consumers. It does not matter if they are used or new. If they have been burned off to their completion, they can possibly be accepted. However, if there is a chance there is still some explosive in there then they can be denied.*

Another comment is that 707 passed and this is a big bill for keeping textile manufactures accountable.

Comment on right to repair: *California has not been leading the way on this one but started with John Deere Tractors. It has been in the works for years and some manufactures are still resisting.*

Where are we with single use plastics/sb 54? *The next advisory committee is on the 24th. There is so much talk on the bill at the conference. It is so layered, complex, and the PRO has been established to represent the brands and producers. One of the people that is in the group is Rachel Wagner who was recycling with Cal. There are many people working on this to make it clear on how it will be implemented. We are cutting our single use and compostable by 25% by 2032. It means more reuse and clarification on the labeling. Do we know what has happened? In terms of takeaway containers, there is a lot of discretion up to the business but there still may be misinformation and lack of understanding from the business. It is something we want to see more of.*

How is Petaluma doing with the cup program? *The final program is October 28th, and the bins will be going out. Return rates are good, but data is still being collected. There is a strong desire for reuse and the next step will be to assess and share what sustainability and scaling this would look like. We are very fortunate there is a desire for reusability and behavior change is possible.*

Best practice is for others to bring their own containers, can that be included? *Yes, we are considering as we fade out the program that best practice is for them to fade out their own container and bring in their mug and get it refilled. That is what is unique about this project. There are so many data points on where the cups went. It is not a dangerous type of plastic right? All those considerations were discussed, and we are using the safest food grade plastic available.*

7. Update on Conscious Container – Liz Bortolotto

Presentation: *for next session*

Question. *for the next session*

8. Public Comments*

No public comments

9. Member Announcements and Comments

There are a bunch of groups in Petaluma that have banded together to ask for a ban on artificial turf. This is something to monitor and watch.

We are currently looking for seats to be filled on the LTF

10. Next Regular Meeting Date/Suggestions for Agenda Items -
December 12, 2024

11. Adjournment

Motion: Alyssa Messer

Seconded: Stu Clark

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.