



Minutes of November 20, 2025 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on November 20, 2025, 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 – Phill Carter
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Rebecca Hermosillo
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

Staff Present:

Counsel: Ethan Walsh
Staff: Leslie Lukacs, Xinci Tan, Katherine Cushwa, Courtney Scott, Sloane Pagal
Agency Clerk: Thora Collard

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)

Duane Dewitt – Express concerns over single use plastic and the need for ZWS to establish plastic recycling

4. Consent (w/attachments)

- 4.1 Minutes of the October 16, 2025 Meeting
- 4.2 October, November, December 2025 Outreach Calendar
- 4.3 Budget Adjustment and Authorization for the County of Sonoma’s ISD to Move, Install, and Manage the A/V, Networking, and IT for 195 Concourse Blvd.
- 4.4 Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.

Board Comment:

None

Public Comments:

Duane Dewitt requests a printed agenda be available

Motion: For approval of the consent calendar.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez

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	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

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

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Green Resolution Recognizing Recology Sonoma Marin [Pagal]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- It is always amazing to be able to recognize events like this happening in our community

Public Comments:

None

Motion: To approve the Green Resolution for Recology Sonoma Marin

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	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

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

Motion passed.

6. Avoided GHG Emissions through Waste Reduction Activities [Lukacs]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Is this a standard methodology?
- Can you email the slide show to board members?
- Is the measure indicative of a large reduction?

- Impacts from the repair fairs may contribute favorably to these metrics
- Thank you for quantifying the work we are doing

Public Comments:

None

7. Discussion on the Development of a Model Ordinance to Ban or Place a Moratorium on Artificial Turf on Public Land [Lukacs]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- How does a moratorium impact the schools?
- How does the ban impact/be enforced for residential use?
- If we are not including residential, are we including commercial?
- Do insurance costs impact the artificial turf impact decisions?
- Is there future development of a sustainable product?
- Does cash for grass programs incentives artificial turf?
- Is there a legal impact of preventing businesses from contracting for artificial grass?
- What counties have passed a moratorium or ban?
- The health concerns listed from prior areas, are those old turf or the newer cork infill systems?
- Are there studies comparing the impact of fertilizers/pesticides vs. artificial turf?
- Do we have an estimate of how many projects in the county that would be impacted by a moratorium or ban?
- Can we see a financial analysis on the impact to jurisdictions?
- If we revert back to natural grass, how does that impact water usage?
- More information on gray water irrigation systems would be beneficial.
- Artificial turf is louder to play on.
- There is concern of leachate runoff to waterways from artificial turf
- What is the conversion process to restore fields to natural grass?
- Is there a lifecycle analysis and environmental impact of artificial turf installations?
- How much water is used in the creation of artificial turf?
- Is there any existing state regulations/legislation declaring artificial turf as hazardous?
- Is there state legislation in the works related to turf?
- Does leaching from artificial turf contaminate the organic underlay rendering it not compostable?
- Would we need to do a CEQA impact for a ban?
- Defining artificial turf as an all-season benefit should be challenged due to the heat impacts
- Who on staff would be developing the model ordinance? What impact to the Work Plan and budget will this have on the agency?
- Would like to see more advocacy with the state
- Does not support a ban, supports more information on waste impacts of artificial turf.

Public Comments:

- Matt Callaway – supports ZWS developing a model ordinance
- Ron Wellander – from an aesthetic perspective, natural playing fields are more desirable.

- Bob Cipolla – this is an issue related to waste. Where does all the material go when it’s removed?
- Taryn – the governor did allow the ability of jurisdictions to ban turf. The forever chemicals in the blades are also of concern. Definitions of play time vs. off season time should be looked at. The amount of waste as well as the contamination to the soils are problematic. The debris gets everywhere.
- Annie Stuart – Cool Petaluma is in strong support of a ban or moratorium on plastic grass. Team sports on plastic grass year-round should not be prioritized over the health of our children and the environment.
- Don McEnhir – Sampled water from Russian with the Russian Riverkeeper. Microplastic are a huge problem and a health problem. Artificial turf has increased microplastics to local waterways.
- Dan Noble – The financial and cost benefit analysis should be incorporated into the ordinance. The impact is more than monetary.
- Liz Bortoloto – The benefits of playing in the rainy weather and lack of need for mowing does not seem to be enough reasoning to justify artificial grass. The waste impact and forever chemicals are a real problem.
- Art Deicke – We should look at the definitions of functional vs. non-functional benefits of artificial turf. Guidance should be established for the disposal of turf
- Thora Collard – concerned with health impact of artificial turf for children.
- Stu Clark – Advocate for natural grass. The detriments of artificial turf far out ways the benefits
- Marie Kneemeyer – there are many negative health impacts from artificial grass. There should be disclaimers and consent forms for players to understand the risk of playing on these fields.
- Michael Siminitus – in support of this ban.
- Catherine Dodd, RN – The infill is held together with polymers. We don’t know the full impact of those polymers. Plastic is poison and needs to be eliminated. The plastics are endocrine disruptors. Plastic grass is not necessary.
- D Woelke – Artificial turf is all created for monetary gain and creates health impacts with forever chemicals and plastics. Artificial turf creates more taxpayer burdens and more harmful impacts to our environment.
- Lendri Purcell – Sonoma County Youth and Action Committee – sees children getting injured on the artificial turf that have turned into serious infections.
- Rika Gopinath, Beyond Pesticides – urges ZWS to develop a moratorium on artificial grass. Natural grass is far more beneficial and performs far better than artificial turf.

Motion: To Approve the creation of a model ordinance creating a moratorium or ban on artificial turf.

First: City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

Second: City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	ABSENT	City of Santa Rosa	ABSENT
City of Cotati	ABSENT	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE

City of Petaluma AYE
City of Rohnert Park AYE

County of Sonoma NO
Town of Windsor AYE

AYES -6- NOES -1- ABSENT -3 - ABSTAIN -0-
Motion passed.

- 8. Boardmember Comments**
- 9. Executive Director Report – NONE**
- 10. Staff Comments – NONE**
- 11. Next ZWS meeting: December 18, 2025**
- 12. Adjourn: 11:33 a.m.**

Submitted by: Thora Collard