

**Meeting Minutes**  
**AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 14, 2023**  
**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>

<b>Absent (In alphabetical order)</b>	<b>In attendance (In alphabetical order)</b>
<p>Amber Johnson- Zero Waste Sonoma            Arthur Deicke- EPS            Brandon Hart – TPW – Integrated Waste/            Sonoma            Brian Bauer- Resynergi            Casey Fritz- Zero Waste by Sonoma County            Emily Harris- Recycology            Hugo Mata- SOS and LatinX Hub            Kristen Sales- Zero waste            Jennifer Lyle, Sonoma County            Joey Hejnowicz, Zero Waste Coordinator -            City of Santa Rosa            Katie Cushwa- Zero Waste Sonoma            Leslye Choate- LEA            Luana Pinasco- Committee member            Kyle LaRue- Director of Zero Waste and            Compliance            Michael Anderson- Marketing and Recycling            Historian            Michael LeRusso            Patti Moore- PRCC            Pheobe Schenker- Reuse Alliance            Portia Sinnot, Zero Waste USA            Renae Gurdy- City of Santa Rosa            Stephen Zollman- Sebastapol city            Sunny Galbraith – 350 Sonoma County, city            of Sebastopol            Tasha Wright- City of Santa Rosa (Water            Dept)            Terry Taylor- town of Windsor            Trish Pisenti- Sonoma County</p>	<p>Alyssa Messer – 3rd District Rep            Aryam Blanco- Sonoma County Environmental Health            Celia Furber- Recology            Dan Nobel- Association of Compost Producers            Greg Carr- 1st district rep            J. Glen Morelli – TPW – Integrated Waste            Leslie Lukacs – Zero Waste Sonoma            Liz Bortolotto – Chair            Lisa Mekis- Carpet Recycling Program            Mark Soiland- City of Cotati Representative            Max Bridges- League of Women Voters            Samantha Stevens- County of Sonoma/LEA            Sloan Pagal- Zero Waste Sonoma            Stu Clark – 4th District Rep            Xinci Tan – Zero Waste Sonoma (by phone)            Taryn Obaid</p>

<b>Item</b>
I. Welcome & Introductions
<p><b>II. Approval of draft minutes from October 12, 2023, meeting</b>            Greg- minor change (motion to approve changes)            Stu Clark- approve ammendment            Max Bridges- seconded</p>

Motion passed

### III. Resolution to approve new time and location

**Time and location:** the new location: 2300 County Center Drive, La Plaza A, Room A212 and new time is 12:30-2.

Motion to approve- Stu Clark

Alyssa Messer- seconded

Motion passed

### IV. Landfill Expansion Workshop update, Glenn Morelli

#### Preview up work in February:

- Went to the board several months ago and the board directed staff to move forward for working with republic. Part of that was direction from the board to reach out to stake holders to assess the ways we bring these services to the public and make sure we are looking at a multitude of factors and through and inclusive lens. That will be part of the workshop. Bringing a new landfill forward will be a multiyear process and bring forward ideas that will bring us as close as we can to our zero waste goals

#### Question

- **Where will it be?** the workshop will be at the LTF since there are many stakeholders present. February 8th LTF meeting will be the next workshop.
- **What is the estimated life of the current facility?** 16 years are left on the existing facility.
- **Will you be making initial proposals or ways to think about landfill expansion or closures?** Are there any parameters that the county is thinking about- the item that went to the board Is the expansion of the existing facility. We are also looking at the vertical to maximize to try and keep it at a central location. We will continue to work with stakeholders to offer more services and reduce diversion.
- **Does that include development of a resource recovery center?** Zero Waste Sonoma has a project ongoing where they are looking to put a facility off Pruitt. In their strategic plan it will first go in as an HHW facility. They are supportive of that effort. They are in escrow for a plot of land off of Shiloh. The location is ideal, and they don't have a full project yet, but they need to secure the land for the projects that they are envisioning. Trying to make HHW collection more accessible. They are also envisioning a smaller resource recovery part to get harder to recycle items. Would also love to have an education center similar to the energy center on 4th street/ interactive/ and hold board meetings and other public meetings. They close escrow on Jan 29th if everything goes as planned.
- **Because we don't have a compost site at the landfill, that is where the Sonoma County compost comes into play to address compost- sounds like these are all the details to go through?** Yes, we are in collaboration with stakeholders to bring back the composting facility. They have recommendations and they will go to the board with items under significant interest to try and get a facility permitted that can potentially go into partnership with private facility to meet common goal.

### V. Guest presentation: Lisa Mekis, Carpet recycling program

- **Presentation:**
  - overview of the program been working with the program for 8-9 years.
  - Sometimes known as CARE or carpet stewardship program (only in CA and only state in the nation so far that this kind of stewardship program)
  - CARE is a national program
  - Been around since 2010
  - CA recycles more carpet than any other state
  - 300 Mill lbs. thrown away annually. Carpet is largely made of plastic and will stay in the landfill for 100 of years. Landfill is filling up fast. How much is 300 m lb.- 10k 50 ft trailers a year.
  - Carpet is recyclable and under most circumstance so is the padding
  - When carpet is recycled it is shredded and there are roughly 2 piles of industrial feedstock (plastic fiber and sand like materials). That fiber can be melted down into plastic pellets.

Fiber can be used in insulation and the pellets can be made into a variety of products, and the sand like material can be used as a filler (even some auto parts are made out of post-consumer carpets).

- 150 drop off sites in CA. Many retail stores have private pick-up service.
- In Sonoma County there are 8 public drop off sites-
  - Central transfer station-
  - might be sorting mixed loads (*mixed loads include carpet, cardboard, under laymen, and a variety of other things*). If carpet makes into a box most places will not sort them out
  - Conservation Corps of North Bay
  - global materials recovery service
  - Healdsburg transfer station
  - Sonoma transfer station
  - Tri county design center
  - Windsor material recovery facility - they will take mix load and sort through
  - World of carpet one
- Tried to match the centers with carpet retailer locations in Sonoma County.
- It is usually the contractor/ floor installer that faces the question of whether it goes into a recycling bin versus a dumpster. We are working to try and get that word out. If there is a waste facility nearby, hoping they will take it there versus a dumpsite and when there is a mixed load, we are hoping there others to sort and shift through to divert waste to the landfills.
- AB 341- stores that make more than 4 cubic yards of waste are required to either source separate or subscribe to a service that includes mix waste processing
- The ask/ join our efforts: set up public drop off sites (Sonoma County is well situated with many drop off sites). If there are any websites for recycled materials- certainly add carpets. Can certainly add visuals or flyers to support communications. Ask if the facilities are sorting mixed loads. If doing gov construction, then make sure carpet recycling is a part of that. Buy products with post-consumer recycling

- **Questions:**

- **What is the typical cost for someone to drop off carpets at one of these sites-** we don't mandate the price and we encourage a 20% discount to handle the material and place properly. Some offer free (rare) and some don't give a discount at all. Current work is being done to incentive materials being taken to the proper recycling area and higher fees to just go to the waste/landfill stage (higher rate to dispose than recycle)
- **How many locations in the state that prep the materials and sell the materials/ transport to somewhere else to be manufactured into something else-** two locations in CA that processes the material (LA and Lincoln SoCal), there are also other locations that collect on mass and sort on mass and broker it out to those two locations or outside of CA. Some of these other locations is working closely together to break down the materials and some are manufactured in those locations and some in industrial feedstocks
- **Give subsidies for tier 1 manufacturing and tier 2 is turning it into a product. Pellets are tiered 2.**
- **What is the surcharge on carpet-** it has gone up, depending on the square yard and if it has more/less than 10% of recycled content.
- **Chemical recycling is controversial based on whether the pellets get used and with incineration. Would you have factored in any carbon emissions metric around the incineration component?** - we are not allowed to burn anything. Not sure if I can speak about chemical recycling. We are not allowed to send anything to any kind of burning because we are a stewardship program.
- **Also, what is the name of the NorCal processing center-** circular polymers.
- **What kind of outreach to support purchasing of recycled materials:** have staff to help people get information about buying recycled. This can be difficult since this is not always the lowest priced material. For the general public, the majority of the communications

and efforts go to the retail stores, professional installments, and demolition people but do put some towards consumer efforts. Would like to conduct a regional communication effort in Sonoma County. It would be great to expand communications.

- **What is your website?** Carpetrecovery.org

#### VI. Speakers Bureau update – Sloane Pagal

##### **presentation:**

- Came about through the work for our public infrastructure task force
- Topic has come up in a few past meetings
- Have gathered information about the speakers that have volunteered to be listed on this page
- For each of the listings there is a little bit of bio and a contact link as well. Going to be added to the drop-down menu and form will be added to allow for nominations/ provide updates on any outdated information.
- Speakers' bureau in zero waste Sonoma County search bar but will be placed under the resource page in the near future.

#### VII. New Recology MRF update – Celia Furber

##### **Presentation:**

- Not ready for tours just yet, but it is an exciting time.
- We started construction in May of last year, partnered w/ Machine X and many others to get things rolling. It was completed on time and started running on Monday November 15th.
- It has doubled its footprint size from the previous facility and now 315 tons per day is being processed.
- Previously we had to outsource sorting. Now has 27 sorters who are handling more materials. Working 5 days a week, 10-hour shifts (they do get overtime).
- The contamination rate is only 15% thus far. The previous facility was around 25%. We can recycle more of the material we are bringing in. We have a whole bunker for it.
- We can now recycle PET thermoforms (the market is a recent development). Off spec metals is also a newer improvement (aluminum tray, foil, etc.).
- This facility has 7 optical sorters and is the most state-of-the-art facility on the west coast at this time. Because of the technical elements, it can break down easier and we are learning more.
- We will start campaigns to educate the public (no sharp metals or large scrap metals or sheet metal).
- Black plastics are being captured. Plastics are primarily going to southern California and turning them into new resources that are being resold. Glass going to Fairfield. Metals to Vallejo or Fairfield. Cardboard is going to Oakland and being sent overseas.
- Will be better set up for tours in the new year.

##### **Questions**

**Update on plastic recyclables:** #1 & #2 is always recyclable, #5 is a developing market, #3 not a great market, #4 there is no market for this in a mixed recycling systems (grocery stores are source separated and cleaned on site, but it is not very profitable), #6 no market for this so no market at this time, #7 is other and no market.

**Aluminum:** if there is food and cannot be washed off it would contaminate, is it okay? - A little residue if fine, but not a bunch of food waste which will contaminate.

#### VIII. Update on Compost Council/State Updates - Dan Noble

##### **update:**

- Only had one meeting so far. It is mainly composters on the meeting so far. They have to put together goals and objectives as an ad hoc meeting of the LTF and will be aiming for that next month. On a state level, bio solids composting has been in some contradiction to solid waste composting. Mulch has been seen to be more profitable than composting (on average). Bio solids composting compete against themselves in the marketplace. Coalition going to collaborate on how to achieve zero waste goals.
- The other feature of this is bio resource management. How do we manage this in total in order to move toward a circular economy? A circular economy is more of a network of producers.

International groups are trying to collaborate with community composters and there are many newer areas that are coming up.

- The coalition is trying to coordinate, collaborate, and move together to solve the regions need for AB 1383 massive goals. The air has been cleared to who the player in the market is and how to work together. Dan has been an invaluable source for facilitating this space and forming this community and work.

**Question:**

- NA

IX: Update on Compost Facility investigation – Xinci/ Tiffany / Glenn

**update:**

- We are going to the board January 23rd to get the agreement approved for 30% design plan for the compost facility.

**Questions:**

- **What is a 30% design plan?:** enough of a layout where the environmental consulting firm can understand the environmental impact and run an initial analysis and if we can get past this portion, then at this point then working with partners at zero waste and get a partner in the market that can serve Sonoma county.
- **Was a determination reached about the feasibility level?:** during the initial feasibility study there were no fatal flaws such that we did not want to move forward. Now it is a matter of looking at a design within the constraints of the property.
- **In the design work when getting to the 30%, is it pretty prescriptive?** That is why we did not want to go beyond 30 is so we have the flexibility once we find the right partner to be involved through the final steps to be fine-tuned to serve the needs of the county within the identified parameters.
  - \* **Timeline wise, going to get the approval for the RFP?** The RFP is already out and the meeting in January is to select the design. Our timeline is 9 months for all the studies and working with collaborative partners to discuss next steps.

X. Public Comments\*

- **No public comments**

XI. Member Announcements

- **Greg Carr- on Tuesday the board of supervisors kicked off the county general plan and a few of the cities have initiated this.** We will have an opportunity to advocate for compliance with 1383 and ordinances that would be applicable since the county is working on theirs. The general plan would dictate zoning. It does not require any action of the LTF at this point but would recommend tracking and following the events. We need a general plan ammendment to include changes to Agric zoning.

XII. Next Regular Meeting Date/Suggestions for Agenda Items -  
Feb 8, 2023

XIII. Adjournment

Alyssa Messer- motion to adjourn

Cecilia Furber- seconded

Meeting Adjourned

\*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.