



Agenda Item

Minutes of August 21, 2013 Meeting

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency met on August 21, 2013, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, California

**Present:**

City of Cloverdale	Bob Cox
City of Cotati	Susan Harvey, Chair
City of Healdsburg	Jim Wood
City of Petaluma	Dan St. John
City of Rohnert Park	John McArthur
City of Santa Rosa	Jennifer Phillips
City of Sebastopol	Sue Kelly
City of Sonoma	Steve Barbose
County of Sonoma	Shirlee Zane
Town of Windsor	Debora Fudge

**Staff Present:**

Counsel	Janet Coleson
Staff	Patrick Carter
	Henry Mikus
	Lisa Steinman
Recorder	Charlotte Fisher

- 1. Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order 8:00 a.m.
- 2. Open Closed Session**  
The Board convened the closed session in Room 7, Conference Room, of the City of Santa Rosa City Hall.
- 3. Closed Session**  
There were two topics of discussion at the closed session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation and Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.
- 4. Adjourn Closed Session**  
There was no report from closed session.
- 5. Introductions**  
Board Members, Agency staff, and the audience introduced themselves.
- 6. Agenda Approval**  
There were no changes to the agenda.
- 7. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**  
None.

**Consent** (w/attachments)

8.1 Minutes of May 15, 2013

8.2 FY 12-13 Year End Financial Report

8.3 UCCE Renewal

Jennifer Phillips, City of Santa Rosa, noted that administration costs in Item 8.2 were noticeably below budget due to being short-staffed, and thanked staff for stepping up and filling the vacancies with their own efforts.

**Approval of the Consent Calendar was moved by Jim Wood, City of Healdsburg, and seconded by Debora Fudge, Town of Windsor. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Regular Calendar**

#### **9. Carryout Bag Ordinance Update**

Patrick Carter, Agency staff, reported that five Agency Board members had direction to vote affirmatively on a countywide carryout bag waste reduction ordinance. Staff would attempt to visit the remaining five jurisdictions prior to the September 18, 2013 Agency meeting at which staff would either present the Final EIR for certification and carryout bag waste reduction ordinance to begin the adoption process, or provide another update on the issue.

#### **Board Questions**

None.

#### **Public Comment**

None.

#### **Board Discussion**

Shirlee Zane, County of Sonoma, requested that staff expedite the process. Ms. Zane indicated there was strong public support for the ordinance and there was frustration at how long the process has taken.

**No action was taken on this item.**

#### **10. Report on Compost Site Analysis**

Henry Mikus, Executive Director, noted that a handout had been distributed to Board members at this meeting which included site layouts for Site 40 and the Central Disposal Site Alternative. Mr. Mikus discussed the subjects for consideration including cost to obtain a site, site development costs, site construction costs, transportation costs from outlier collection locations, site capacity and growth potential, cost of utilities, water supply, storm water management, ease of public access, operation autonomy, fee structure, land use and zoning, permitting, risk factors, and neighborhood impacts. Mr. Mikus believed there was a significant amount of material to consider and recommended the Board accept the information and discuss the item again at the September 18, 2013 Agency meeting.

#### **Board Questions**

Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma, asked whether the Agency could lease a portion of Site 40 and allow for the continued agricultural use for the remainder of the site. Mr. Mikus replied affirmatively.

Ms. Zane asked Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, to clarify whether the County concession fees were still subject to negotiation, whether food waste was included in the Master Operations Agreement with Republic Services, and more information about what Republic is required to grading at the proposed compost site at the Central Disposal Site.

Ms. Klassen replied that concession fees were still under negotiation, but added that the concession fees cover fixed costs with the County. If concession fees were removed from organic materials, it would increase the concession fee amount on garbage. Waste delivery agreements include food waste. Republic Services is required to grade the proposed Central Compost Site, but not prepare the site completely for Agency use.

Susan Harvey, City of Cotati, asked for elaboration on surcharge and convenience fees. Ms. Klassen replied that the surcharge was the Agency's surcharge, and the convenience fees covers liabilities on the seven closed former landfill sites in Sonoma County and some further liabilities related to the Central Disposal Site.

Jim Wood, City of Healdsburg, asked whether there was a difference in timelines between Site 40 and the Central Disposal Site. Mr. Mikus, replied that each site has time delays at different points, so both sites would be expected to be complete at relatively the same time.

Deborah Fudge, Town of Windsor, asked about relative greenhouse gas emissions for each site. Mr. Mikus replied that that was studied in the EIR and would present it at the next Agency meeting.

Jennifer Phillips, City of Santa Rosa, asked about the fundamental differences in site development costs. Mr. Mikus replied that the excavation costs were higher for Central than Site 40, the access roads were a greater cost at Site 40 than Central, different site footprints, reuse of office area at the Central Disposal Site instead of a new office area at Site 40.

John McArthur, City of Rohnert Park, asked whether zero discharge requirements would be the case for both the Central Site and Site 40. Mr. Mikus answered that the conversation had not occurred directly with the Bay Area Regional Waste Quality Control Board, but that there was a statewide order on compost facilities that would likely be in effect by the time of site construction.

Sue Kelly, City of Sebastopol, asked about the leachate pipeline limitations with the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Mikus, replied in general it depended on volume of water received at the treatment plant.

Chair Harvey asked about nearby compost facility tipping fees, the advantages of applying the Agency's surcharge to organic materials, and whether a portion of Site 40 could be purchased. Mr. Mikus commented that the fee comparison was done over a year ago and could be updated. Mr. Mikus elaborated that if the JPA did not require that the Wood and Yard Waste cost centers be separate from the other surcharge cost centers, he believed it would not be necessary to include an additional Agency surcharge on the Wood and Yard Waste cost centers. Mr. Mikus also stated that further discussion about purchasing a portion of Site 40 could be discussed at a future meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Alan Tose, representing of the owners of Site 40, stated that 47 acres is for lease. Mr. Tose stated that the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that allowed commercial composting in LEA zoning. Mr. Tose stated that this changed the value of the property, and that ultimately it would depend on the appraised value of the site. Mr. Tose believed that the

Agency could not purchase a portion of the site due to state requirements for subordinate uses of the site. Mr. Tose stated that he had discussed the Central Site with the County Fire Chief and concluded that the wall system would not be allowed under the Fire Code.

Roger Larsen, resident of Happy Acres subdivision, stated that the Central Site was too small, and questioned why Central was allowed when other sites less than 50 acres were not allowed. Mr. Larsen raised issues with the leachate pipeline, fire safety, and adequacy of water supply for fire suppression. Mr. Larsen raised issues about odors, impacts to grape growers, and endangered species around the Central Disposal Site.

Pam Davis, representing Sonoma Compost Company, stated that Sonoma Compost Company preferred the Central Disposal Site alternative, as it is more convenient for customers. Ms. Davis allowed that the wall system layout could be used for either site.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Barbose requested that staff discuss the Central Site Alternative with the Fire Marshall.

Ms. Zane stated that the Sonoma County/City Solid Waste Advisory Group recommended that containment of the garbage system as a means to achieve 80-90% diversion goals, and expressed concern that this discussion was moving away from that policy. Ms. Zane stated that there were neighbors at both sites and that greenhouse gas emissions were important as well as the effect of additional fuel prices on transportation. Ms. Zane requested the Board vote on this item at the next Agency meeting.

Dan St. John, City of Petaluma, stated that the City of Petaluma was not in favor of Site 40 for a number of reasons. Mr. St. John recommended staff begin working out the challenges at the Central Disposal Site including Zero Discharge and negotiations with the County for the use of the leachate pipeline. Mr. St. John complimented the Board for having the foresight to accumulate an organics reserve for this project.

Chair Harvey agreed with the sentiment to move the process forward quickly.

Mr. Mikus summarized the Board requests as the comparison greenhouse gas emission for both sites, a comparison of tipping fees at nearby compost facilities, the result of the discussion with the Fire Marshall, land use changes analysis, a timeline for each site, and an appraisal of Site 40. If individual Board members had additional questions for further analysis, Mr. Mikus requested they be submitted by September 4, 2013.

Mr. St. John asked whether additional staff resources were necessary to complete the project. Mr. Mikus replied that the preliminary analysis was done by existing staff, but it was envisioned that design of the project would be done by consultants.

Mr. McArthur expressed concern regarding whether all the members would have time to receive the information, make a report back to their councils, and be prepared to vote before the September 18, 2013 meeting.

**The Board directed staff to return at the September 18, 2013 with the requested information, at which point the Board would vote on site selection.**

### **11. Zero Discharge Report**

Mr. Mikus detailed the progress since the last Agency meeting regarding correspondence with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) regarding the Zero

Discharge requirements for the existing compost facility at the Central Disposal Site. Mr. Mikus reported that a potential solution involving treatment of discharged water was removed as a solution by the NCRWQCB and that current solutions were limited to connection with the County's leachate pipeline and creation of additional water storage capacity. Mr. Mikus indicated that creation of additional capacity at the current site was problematic. Additional best management practices for the existing site were proposed implementation before the next rainy season.

### **Board Questions**

Mr. St. John asked whether the NCRWQCB was requiring zero discharge of compost process water for a 100 year storm event. Mr. Mikus replied it was for 25 year storm events.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Board Discussion**

None.

### **No action was taken.**

## **12. Attachments/Correspondence:**

- 12.1 Director's Agenda Notes
- 12.2 Reports by Staff and Others:
  - 12.2.a August and September 2013 Outreach Events
  - 12.2.b Sharps Container Grant Update
  - 12.2.c 2013 Pollution Prevention Week and Creek Week
  - 12.2.d Update Report on MCR-2 Project

## **13. On File w/Clerk**

Resolutions approved in May 2013  
2013-007: Clean Harbors Agreement Extension  
2013-008: Confirming Regular Meeting Schedule

## **14. Boardmember Comments**

None

## **15. Staff Comments**

Lisa Steinman, Agency staff, informed the Board that she had applied for Oil Payment Program from CalRecycle and thanked the Board for the letters of authorization.

## **16. Next SCWMA meeting: September 18, 2013**

## **17. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by  
Patrick Carter