



SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 20, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

Regular Session begins at 9:00 a.m.

Estimated Ending Time 11:30 a.m.

City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers
100 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting will also streamed via Zoom:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/92248855470?pwd=OFFVNUIiWVh5Wk5SSzVyWWdWbndjdz09>

Webinar ID: 922 4885 5470

US: +1 669 444 9171

Passcode: 157476

Meeting Agenda and Documents

ZERO WASTE SONOMA

Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 20, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

Regular Session begins at 9:00 a.m.

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Note: This packet is 59 pages total



Zero Waste Sonoma

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment may be submitted via recorded voice message or email. Public comment may also be made by “raising your hand” using the Zoom platform.

Voice recorded public comment: To submit public comment via recorded message, please call 707-565-4432 by 5:00 pm Wednesday, November 19th. State your name and the item number(s) on which you wish to speak. The recordings will be limited to two minutes. These comments may be played or read at the appropriate time during the board meeting.

Email public comment: To submit an emailed public comment to the Board please email leslie.lukacs@sonoma-county.org and provide your name, the number(s) on which you wish to speak, and your comment. These comments will be emailed to all Board members and can be provided anytime leading up to and throughout the meeting.

COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY: The ZWS Board of Directors has a commitment to civility. To assure civility in its public meetings, the public is encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. Board Members, staff, and members of the public are expected to establish and maintain a cordial and respectful atmosphere during discussions; and foster meaningful dialogue free of personal attacks. Members of the public must also adhere to the speaking time limit. Any commenters in violation of civility standards will be disconnected.



Agenda

Item

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval
3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

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.

Regular Calendar

5. Green Resolution Recognizing Recology Sonoma Marin [Pagal]
6. Avoided GHG Emissions through Waste Reduction Activities [Lukacs]
7. Discussion on the Development of a Model Ordinance to Ban or Place a Moratorium on Artificial Turf [Lukacs]
8. Boardmember Comments – NO ACTION
9. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT
10. Staff Comments – NO ACTION
11. Next ZWS meeting: December 18, 2025
12. Adjourn Meeting

Consent Calendar: These matters include routine financial and administrative actions and are usually approved by a single majority vote. Any Boardmember may remove an item from the consent calendar.

Regular Calendar: These items include significant and administrative actions of special interest and are classified by program area. The regular calendar also includes "Set Matters," which are noticed hearings, work sessions and public hearings.

Public Comments: Pursuant to Rule 6, Rules of Governance of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency/Zero Waste Sonoma, members of the public desiring to speak on items that are within the jurisdiction of the Agency shall have an opportunity at the beginning and during each regular meeting of the Agency. When recognized by the Chair, each person should give his/her name and address and limit comments to 3 minutes. Public comments will follow the staff report and subsequent Boardmember questions on that Agenda item and before Boardmembers propose a motion to vote on any item.

Disabled Accommodation: If you have a disability that requires the agenda materials to be in an alternative format or requires an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Zero Waste Sonoma



Office at 2300 County Center Drive, Suite B240, Santa Rosa, (707) 565-3788, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting, to ensure arrangements for accommodation by the Agency.

Noticing: This notice is posted 72 hours prior to the meeting on the internet at www.zerowastesonoma.gov



To: Zero Waste Sonoma Board Members

From: Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director

Subject: November 20, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda Notes

Consent Calendar

These items include routine financial, informational and administrative items and **staff recommends that they be approved en masse by a single vote.** Any Board member may remove an item from the consent calendar for further discussion or a separate vote by bringing it to the attention of the Chair.

- 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. (Supermajority)
- 4.4 Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.

5. Green Resolution Recognizing Recology Sonoma Marin

On September 27th, 2025, Recology Sonoma Marin hosted a Reuse Bazaar in Grace Pavilion at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, bringing in a total of 43,243 pounds of donated goods, and the recovery of 34,003 pounds through reuse or recycling, a 79% diversion rate. **Staff Recommendation:** The Board adopt a Green Resolution recognizing Recology Sonoma Marin for its commitment to the community and the environment through the implementation of the 2025 Recology Reuse Bazaar.

6. Avoided GHG Emissions through Waste Reduction Activities

Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) hired Cascadia Consulting Group to develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Database to refine and update solid waste GHG indicators and metrics. This effort highlights the countywide climate and sustainability progress through waste reduction, diversion, and circular economy initiatives. **Staff Recommendation:** Information only.

7. Discussion on the Development of a Model Ordinance to Ban or Place a Moratorium on Artificial Turf

In December 2024, the LTF established a Turf Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a thorough and unbiased analysis of the environmental impact, health risks, costs, and lifecycle considerations of artificial turf compared to natural grass, and to provide well-informed recommendations to the ZWS Board of Directors regarding the future use of these materials, with a focus on minimizing landfill waste and environmental harm. **Staff Recommendation:** The Board receive a presentation prepared by the AB 939 Local Task Force comparing artificial turf and natural grass, which outlines key environmental, health, cost, and lifecycle considerations to inform the development of the proposed model ordinance. Additionally, staff and the AB 939 Local Task Force (LTF) recommend that the Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors direct staff to develop a regional model ordinance to prohibit or place a temporary moratorium on the installation of artificial turf within Sonoma County.



Minutes of October 16, 2025 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on October 16, 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 – Dianna MacDonald
City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter
City of Sonoma – Ron Wellander
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 9:05 a.m.

Introductions

City of Cotati arrived 9:07 am
City of Rohnert Park arrived 9:15 am
City of Sebastopol arrived 9:37 am

2. Agenda Approval

3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None

4. Consent (w/attachments)

4.1 Minutes of the September 18, 2025 Meeting
4.2 September, October, and November 2025 Outreach Calendar

Board Comment:

To update the typo in the minutes

Public Comments:

None

Motion: For approval of the consent calendar.

First: City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

Second: County of Sonoma – Rebecca Hermosillo

Vote Count:

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

AYES -8- NOES -0- ABSENT -2- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Presentation and Conclusion of the Grant-Funded Solar Panel Collection Pilot Project [Scott]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- What is the average life span of new panels and reused panels?
- Do you think homeowners would risk using used panels?
- Did people try to dispose of the additional solar components (inverters)?
- Do we have any idea how many businesses were turned away since this was only open to residents?
- Who will use the takeaways to determine a more sustainable program?
- Does the recycling company we send them to charge us?

Public Comments:

None

6. Consideration of an Agreement with Cascadia Consulting to Conduct Technical Assistance for Education on Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinances in Sonoma County [Pagal]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Can you explain how the work is distributed throughout the jurisdictions?
- Are we going to look at different types of restaurants for the case studies?
- Are once a month check in meetings frequent enough to keep the work flow going?
- Is the effort better for reusables vs. recyclable/compostable?
- Is Bring Your Own (BYO) a usable model? How does that affect businesses?
- Do you see in the future ZWS implementing a BYO model?
- Is there a clear definition of the Scope of Work that will keep them on target in the established budget?
- Who will be doing the Smart 1383 input, staff or contractor?
- Will allowing them access violate and personal information for the businesses?

Public Comments:

None

Motion: To approve and authorize execution of an Agreement with Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. to conduct technical assistance and education activities for compliance with Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinances in Sonoma County

First: City of Cloverdale – Andres Marquez

Second: City of Santa Rosa – Dianna MacDonald

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
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 -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

7. Approval of the Purchase of 195 Concourse Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA

Board Comments/Action Items:

- By using reserve funds will we still meet our reserve balances?
- Can we include apprentice programs for tenant improvements?
- There are a lot of large ticket items recommended for repairs. Looking at more efficient HVAC systems would be beneficial. The HVAC and roof repairs should be done at the same time for the best efficiency. Is this a prevailing wage job? If the seller performs any repairs make sure that any warranties are transferable. Double check if duct work needs to be upgraded related to vermin.
- What is the mechanism for using reserve funds?
- Why do we not want the owner to perform the repairs? Would we see cost savings having a private owner vs. a government?
- Will drawing down our reserves impact our financial health/standing with the County's loan for the HHW facility?
- Can you confirm the resolution is only for the purchase of the building, not the tenant improvements?
- The depth of investigation is appreciated for the building to give the Board full disclosure.
- It may be cheaper to have the owner perform repairs, but it is smart to manage the repairs ourselves.
- Staff should look to make the building all electric, heat pump water heater, and upgraded efficient light fixtures. Staff should also investigate solar panels for energy efficiency.

Public Comments:

None

Motion: To Approve a resolution authorizing the purchase approximately 0.91 acres located at 195 Concourse Blvd., Santa Rosa ("Property"), approve a budget adjustment transferring appropriations for the purchase from the Organics Reserve Fund (\$1,260,000) and the Debt Servicing Reserve Fund (\$840,000), authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents to complete the property purchase.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Cloverdale – Andres Marquez

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
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 -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

8. Approval to Lease 195 Concourse Blvd. Ste A, Santa Rosa, CA

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Looking towards the future, will our 6,000 square feet be sufficient for growth of ZWS?
- What was the proposed new Headquarters square footage?
- Is \$1.90/sq. ft market rate?
- What was the HOA and utility costs?

Public Comments:

None

Motion: To Approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a lease agreement for 195 Concourse Blvd. Ste A, Santa Rosa.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: County of Sonoma – Rebecca Hermosillo

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
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 -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

9. Boardmember Comments

10. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT

11. **Staff Comments – VERBAL REPORT**
12. **Next ZWS meeting:** November 20, 2025
13. **Adjourn:** 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Thora Collard

DRAFT



Agenda Item #: 4.2
 Agenda Date: 11/20/2025

ITEM: October, November, December 2025 Outreach Calendar

October 2025 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
10/4/25	10/4/25	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Sonoma Valley Clothing Swap
10/4/25	10/4/25	2:00 PM	5:00 PM	Petaluma Farmers Market (Petaluma)
10/5/25	10/5/25	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	Dia de Muertos Celebration (Petaluma)
10/7/25	10/7/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Kenwood)
10/8/25	10/8/25	7:00 AM	10:00 AM	Graton Labor Center (Graton)
10/10/25	10/12/25	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Windsor E-Waste Event
10/11/25	10/11/25	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Windsor Mattress Recycling Event
10/11/25	10/11/25	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Zero Waste Week: Be Nice to the Earth Event"
10/12/25	10/12/25	11:00 AM	3:00 PM	La Familia Sana Health Fair (Cloverdale)
10/14/25	10/14/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Santa Rosa - East)
10/17/25	10/19/25	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Cloverdale Train Depot E-Waste Event
10/18/25	10/18/25	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Cloverdale Train Depot Mattress Recycling Event
10/18/25	10/18/25	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Reuse & Repair Fair
10/19/25	10/19/25	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	Windsor Farmers Market (Windsor)
10/21/25	10/21/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Guerneville)
10/25/25	10/25/25	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	DEA Drug Take Back Day
10/28/25	10/28/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Healdsburg)

November 2025 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
11/1/25	11/1/25	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (The Sea Ranch)
11/4/25	11/4/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Petaluma)
11/7/25	11/9/25	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Santa Rosa Finley Park E-Waste Event
11/11/25	11/11/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Santa Rosa - West)
11/18/25	11/18/25	3:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Cloverdale)

December 2025 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
12/2/25	12/2/25	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Sonoma)
12/5/25	12/7/25	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Petaluma E-Waste Event
12/9/25	12/9/25	3:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Windsor)
12/16/25	12/16/25	2:00 PM	7:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Oakmont)



Agenda Item #:	4.3
Cost Center:	Contingency
Staff Contact:	Collard
Agenda Date:	11/20/25
Approved By:	LL

**ITEM: 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.**

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board authorize ISD to manage the information technology (IT) installation and move to the new headquarters. Staff also recommends that the Board approve the budget adjustment to fund the project. This item requires a Supermajority (8/10)

II. BACKGROUND

At the October 16, 2025 meeting, the Board approved the purchase of an office building located at 195 Concourse Blvd. in Santa Rosa. While the office spaces in the building have been recently renovated, there are still renovations needed and the IT infrastructure needs to be installed. Zero Waste Sonoma contracts with the County’s Information Systems Department (ISD) for IT services and support. ISD supplied staff with a quote for move, equipment, and A/V installation costs that was included at the time of the purchase.

III. DISCUSSION

Staff met with ISD on Friday, November 7, 2025, for a project kick-off meeting. Fortunately, the office space was previously occupied by a County department, so some IT infrastructure is already in place. ISD estimates that full installation could take up to three months, primarily due to scheduling constraints with AT&T.

The ISD quote included two phases for the move. The first phase is moving networking and computers for staff to move into the offices. The second phase will be the installation of A/V equipment in the Board Room and conference rooms.

ISD estimates the move and installation costs for the office space to be approximately \$40,000. ISD will also be managing the subcontractors for the A/V equipment for the Board Room. They estimate the cost of the equipment and installation to be \$100,000. This estimate is based upon a similar installation in Permit Sonoma’s conference space.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

Staff requests the Board approve a budget adjustment to the Contingency Fund for \$150,000.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- Budget Adjustment Resolution
- ISD Estimate

Information Systems Department Project Estimate



Mike Hazen
 707-565-2760
 2615 Paulin Dr
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To:
 Thora Collard
 707-565-3788
 Sonoma Public Infrastructure
 2300 County Center Dr, B240
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Date October 8, 2025
 Expiration Date November 7, 2025

Project Title: SPI - Zero Waste Move ROUGH DRAFT

Project Number: 25IT_____

Project Description

THIS ESTIMATE IS NOT FINAL, ONLY APPROXIMATION. SITE WALKS AND ADDITIONAL TIME IS NEEDED
 Zero Waste moving out of La Plaza B, Suite 240 to a new leased building located at 195 Concourse Blvd, Suite B. Need bag and tag of users workstations, new ASE circuit install, new network hardware and create new subnet with Wi-Fi access. Also installing new tech for large and small conference rooms. ***THIS ESTIMATE IS NOT FINAL, ONLY APPROXIMATION. SITE WALKS AND ADDITIONAL TIME IS NEEDED***

Labor

	Labor Hours	Total Labor
Information Management	0.00	\$0.00
Systems & Programming	0.00	\$0.00
Technical Services	50.00	\$7,500.00

Hardware

	Extended Cost
Technical Services	\$30,929.98

Software / Licensing

	Extended Cost
Information Management	\$0.00
Systems & Programming	\$0.00
Technical Services	\$0.00

Third Party Vendor

Labor	\$99,880.00
Hardware/Software	\$0.00
Subtotal ISD Labor	\$7,500.00
ISD Labor Contingency	\$1,500.00
Total Labor	\$9,000.00
Total Hardware	\$30,929.98
Total Software/License	\$0.00
Tax Rate 10.00%	\$3,093.00
Total 3rd Party	\$99,880.00
Total Project Estimate	\$142,902.98

Projects with a total value of \$25K or over are subject to capitalization requirements.
 Contact ACTTC for more information.

This estimate for goods and services is based upon the information available at this time. It assumes continued adherence to the project scope and agreed upon requirements described in a project charter or similar document, if applicable. If ongoing operations and support needs are indicated, department approval and agreement to fund must be ensured before project work begins and ongoing charges are approved by your signature on this estimate. Adequate funding must be available in order to purchase hardware and software and perform services as reflected in the estimate. If applicable, please complete a Budgetary Adjustment in Commitment Control to transfer funds based on this estimate.

_____ Customer Printed Name

_____ Customer Signature

_____ Date

_____ Department Number

Ongoing Expenses

None

Technical Services Detail Page

Project Title: SPI - Zero Waste Move ROUGH DRAFT

Description of Work

Network Infrastructure = 16 hrs

- Switch and router configuration
- ASE circuit installation and coordination
- Wi-Fi configuration
- General Troubleshooting

Data Center Operations = 8 hrs

- Conference room configuration with Zoom Rooms
- General troubleshooting

Desktop Support= 18 hrs

- Bag and tag workstation PCs
- Setup at new space
- Reconfigure Leased Printer with new network settings
- General Troubleshooting

Project Management = 8 hrs

Site walk, Create estimate, Communication, Meetings

Labor

	# of Hours	Rate	Amount
Business Analysis	0	150	\$0.00
Customer Training	0	150	\$0.00
Development & Programming	0	150	\$0.00
Documentation	0	150	\$0.00
Installation & Deployment	42	150	\$6,300.00
Training	0	150	\$0.00
Project Meeting	0	150	\$0.00
Project Management	8	150	\$1,200.00
Research	0	150	\$0.00
Customer Support	0	150	\$0.00

Hardware

Item Description	Part #	Price Each	Qty	Extended Cost
Neat Bar Pro		6,190.00	1	\$6,190.00
Neat Pad		820.00	2	\$1,640.00
LG 75" TVs		1,500.00	2	\$3,000.00
TV Wall Mounts		49.99	2	\$99.98
Network Equipment		20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00

Software / Licensing

Item Description	Part #	Price Each	Qty	Extended Cost
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00

Labor Hours	50.00	Total Labor	\$7,500.00
ISD Labor Contingency		20%	\$1,500.00
		Total Hardware	\$30,929.98
		Total Software/License	\$0.00
		Total before tax	\$39,929.98

Prepared by: Ross Walters

Thrid Party Vendor Detail Page

Project Title: SPI - Zero Waste Move ROUGH DRAFT

Description of Work

Small Conference Room Vendor Install

- Need quad power outlet
- 3 data drops
- Mounting of TVs, Neat equipment

Large Conference Room Vendor Install

- Need ceiling speakers and mic.
- Dual cameras
- Projector and screen
- Terminated to location that connects to desktop or laptop setup for hybrid meetings.

Building Wiring Vendor Install

- Add any not terminated in building for PC access
- Add data drops for wireless access points in ceiling
- Testing existing wiring.

Labor

	# of Hours	Rate	Amount
Small Conference Room	1	4880	\$4,880.00
Large Conference Room	1	75000	\$75,000.00
Building Wiring	1	20000	\$20,000.00
	0	150	\$0.00
	0	150	\$0.00
	0	150	\$0.00
	0	150	\$0.00
	0	150	\$0.00
	0	150	\$0.00
	0	150	\$0.00

Hardware

Item Description	Part #	Price Each	Qty	Extended Cost
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00

Software / Licensing

Item Description	Part #	Price Each	Qty	Extended Cost
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00
		0.00	0	\$0.00

Labor Hours	3.00	Total Labor	\$99,880.00
		Total Hardware	\$0.00
		Total Software/License	\$0.00
		Tax Rate	10.00%
		Total	\$99,880.00

Prepared by: Ross Walters



Agenda Item #: 4.4
Cost Center: Organics
Staff Contact: Tan
Agenda Date: 11/20/25
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the resolution authorizing the Agency's Executive Director to execute the Third Amendment to the Agreement with Redwood Landfill, Inc.

II. BACKGROUND

After the closure of the Sonoma Compost facility in 2015, the Agency's Board of Directors approved an agreement with Redwood Landfill, Inc to process organic materials from June 20, 2018 through June 30, 2021. The agreement has since been amended twice.

The first amendment extended the term of the agreement for an additional one year to June 30, 2022 and increased the rates to \$51.15 per ton. The Board approved this amendment at the May 2021 regular meeting.

The second amendment extended the term of the agreement for an additional three years to December 31, 2025; clarified that the Agency's organics flow commitment would be between 150 tons and 250 tons per day; amended facility days and hours of operation; increased the rates to \$52.94 per ton; and increased the annual rate adjustments starting July 1, 2023 to a CPI at least 2.5% and not to exceed 4.0%. The Board approved this amendment at the May 2022 regular meeting.

III. DISCUSSION

The third amendment to the agreement with Redwood Landfill, Inc. extends the term for four months to March 31, 2026. Staff are currently in negotiation with Redwood Landfill, Inc. and desire more time to discuss potentially significant changes. Staff anticipate bringing a new, multi-year agreement for board approval at the regular March 2026 meeting.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There is no funding impact.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.
- Resolution Authorizing a Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.

Dated: November 20, 2025

RESOLUTION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY (“SCWMA”), ALSO KNOWN AS ZERO WASTE SONOMA, (“ZWS”) AUTHORIZING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR SHORT-TERM ORGANIC MATERIALS PROCESSING SERVICES WITH REDWOOD LANDFILL, INC.

WHEREAS, ZWS intends to execute a new multi-year agreement with Redwood Landfill, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, ZWS desires more time to negotiate potentially significant changes before bringing the new agreement for board approval at the regular March 2026 meeting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Zero Waste Sonoma does hereby authorize ZWS’s Executive Director to execute the Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services with Redwood Landfill, Inc.

MEMBERS:

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Cloverdale	Cotati	County	Healdsburg	Petaluma
--	--	--	--	--
Rohnert Park	Santa Rosa	Sebastopol	Sonoma	Windsor

AYES: -- NOES: -- ABSENT: -- ABSTAIN: --

SO ORDERED

The within instrument is a correct copy of the original on file with this office.

ATTEST: DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Clerk of Zero Waste Sonoma
Agency of the State of California in and for the
County of Sonoma

THIRD AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR SHORT-TERM ORGANIC MATERIALS PROCESSING SERVICES BETWEEN SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY (“SCWMA”), ALSO KNOWN AS ZERO WASTE SONOMA, AND REDWOOD LANDFILL, INC.

This Third Amendment to Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services (“Third Amendment”) is made as of the 20th day of November 2025, by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (“SCWMA”) and Redwood Landfill, Inc. (“Contractor”).

RECITALS

- A. SCWMA and Contractor entered into that certain Agreement for Short-Term Organic Material Processing (the “Agreement”), dated June 20th, 2018, pursuant to which Contractor agreed to the processing of organic material; and
- B. The Agreement expires on December 31st, 2025, but the end of the term may be extended by mutual agreement.
- C. SCWMA and the Contractor desire to utilize the extension permitted by the Agreement for the term of January 1st, 2026 to March 31st, 2026.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Amendment to Article 2. Section 2.01 of the Agreement is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

“2.01 Term of Agreement. Said services shall commence on June 21, 2018 and shall continue through the close of business on March 31st, 2026.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Third Amendment to the Agreement for Short-Term Organic Materials Processing Services on the day and year first above written.

SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

By: _____
Leslie Lukacs, SCWMA Executive Director

Date: _____

Reviewed as to form:

Ethan Walsh, Agency Counsel

REDWOOD LANDFILL, INC.

By: _____
Alex Oseguera, President

Date: _____



Agenda Item #: 5
Cost Center: All
Staff Contact: Pagal
Agenda Date: 11/20/2025
Approved by: LL

ITEM: **Green Resolution Recognizing Recology Sonoma Marin**

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board adopt a Green Resolution recognizing Recology Sonoma Marin for its commitment to the community and the environment through the implementation of the 2025 Recology Reuse Bazaar.

II. BACKGROUND

The Green Resolution is a way for Zero Waste Sonoma to recognize entities that exemplify zero-waste practices.

Staff is honoring Recology Sonoma Marin with a Green Resolution today, for their exemplary achievement in waste diversion and reuse for the efforts taken to organize and host the 2025 Reuse Bazaar event.

III. DISCUSSION

Recology Sonoma Marin is one of the local franchised haulers in Sonoma County. In 2024, Recology worked with the City of Santa Rosa to conceptualize the first Reuse Bazaar as a way to improve on under-utilized contractual event services. The goal of this event was to facilitate landfill waste diversion and allow city residents to donate unwanted items, as well as “shop” for free at a one-day event held at Finley Park. Its partnership with Reuse Alliance was critical for day-of-logistics, volunteer recruitment, advertising, and secondary diversion/reuse of items not taken at the end of the event. Conservation Corps North Bay also assisted with receiving hard-to-recycle items like mattresses and e-waste. This event resulted in the recovery of 23,403 pounds of material at a 75% overall diversion rate.

With the success of 2024, Recology set a larger goal of satisfying the contractual agreement with the City of Santa Rosa by hosting another Reuse Bazaar but expanding the invitation to donate and shop to all of Sonoma County. This year’s event, held on September 27th in Grace Pavilion at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, brought in a total of 43,243 pounds of donated goods, and the recovery of 34,003 pounds through reuse or recycling, a 79% diversion rate. 287 cars were tallied as donors, and 424 people were counted as shoppers. 60 individuals volunteered their time at the event, with 45 being Recology staff. In addition to providing snacks and drinks, Recology’s Maintenance and Operations Managers cooked breakfast and lunch onsite for all volunteers, and food was served on reusable dishware. Organics, recycling, and garbage bins were provided.

Items left over at the end of the event were donated to Flipside Thrift, Make it Home Bay Area, GreenLynx, Phoenix Books, Fairgrounds, The Legacy, Reuse Hub, and Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP). Mattresses, tires, and e-waste were collected by CCNB, mixed recycling and metal were recycled with Recology, and the remaining material was landfilled.

Recology will host the Reuse Bazaar again on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at the Grace Pavilion for Sonoma County residents, incorporating feedback and lessons learned over the past two events, in anticipation of even greater participation and a smoother day-of experience for all involved.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There are no new funding impacts resulting from this report.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Green Resolution 2025-02



Agenda Item #: 6
Staff Contact: Lukacs
Agenda Date: 11/20/25
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Avoided GHG Emissions through Waste Reduction Activities

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Information only. No action required.

II. BACKGROUND

Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) hired Cascadia Consulting Group to develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Database to refine and update solid waste GHG indicators and metrics. This effort aims to highlight countywide climate and sustainability progress through waste reduction, diversion, and circular economy initiatives.

The project establishes a consistent framework to measure and communicate the climate benefits of ZWS programs and countywide material management efforts. By quantifying avoided GHG emissions through recycling, composting, edible food recovery, and reuse, ZWS can better align its waste management programs with regional and state climate goals, including Sonoma County's Carbon Neutral by 2030 target.

III. DISCUSSION

An indicator is a specific measurement or metric used to track and evaluate greenhouse gas emissions over time. Indicators help communicate progress toward reducing emissions and identify where additional improvements can be made.

ZWS's Indicators

Cascadia Consulting established five key indicators that quantify avoided greenhouse gas emissions and other climate benefits associated with Zero Waste Sonoma's programs and countywide material management practices:

1. Waste Diversion

- Measures avoided GHG emissions resulting from recycling and composting activities across Sonoma County.
- Demonstrates the climate benefits achieved by keeping materials out of the landfill.

2. Edible Food Recovery

- Quantifies avoided GHG emissions associated with the rescue and redistribution of edible food, reducing methane emissions from food waste decomposition while supporting community food security.

3. Carbon Sequestration

- Calculates the carbon sequestration benefits from compost application on agricultural and rangeland soils.

4. Per-Capita GHG Emissions

- Tracks per-capita emissions from landfilled waste to evaluate progress toward reducing waste generation and increasing diversion on a per-person basis.

5. Reuse and Repair Program Fair Program

- Measures avoided emissions from extending the lifespan of consumer goods and reducing demand for new products.

These indicators provide a comprehensive and data-driven approach to assessing Sonoma County's GHG avoidance goals through waste reduction and diversion practices. The database created by Cascadia allows ZWS to annually report and identify performance trends for each indicator. Data gathered annually will be shared with each member jurisdiction and the Regional Climate Protection Authority for use in their climate action plans and reporting.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There are no funding impacts.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Presentation



Avoided GHG Emissions Through Waste Reduction Activities

Database created by



Presented by: Leslie Lukacs
Executive Director

GHG REDUCTION THROUGH WASTE REDUCTION

- Refine and update solid waste GHG indicators and metrics.
- Highlight countywide climate and sustainability progress through waste reduction and diversion.
- Leverage existing data sources for consistent tracking and reporting.
- Support ZWS and member jurisdictions in recognizing GHG achievements and identifying improvement opportunities.





Solid Waste: Total Avg. MT CO2e Across Years
228,205

Solid Waste: Change in Total MT CO2e from 1990 - 2020
-193,565

Solid Waste: Average MT CO2e per Capita Across Years
5.71

Total GHGs
Solid Waste

Buildings
Agriculture

Transportation
Land and Forest

Water
Instructions

Total Emissions

Sum of Total MT CO2e by Activity Type and Activity Name

Transportation	Buildings	Agriculture
On-Road 10,354.5K	Natural... Ele...	Manure ... Solid ... Solid ...



Jurisdiction
All

Year
All

Activity Type
All

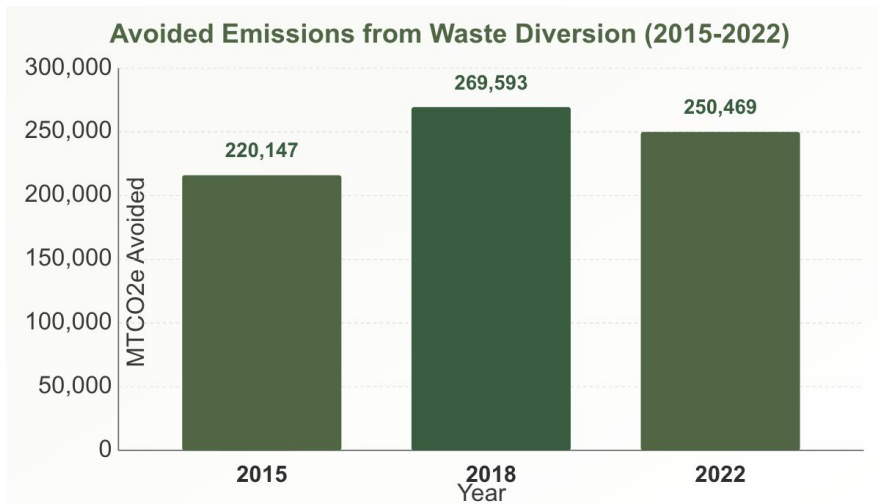
Activity Name
All

INDICATORS IDENTIFIED

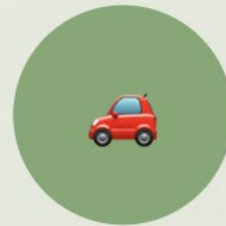
- What is an indicator? A specific measurement or metric used to track and evaluate greenhouse gas emissions over time
- ZWS's Indicators:
 - Waste Diversion - Avoided GHG emissions from recycling and composting
 - Edible Food Recovery - Avoided GHG emissions from edible food recovery
 - Carbon Sequestration - Carbon sequestration benefits from compost application
 - Per-Capita GHG Emissions - Per-capita GHG emissions from landfilled waste
 - Reuse Repair Program - Summary of outcomes and benefits from the reuse and repair fair program

INDICATOR 1: WASTE DIVERSION AVOIDED GHG EMISSIONS

Provides an analysis of avoided emissions from composted and recycled waste materials utilizing the EPA WARM model



250,500 MTCO2e is Equivalent To:



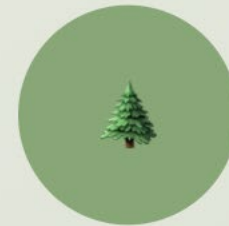
58,430

passenger vehicles
driven for one year



52,203+

homes' electricity use
for one year



251,266+

acres of U.S. forests
in one year

INDICATOR 2: EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY AVOIDED EMISSIONS

Estimates the total avoided GHG emissions from edible food recovery

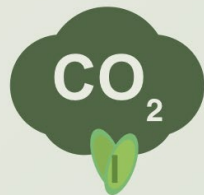
Data available for 2022 & 2023

EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY
PROGRAMS IN 2022-2023
RESULTED IN:



3,400

TONS OF EDIBLE
FOOD RECOVERED



712

MTCO₂e
AVOIDED

**712 MTCO₂e Avoided
is Equivalent To:**

Equivalent to carbon dioxide emissions from...



155+

passenger vehicles
driven for one year



110+

homes' electricity
use for one year



714+

acres of U.S. forests
in one year

INDICATOR 3: CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Summarizes estimated carbon sequestered and key compost program metrics, including acres treated and tons of compost applied.

Benefits estimated over 15 years.

2023-2024 Sonoma County Compost Programs: Impact & Achievements

2023-2024 Sonoma County compost programs resulted in:



16,800+
tons of compost
distributed and
applied



520+
acres of land
treated with
compost



7,380+
MTCO₂e
sequestered over
the next 15 years

7,380 MTCO₂e Sequestered is

Equivalent To:

Carbon sequestered over 10 years by...



7,403+
acres of U.S.
forests in one year



122,029+
tree seedlings
grown for 10 years



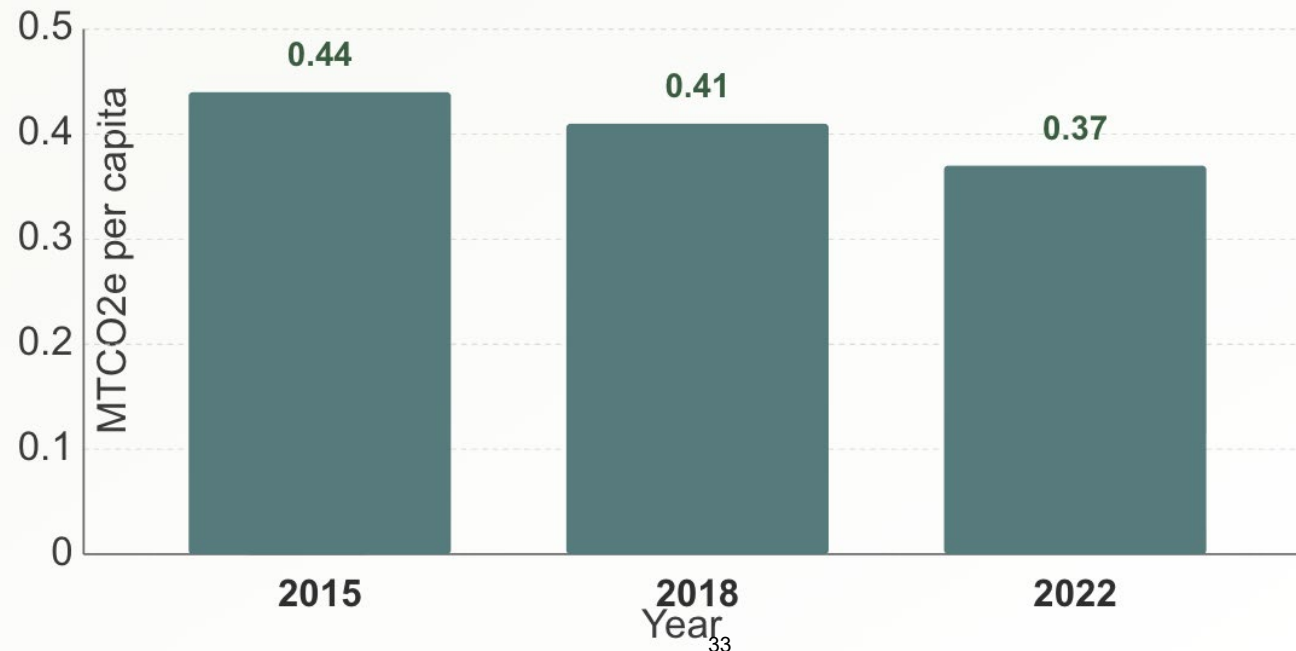
3,000+
urban trees
planted for 10 years

INDICATOR 4: PER CAPITA GHG EMISSIONS

Shows landfill GHG emissions per person by jurisdiction.

Calculated by dividing total annual landfill emissions by population for each jurisdiction.

Sonoma County per capita Landfilled Waste Emissions



INDICATOR 5: REUSE AND REPAIR PROGRAMS

Estimates avoided emissions and tracks participants, items repaired, and waste diverted, equating to:

38.33 MTCO₂e in avoided GHG emissions

2024 Repair Fairs: Impact & Achievements

2024 Repair Fairs resulted in:



920+
people engaged



519
items repaired



4,290 lbs
(~2 tons)
of waste diverted

Environmental Impact

Equivalent To:



8.6
gasoline-powered
cars driven for
one year



96,000
miles driven by
an average gasoline
vehicle



4.4
homes' energy
use for
one year



640
tree seedlings
grown for
10 years



438,000
kilowatt-hours of electricity saved
(enough to power ~40 homes for one year)

TOTAL MTCO₂E AVOIDED ESTIMATED IS 260,000 IN LAST REPORTING YEAR OF INDICATORS

260,000 Metric Tons CO₂
Equivalent to Carbon Sequestered By



4,299,122
tree seedlings grown for 10 years



260,795
acres of U.S. forests in one year



1,554
acres of U.S. forests preserved from conversion
to cropland in one year



QUESTIONS?

LESLIE LUKACS
LESLIE.LUKACS@SONOMA-COUNTY.ORG

THANK YOU!

ZEROWASTESONOMA.GOV



Agenda Item #: 7
Staff Contact: Lukacs
Agenda Date: November 20, 2025
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Discussion on the Development of a Model Ordinance to Ban or Place a Moratorium on Artificial Turf

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board receive a presentation prepared by the AB 939 Local Task Force comparing artificial turf and natural grass, which outlines key environmental, health, cost, and lifecycle considerations to inform the development of the proposed model ordinance.

Additionally, staff and the AB 939 Local Task Force (LTF) recommend that the Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors direct staff to develop a regional model ordinance to prohibit or place a temporary moratorium on the installation of artificial turf within Sonoma County. The model ordinance would be designed for voluntary adoption by member jurisdictions and would incorporate best practices, definitions, and regulatory alignment with state guidance, including [Senate Bill 676 \(Allen, 2023\)](#), which authorizes cities and counties in California to restrict or prohibit the installation of artificial turf within their jurisdictions.

II. BACKGROUND

In December 2024, the LTF established a Turf Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a thorough and unbiased analysis of the environmental impact, health risks, costs, and lifecycle considerations of artificial turf compared to natural grass, and to provide well-informed recommendations to the ZWS Board of Directors regarding the future use of these materials, with a focus on minimizing landfill waste and environmental harm.

Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) staff, in collaboration with the LTF, has evaluated the environmental and waste management impacts associated with the installation, maintenance, and disposal of artificial turf. Artificial turf systems present substantial disposal and circular economy challenges, with limited recycling options and potential risks to human and environmental health.

Staff and the LTF recommend that the ZWS Board direct staff to develop a regional model ordinance to prohibit or place a moratorium on the installation of artificial turf on public lands within Sonoma County. This regional approach would ensure consistency, reduce duplication of effort among jurisdictions, and align with state policy objectives under Senate Bill 676 (Allen, 2023), which authorizes local governments to restrict the use of synthetic turf.

On December 16, 2025, the County Board of Supervisors will hold an Athletic Field Turf Workshop and policy discussion regarding the use of artificial turf on County facilities. The workshop will include a joint presentation by the County Administrator's Office, Regional Parks, and the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The ZWS Executive Director has met with these departments to share the LTF's recommendations and to ensure collaboration between County and regional efforts. As part of the workshop, the Executive Director will be allotted ten minutes to present the position and direction of the ZWS Board. Following today's ZWS Board meeting, the

Executive Director will reconvene with the three departments to communicate the Board’s direction and next steps.

In addition to the County, other ZWS member jurisdictions have reviewed artificial turf or have taken project-level action. Santa Rosa is actively studying potential restrictions and the Climate Action Subcommittee presented an “[Artificial Turf Ban Investigation](#)” to the City on September 4, 2024; Petaluma’s Recreation, Music and Park’s Commission reviewed a presentation on [Lucchesi Park’s Turf](#) in May 2023 and on February 3, 2025, the City Council voted to replace Lucchesi Park turf field with a synthetic option; Windsor’s Parks Commission received an “[Artificial Turf Update](#)” presentation on October 8, 2025. Many member jurisdictions have “Cash for Grass” programs including Healdsburg’s Lawn Conversion Rebate Program, which does not include [artificial turf](#). Some member jurisdictions have turf-removal rebates that encourage living landscapes.

Across California and the United States, several jurisdictions are actively considering or have implemented restrictions on artificial turf, demonstrating a growing recognition of its environmental and public health impacts. In California, the cities of [Millbrae](#) and [San Marino](#) have banned artificial turf. The [City of Los Angeles](#) is reviewing potential limitations on synthetic turf in public spaces, while cities such as [Sunnyvale](#) and [Pasadena](#) are evaluating moratoria or bans on new installations, particularly where crumb rubber infill is used. Beyond California, other prominent U.S. cities, including New York City, Seattle, Portland (Oregon), and Washington, D.C., have implemented restrictions, phased bans, or moratoria on artificial turf at schools, parks, and municipal facilities, often citing concerns over microplastics, PFAS contamination, heat impacts, and end-of-life disposal challenges. These examples illustrate that local governments are taking proactive steps to regulate synthetic turf, establishing both a state and national precedent for jurisdictions considering similar measures.

III. DISCUSSION

Waste Management of Artificial Turf

Once removed, artificial turf systems typically end up in landfills, as they are composed of multiple bonded plastic layers and infill materials that are difficult to separate and recycle. Landfill disposal is a concern because of the large mass of waste involved. The roughly 40,000 pounds of turf and 400,000 pounds of infill used in a single average field have the potential to leach or off-gas significant quantities of hazardous compounds over time as reported by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Each full-size field generates approximately 200–250 tons of waste every 8–10 years, including synthetic grass carpet and infill material such as crumb rubber or sand. While some turf is temporarily stockpiled or repurposed for secondary uses (e.g., dog parks, landscaping), these practices merely delay eventual disposal and continue to release microplastics into the environment. At present, no large-scale recycling infrastructure exists in the U.S. to manage this waste stream, and claims of recycling are often unverified. As a result, artificial turf contributes to a significant and growing solid waste management challenge with environmental and human health impacts.

Oversight of artificial turf materials and disposal in California is currently fragmented across several state agencies. CalRecycle oversees the management of solid waste and has identified synthetic turf as a problematic waste stream due to its volume, composition, and limited recycling options. The [DTSC](#) has examined potential toxic constituents, such as heavy metals, PFAS, and

other persistent organic pollutants, that may leach from turf components or infill. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulates emissions from manufacturing and potential air quality impacts from disposal or recycling operations. However, no comprehensive state framework yet exists to address the full lifecycle impacts of artificial turf, including production, installation, and end-of-life management. The lack of coordinated oversight highlights the need for policy action to minimize environmental and public health risks associated with artificial turf use.

Reason for ZWS to Draft a Model Ordinance

The LTF has completed extensive research on artificial turf versus natural grass since December 2024. Their findings are compiled in the attached presentation and in a draft white paper which should be finalized in the next couple of months. Based on their findings and recommendations, ZWS proposes developing a regional model ordinance to restrict or ban artificial turf because of the cross-jurisdictional nature of the issue and its direct connection to regional waste management responsibilities. As a Joint Powers Authority representing the nine cities and the County of Sonoma, ZWS was established to ensure consistent and coordinated implementation of waste prevention and recycling policies. Artificial turf presents environmental and solid waste challenges that extend beyond city boundaries, including complex disposal needs, potential PFAS contamination, and landfill impacts. Developing a single, comprehensive model ordinance promotes uniformity in definitions, exemptions, and enforcement across jurisdictions, reducing confusion for the public, contractors, and haulers.

Many smaller jurisdictions lack the technical expertise or staffing capacity to research lifecycle impacts, consult with state agencies or draft appropriate environmental language. ZWS and the AB 939 Local Task Force can consolidate this work, producing a science-based and legally reviewed ordinance template that aligns with state goals. The passage of SB 676 provides clear authority for local governments to ban artificial turf, and a coordinated regional approach ensures that implementation aligns with California's circular economy and microplastics reduction objectives.

Because artificial turf ultimately becomes a solid waste management responsibility, with each field producing up to 50,000 pounds of nonrecyclable material at the end of life, this effort directly supports ZWS's statutory mission under AB 939 and SB 1383 to reduce landfill disposal and toxic contamination. By providing a model ordinance and supporting outreach materials, ZWS will equip jurisdictions with a ready-to-adopt framework that can be tailored to local needs. Each city and the County will retain full authority to adopt, modify, or defer adoption, ensuring flexibility while advancing a consistent regional policy that supports human and environmental health.

Process/Next Steps

If directed by the Board, staff will initiate development of a regional model ordinance following the timeline outlined in Attachment A. The process will include stakeholder engagement with member jurisdictions, regional parks departments, and relevant state agencies, along with technical review and policy guidance from the AB 939 Local Task Force.

The Local Task Force has also prepared a draft technical white paper comparing artificial turf and natural grass systems, which evaluates environmental, health, and lifecycle impacts. The final version of this white paper is expected to be completed within the next few months and will be incorporated into the development of the model ordinance to ensure it is informed by the most current data and analysis.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

Development of the model ordinance will be completed by existing Zero Waste Sonoma staff and the AB 939 Local Task Force with no additional budget impact.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: LTF Presentation: Artificial Turf vs Natural Grass Fields
Attachment B: Model Ordinance Timeline

Artificial Turf vs Natural Grass Fields

November 20, 2025

Artificial Turf Ad Hoc Committee

formed Dec 12, 2024 by:

Sonoma County Local Task Force (LTF) on Integrated Waste Management



Introduction

- The LTF was formed as a requirement of the AB 939 Integrated Waste Management act of 1989
- The LTF was formed as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors and Zero Waste Sonoma on Integrated Waste Management issues
- LTF formed an Ad Hoc committee to study and compare the benefits and impacts of using natural grass versus artificial turf for community sports fields
- LTF's initial primary focus was on the solid waste, recycling and environmental impacts of these alternatives
- The group's research also included a review of Public Health and Safety and Financial issues
- The group's findings and recommendations are included in this presentation

Purpose of Ad Hoc Committee

To conduct a thorough analysis of the solid waste, recycling, environmental and other impacts, associated with the use of artificial turf compared to natural grass, and to provide the group's findings and recommendations to Zero Waste Sonoma, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) or other Sonoma County jurisdictions to help inform policy decisions regarding the future use of these materials, with a focus on minimizing landfill waste and environmental harm.

Presentation Outline

Purpose of LTF and Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Turf

Definitions

Project Approach

Findings on Subject Matter Areas in Natural vs Artificial Grass Comparison

- Environmental Impacts: Solid Waste, Recycling, and Water/Soil Quality
- Public Health & Safety: Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities
- Financial Impacts: Liability, Installation, Replacement, Disposal, Playing time, Maintenance

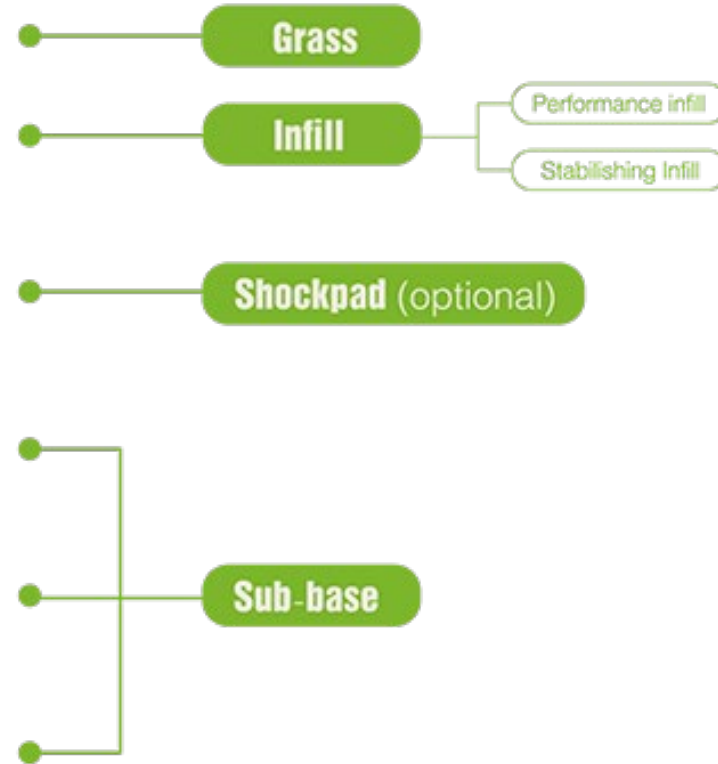
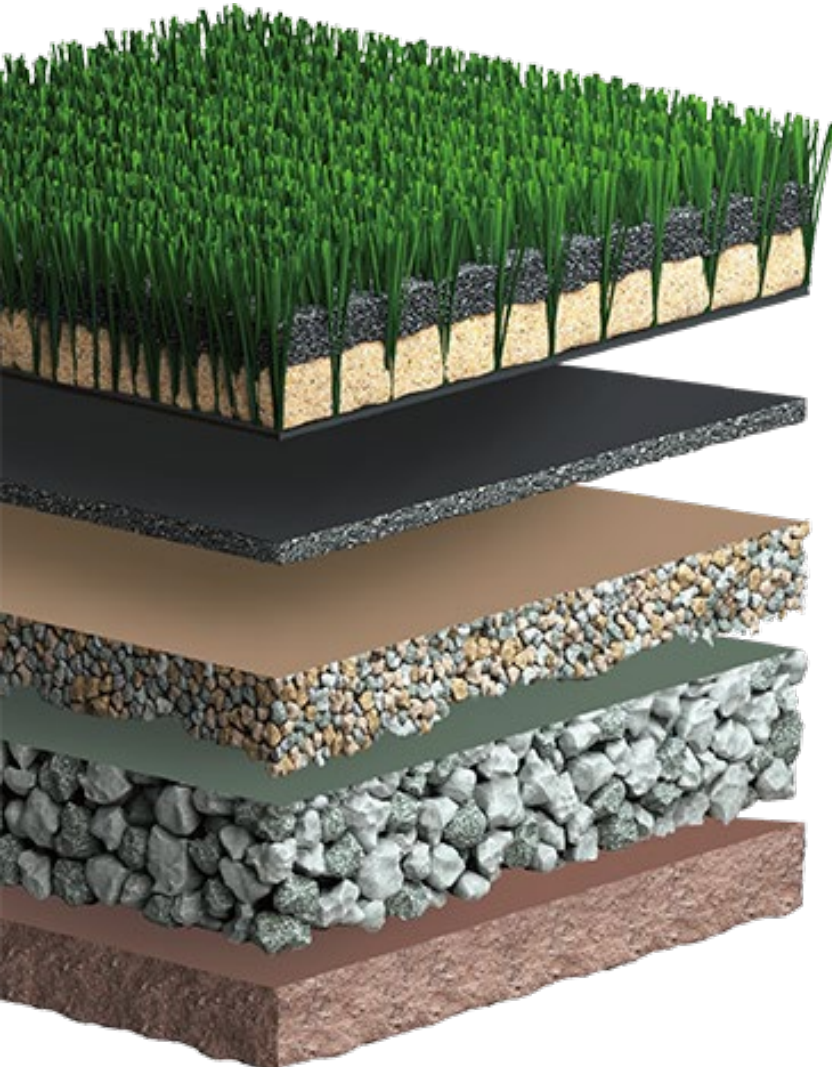
Recommendations to Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors

Definitions: Natural Turf / Grass

A living, photosynthesizing organism that is used for lawns, sports fields, and other surfaces

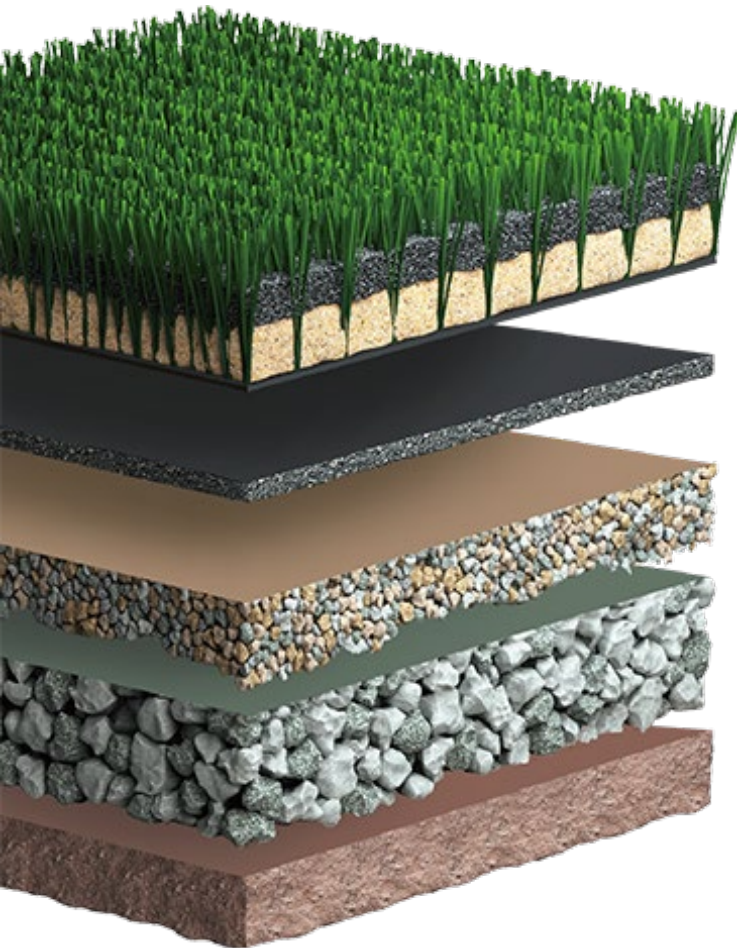


Definitions: Artificial Turf



A surface made of synthetic fibers designed to look like natural grass, used for applications like sports fields, playgrounds, and residential lawns

Artificial Turf in Sonoma County



- SRJC
- Tom Schopflin Fields Regional Park
- Maxwell Farms Regional Park
- Lucchesi Park
- Petaluma City Sports Complex
- East Washington Park Petaluma
- Various school districts
- Residential and commercial landscaping

Project Approach

- Conduct literature review
- Consult subject matter experts
- Discuss and establish consensus within Committee
- Develop recommendations

Findings on Subject Matter Areas in Natural Grass vs Artificial Turf Comparison

- Environmental Impacts: Recyclability, Water/Soil/Air Quality, Climate Impact
- Public Health & Safety: Documented health and safety hazards such as Extreme heat illness, Injuries, and Exposures to toxic chemicals create disproportionate impacts on Vulnerable Communities
- Financial Impacts: Installation, Disposal, Playing time, Maintenance

Findings: Environmental Impacts

	Natural Grass	Artificial Turf
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be irrigated with recycled water • Pesticides & fertilizers often used • Cools naturally • Sequesters carbon and releases oxygen • Protects watershed and preserves soil ecosystem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally less water use • Pesticides and fertilizers often not required
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally more water use • Greenhouse gas emissions - mowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of recycling infrastructure and data • Greenhouse gas emissions - materials derive from fossil fuels • Off-gassing of toxic chemicals and microplastics exposes humans, wildlife, and water to hazards • Heavier load on water treatment processes • Requires only potable water use • Heat island effect

Findings: Environmental Impacts

University of Missouri Turfgrass Research Center (2010)

Synthetic grass temperature increases of 50 to 70 ° F over natural grass.

On blue-sky days in mid-summer where air temperatures were at 98 degrees Fahrenheit with calm winds, temperatures would exceed 160 ° F on synthetic surfaces.

Natural grass under these same conditions would range between 99 and 102 ° F

Santa Clara County Medical Association (2024)

Synthetic turf in Sunnyvale (111-138 °F) versus the immediately surrounding area (102-111°F)

UC Ag & Natural Resources, California (2024)

Artificial grass found at 173 ° F in Palm Springs

Montclair State University, New Jersey (2025)

Artificial grass was 182% hotter than the natural grass field when measured with infrared thermometer during a mid-day reading in June.

Disposal

Natural Grass disposal options

- Proper maintenance reduces need for renovation (every 5-10 years)
- Disposal typically not necessary. If needed, materials composted or mulched

Artificial Turf disposal options

- Landfill
- Stockpile
- Limited or no recycling options

Data limitations on artificial turf disposal

- Unclear disposal practices and locations
- Lack of language in contracts requiring recycling or proper disposal
- Lack of contract language verifying final material disposition

Findings: Public Health & Safety Impacts

Vulnerable Communities are disproportionately impacted by the health impacts of contaminants like heavy metals, PFAS, and plastics

- Examples: Children, low-income, elderly, persons with disabilities

	Natural Grass	Artificial Turf
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural sanitation • Higher shock absorption • Natural cooling on hot days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides more playing time - rainy seasons
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury risk in the case of improper maintenance • Less playing time in rainy seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic chemicals in artificial turf: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plastic and rubber materials can melt and off-gas toxic chemicals ○ Exposure to PFAS, nano and microplastics, and other toxic chemicals in turf products linked to cancer, hormone disruption, and immune harm (PAHs, VOCs, heavy metals) • Limited playing time on extreme heat days • Risk of legal claims from injuries and latent disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heat related illness: dehydration, heat stroke, skin burns ○ Increased infections (poor sanitation practices) ○ Higher injury rates (cushioning fails with wear)

Findings: Public Health & Safety Impacts

Professional sports

- NFL Players Association, FIFA, and others showing preference to natural grass, citing higher injury rates, health concerns related to chemical exposure, and comfort of gameplay

Banned

- City of Millbrae
- West Sacramento: non-functional
- San Marino
- Boston, Sharon, Concord, Wayland, Westport (Massachusetts)
- State of Colorado (in effect 1/1/2026)

Moratorium

- State of New York

Considering ban/moratorium

- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Santa Monica
- City of Sunnyvale

Findings: Financial Impacts

	Natural Grass	Artificial Turf
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less expensive upfront installation • Stable long-term costs • Resilient grasses use less water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally less water use • Provides more playing time - rainy seasons
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent maintenance needs • Liability / Injury risk in the case of improper maintenance • Currently provides less playing time year-round (rainy seasons) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing installation, replacement, and disposal costs disposal costs across industry • Specialized maintenance needs - disinfectant & repair • Conversion back to natural grass requires mitigation of long-term soil damage • Liability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many unknown chemicals • Injury risk in the case of improper maintenance • Extreme heat day limitations on playing time • More playing time year-round

Recommendations to Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors

- Direct staff to develop a model ordinance to assist municipal staff in implementing a moratorium or ban on artificial turf until further research is conducted to ensure product safety
- Require life-cycle cost analysis of both options before deciding on field material
- Require responsible replacement/disposal in turf installation contracts
- Collect, analyze, and maintain data regarding turf (artificial and natural grass) installation, replacement, and disposal in Sonoma County

Discussion / Questions

Artificial Turf vs Natural Grass Fields

November 20, 2025

Artificial Turf Ad Hoc Committee

formed Dec 12, 2024 Sonoma County Local Task Force (LTF) on Integrated Waste Management



Attachment A: Proposed Timeline – Development of a Model Ordinance to Ban or Place a Moratorium on Artificial Turf on Public Lands

Phase	Milestone / Deliverable	Lead / Participants	Estimated Date
Board Direction & Initiation	ZWS Board reviews and provides direction to staff to develop a regional model ordinance.	ZWS Board of Directors	Nov. 20, 2025
Project Launch & Scope Definition	Define ordinance goals, scope (ban vs. moratorium), legal review parameters, and coordination plan with member jurisdictions.	ZWS Staff, AB 939 Local Task Force (LTF), Legal Counsel	Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026
Research & Consultation Phase	Review scientific and regulatory data on PFAS, microplastics, and turf waste; consult with CalRecycle, DTSC, CARB, and environmental NGOs. LTF has completed much of this research already. LTF to complete draft whitepaper.	ZWS Staff, LTF Turf Ad Hoc Committee	Jan – March 2026
Stakeholder Outreach	Conduct stakeholder engagement sessions (public agencies, parks staff, athletic associations, environmental groups). Gather feedback and local data.	ZWS Staff with Member Jurisdictions	March – May 2026
Draft Model Ordinance	Prepare draft regional model ordinance and supporting documents (staff templates, FAQs, public education materials, LTF white paper).	ZWS Staff, Legal Counsel	May – June 2026
LTF & Technical Review	Present draft to the AB 939 Local Task Force for review, technical	LTF Turf Ad Hoc Committee	July 2026

	edits, and policy recommendations.		
ZWS Board Review and Adoption of Model Ordinance Template	ZWS Board considers adopting the model ordinance and authorizes staff to distribute it to member jurisdictions.	ZWS Board of Directors	August 2026
Member Jurisdiction Consideration	Cities, Town, and the County review, adapt, and determine whether to adopt the model ordinance or a moratorium.	Member Jurisdictions	Sep. – Dec. 2026
Regional Implementation & Outreach	Support implementation with technical assistance, disposal guidance, and regional outreach materials (aligned with SB 676 and SB 1383 goals).	ZWS Staff	Jan. – June 2027
Evaluation & Reporting	Review adoption status and environmental outcomes and report back to ZWS Board.	ZWS Staff, LTF	Late 2027 – Early 2028

Notes:

- The schedule allows approximately 12 months for research, drafting, and stakeholder engagement before ordinance consideration.
- Adjustments may be made based on findings from the County’s December 2025 Turf Workshop and legal review.
- Early coordination with member jurisdiction parks and public works staff is encouraged to align with planned field replacement cycles.