



SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

June 18, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

Closed Session begins at 8:30 a.m.

Regular Session will begin at 9:00 a.m. or immediately following Closed Session

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=OFFVNULiWVh5Wk5SSzVyWWdWbndjdz09>

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

June 18, 2026

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Note: This packet is 36 pages total



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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, June 17th. 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 dialog 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. **Closed Session**
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1))
Title: Executive Director

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code § 54957.6)
Agency designated representative: Ethan Walsh, Agency Counsel
Unrepresented employee: Executive Director
3. Adjourn Closed Session / Call to Order Regular Meeting
4. Agenda Approval
5. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

Consent (w/attachments)

- 6.1 Minutes of the May 21, 2026 Meeting
- 6.2 May, June, and July 2026 Outreach Calendar
- 6.3 Budget Adjustment to the FY 25/26 Budget for Organics Transportation and Processing

Regular Calendar

7. Agreement with The Compost Depot to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops [Tan]
8. Informational Presentation from CRV Operators Regarding Recent Program Changes in Sonoma County [Pagal]
9. Boardmember Comments – NO ACTION
10. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT
11. Staff Comments – NO ACTION
12. Next ZWS meeting: July 16, 2026
13. Adjourn Regular 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: June 18, 2026 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.

6.1 Minutes of the May 21, 2026 Meeting

6.2 May, June, and July 2026 Outreach Calendar

6.3 Budget Adjustment to the FY 25/26 Budget for Organics Transportation and Processing SUPERMAJORITY VOTE

7. Agreement with The Compost Depot to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops

Staff released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to provide technical, on-site composting workshops. The project scope was flexible, allowing a wide range of responses. Staff stated a preference for submissions that contained equity components, e.g., a strategy to identify and prioritize workshops to small and/or BIPOC-owned growers, non-profit farms, public schools, community gardens, or growers who primarily speak a language other than English or serve low-income communities. The panel unanimously agreed that The Compost Depot presented the best submission. Their scope of work and budget were the most detailed, including a list of proposed host sites for 6 compost workshops over the agreement term. The chosen sites all have existing compost and regenerative soil health practices that can serve as strong models to other agricultural producers. They are geographically diverse and represent a variety of industries, including a chicken farm, vineyards, vegetable crop farms, a public community garden, and a dairy farm. **Staff Recommendation:** Board award the Agreement to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops to The Compost Depot

8. Informational Presentation from CRV Operators Regarding Recent Program Changes in Sonoma County

Staff recommends that the Board receive an informational presentation from representatives of United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay (UCPNB) and from Our Planet Recycling regarding recent and anticipated changes to California Redemption Value (CRV) collection services and recycling center operations in Sonoma County and provide comments or feedback as appropriate. **Staff Recommendation:** This item is for informational purposes only. No action is requested of the Board.



Minutes of May 21, 2026 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on May 21, 2026, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, California.

Board Members Present:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez
City of Cotati – Susan Harvey
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – ABSENT
City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – ABSENT
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

Staff Present:

Counsel: Ethan Walsh
Staff: Leslie Lukacs, Thora Collard, Xinci Tan, Courtney Scott, Kristen Sales, Rajesh Jyothiswaran, Katie Cushwa, Sloane Pagal
Agency Clerk: Amber Johnson

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting

Regular session was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Introductions

Phill Carter arrived at 9:06 a.m.

2. Agenda Approval

Motion: For approval of the agenda.

First: City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

Second: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez
City of Cotati – Susan Harvey
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – ABSENT
City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – ABSENT
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

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

Motion passed.

3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

- None

4. Consent (w/attachments)

4.1 Minutes of the April 16, 2026 Regular Meeting

4.2 April, May, and June 2026 Outreach Calendar

4.3 ZWS FY 2025/26 Third Quarter Financial Report

4.4 Approval of the Seventh Amendment to the Oil Program Management Agreement with Soluna Outreach Solution

4.5 Approval of the First Amendment to the Agreement with Soluna Outreach Solutions for Spanish Language Outreach Program and Budget Adjustment

Board Comments:

- None

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: For approval of the consent calendar.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez

City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – ABSENT

City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter

City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

County of Sonoma – ABSENT

Town of Windsor – JB Leep

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

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Request for Qualifications to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops

Board Comments/Action Items:

- How will this proposal move forward through the approval and implementation process? What role will the consultant play in supporting participants, and how will outreach be conducted to reach those who could benefit from the program?
- Appreciates staff for a wonderful proposal.
- Given the limited funding available, there is hope that the funds will be utilized quickly and effectively. It would also be valuable to explore opportunities to connect successful onsite composting practitioners with workshop participants for peer learning and support.
- If the program proves successful, could it be considered a pilot for future expansion?

Public Comments:

- Dan Noble – Expresses agreement with the list of contacts for outreach. Wants to position compost into a larger initiative. Largely supports this item.

Motion: To approve the release of the Request for Qualifications to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops.

First: City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

Second: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez

City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – ABSENT

City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter

City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

County of Sonoma – ABSENT

Town of Windsor – JB Leep

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

Motion passed.

6. Approval of Fourth Amendment to Agreement for E-Waste Handling, Transportation, and Recycling Services and CEW Program Update

Board Comments/Action Items:

- How many other entities collect these materials?
- How much revenue is generated from the collection program?
- When did the cost of electronics collection reach 12 cents per pound?
- If numerous items are collected and fees are paid on them, but the items are not ultimately recycled at end of life, do those funds accumulate in the state fund balance?
- At collection sites, is there an opportunity to provide a separate bin for items under five pounds so they can be recycled rather than sent out of state?
- Are there any concerns regarding fire hazards?
- Public education on this topic may be challenging. What is the plan for educating residents?
- Has there been a discussion about having a curbside bin for batteries or other hazardous items?
- What is the anticipated timeline for implementing this new recycling program?
- Interested in seeing how this program develops and performs over time.
- Why are all collected items required to be placed in the container at the end of each day?
- How does Sonoma County compare with other California counties in terms of participation and performance?
- How does California compare with other states in this area?
- What guidance is available for residents who are unsure whether an item can be recycled through this program?
- Is there any enforcement mechanism associated with these requirements?
- Are there any active outreach or public awareness campaigns focused on e-waste recycling?

- There may be opportunities to align this effort with the Right to Repair movement. Product labeling requirements could help consumers better identify recyclable items and proper disposal methods.

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: The Board authorizes the Executive Director to execute the Fourth Amendment to the Agreement for E-Waste Handling, Transportation, and Recycling Services with Onsite Electronics Recycling, LLC.

First: City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

Second: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – Andrés Marquez

City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer

City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter

City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – ABSENT

City of Sebastopol – Phill Carter

City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

County of Sonoma – ABSENT

Town of Windsor – JB Leep

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

Motion passed.

7. FY 24/25 Work Plan Program Progress Report

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Can this presentation be shared with the individual jurisdictions to share?
- Incredibly proud of the staff for the tremendous amount of meaningful and impactful work you do. It is an immense undertaking, and it is a pleasure to serve on this board.
- Consider incorporating more video content into social media outreach to engage a broader audience.
- It would be helpful to see comparisons with other counties.
- The outreach report was very well done.
- Is it possible to present outreach data by calendar year rather than fiscal year?
- The Center for Environmental Inquiry at Sonoma State may be a valuable partner for outreach efforts.
- The quality of your work is clearly reflected in this report. Thank you to the staff for all that you have done.

Public Comments:

- None

8. Boardmember Comments

- Future Fest, a showcase of climate action initiatives and community resources, was held in Petaluma on May 3 and attracted approximately 700 attendees. Reusable purple cups were used for beverages and washed for future events, helping to reduce waste.

- Xinci assisted with the Wine Country Century event, where numerous ambassadors helped attendees sort waste and reusable materials to support the event's sustainability efforts.
- The Cloverdale Grange Thrift Store is an all-volunteer operation that generates approximately \$10,000–\$12,000 per month. Proceeds are reinvested into the local community.
- ZWS hosted an electronic waste (e-waste) collection event in Sonoma last month, which was well attended and positively received by the community.
- The Zero Waste Symposium, held on May 7, 2026, was a major success, drawing strong participation and engagement.

9. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT

10. Staff Comments

- None

11. Next ZWS meeting: June 18, 2026

12. Adjourn: 10:31 a.m.

Submitted by: Amber Johnson

DRAFT



Agenda Item #: 6.2
 Agenda Date: 6/18/2026

ITEM: May, June, July 2026 Outreach Calendar

May 2026 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
5/3/26	5/3/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	West County Fixit Fair (Forestville)
5/2/26	5/3/26	10:00 AM	5:00 PM	Annual Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival (Bodega Bay)
5/3/26	5/3/26	12:00 PM	4:00 PM	Future Fest (Petaluma)
5/5/26	5/5/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Larkfield)
5/12/26	5/12/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Sebastopol)
5/13/26	5/13/26	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Graton Labor Center (Graton)
5/16/26	5/16/26	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	Compost Giveaway Event (Sebastopol)
5/16/26	5/16/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Sonoma Repair Fair & Clothing Swap (Sonoma)
5/17/26	5/17/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Compost Giveaway Event (Cazadero)
5/19/26	5/19/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Cloverdale)
5/22/26	5/24/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Healdsburg E-Waste Event
5/26/26	5/26/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Santa Rosa, W)

June 2026 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
6/2/26	6/2/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Sonoma)
6/9/26	6/9/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Rohnert Park)
6/12/26	6/14/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Luther Burbank Center E-Waste Event
6/13/26	6/13/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Luther Burbank Center Mattress Recycling Event
6/14/2026	6/14/2026	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	Sebastopol Repair Fair (Sebastopol)
6/16/2026	6/16/2026	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Oakmont)
6/23/2026	6/23/2026	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Windsor)
6/30/2026	6/30/2026	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Bodega Bay)

July 2026 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
7/11/26	7/11/26	10:00 AM	3:00 PM	Cotati Children's Day
7/17/26	7/19/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Petaluma E-Waste Recycling Event
7/18/26	7/18/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Petaluma Mattress Collection Event



Agenda Item #: 6.3
Cost Center: Organics
Staff Contact: Collard
Agenda Date: 6/18/2026
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Budget Adjustment to the FY 25/26 Budget for Organics Transportation and Processing

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board authorize a budget adjustment to Organics 51803 in the amount of \$1,650,000. This item requires a Supermajority (8/10)

II. BACKGROUND

At the January 29, 2026 Special Meeting, the Board ratified two short-term emergency agreements to secure alternative organics processing capacity following an unexpected mechanical failure at one of the region's primary composting facilities. While necessary to maintain uninterrupted service and regulatory compliance, these emergency agreements resulted in unplanned increases to organics transportation and processing costs. During this same period, staff were notified by the Redwood Landfill compost facility that it would need to reduce the volume of organics accepted from Zero Waste Sonoma by approximately 50 percent. In response, staff immediately initiated negotiations with multiple regional composting facilities to secure sufficient long-term processing capacity for materials generated within Sonoma County. As a result of these efforts, the Board approved new organics processing agreements with Redwood Landfill, Pacific Organics Solutions, and Republic Services at its February and March 2026 meetings. These agreements were necessary to ensure continued processing capacity, maintain compliance with state organics diversion requirements, and provide operational stability for the region's organics management system.

III. DISCUSSION

Tonnage is projected to be higher than budgeted and the approved increase to the tipping fee took effect on April 1. This created revenues sufficient to cover the increased cost to our program, but the approved budget did not have enough appropriations to cover the increased expenditures. The increased costs were attributed to:

- Following the organics processing capacity disruption in January, material was temporarily diverted to more distant facilities, including facilities in Napa County and Pacific Organics Solutions in Mendocino County, to alleviate the backlog of organic materials accumulating at the Healdsburg and Sonoma transfer stations. This emergency response resulted in increased transportation costs due to longer haul distances, as well as significantly higher processing fees, with tipping rates of approximately \$90 per ton and \$96.90 per ton, respectively.

- During February and March, Recology routed organics away from the Redwood facility and directed them to Pacific Organics Solutions and Napa-area facilities under the emergency agreements. While these actions helped ensure uninterrupted processing capacity, the volume of material delivered to the higher-cost emergency facilities exceeded initial expectations after the backlog at the Healdsburg and Sonoma transfer stations had been substantially reduced, resulting in increased transportation and processing costs.
- The new agreements with Pacific Organics Solutions, Republic Services, and Redwood Landfill resulted in significant increases in processing rates compared to prior years, contributing to higher overall organics transportation and processing costs.

Staff requests that the board approve a budget adjustment to the FY 25/26 budget to complete the year. Staff estimates that an additional \$1,650,000 will cover the last two months of the fiscal year.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

Staff requests the Board approve a budget adjustment to account 51803 in the Organics Fund for \$1,650,000.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Budget Adjustment Resolution

Dated: June 18, 2026

RESOLUTION OF ZERO WASTE SONOMA (ZWS)
ADOPTING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FY 2025/26 ORGANICS BUDGETS FOR THE INCREASED
TRANSPORTATION AND PROCESSING COSTS

WHEREAS, ZWS approved Zero Waste Sonoma Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget on March 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, ZWS approved the emergency processing contracts at the January 29, 2026 Special Meeting; and

WHEREAS, ZWS approved new processing contracts at the February and March 2026 meetings resulting in higher processing and transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, ZWS increased hauling and processing expenditures exceeded approved budget appropriations; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends increasing the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Organics Fund Budget for Other Contract Services, 51803, in the amount of \$1,650,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Zero Waste Sonoma does hereby approve the adjustment to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget.

MEMBERS:

- - 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: June 18, 2026

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



Agenda Item #: 7
Cost Center: Organics
Staff Contact: Tan
Agenda Date: 06/18/26
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Agreement with The Compost Depot to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board award the Agreement to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops to The Compost Depot.

II. BACKGROUND

During the May 2026 regular meeting, staff asked the Board to approve a program to provide on-site composting workshops and encourage more local small to mid-scale composting operations. These workshops would benefit orchards, vineyards, schools, community gardens, and/or other crop farmers in Sonoma County. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transporting agricultural materials and/or food scraps out of county, this program would empower farmers to make their own compost, which may help them reduce costs, increase local nutrient cycling, and increase community resiliency.

With the Board's approval, on May 22, 2026, staff released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to provide technical, on-site composting workshops. The project scope was flexible, allowing a wide range of responses. Staff stated a preference for submissions that contained equity components, e.g., a strategy to identify and prioritize workshops to small and/or BIPOC-owned growers, non-profit farms, public schools, community gardens, or growers who primarily speak a language other than English or serve low-income communities. Proposers were encouraged but not required to collaborate with other individuals or organizations to make their proposal stronger. Staff also stated a preference for submissions that are geographically diverse, positively impact a larger number of individuals, and/or maximize environmental benefit. Submissions were due at 12:00 p.m. on June 4, 2026.

III. DISCUSSION

Staff received four submissions by the RFQ deadline, including Compost Depot, Petaluma Bounty, Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD), and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) of Sonoma County. The panel assembled to review submissions consisted of Xinci Tan from ZWS; Alan Siegle, President of the Sonoma County Farm Trails and Co-Founder of Sonoma Compost; and Darek Trowbridge, owner and farmer of Old World Winery.

Based on four scoring criteria, which most heavily weighed the proposed scope of work and experience providing technical, on-site composting workshops, the panel's aggregated scores for each submission are summarized in the following table.

Submission from:	Panel Score
Compost Depot	98%
Petaluma Bounty	67%
Sonoma RCD	65%
UCCE	83%

The panel unanimously agreed that The Compost Depot presented the best submission. Their scope of work and budget were the most detailed, including a list of proposed host sites for 6 compost workshops over the agreement term. The chosen sites all have existing compost and regenerative soil health practices that can serve as strong models to other agricultural producers. They are geographically diverse and represent a variety of industries, including a chicken farm, vineyards, vegetable crop farms, a public community garden, and a dairy farm.

The Compost Depot’s submission further stood out because the primary compost educator, Bobby Nicholson, can provide bilingual instruction in English and Spanish. Additionally, his partnership with the Sonoma Ecology Center and Raymond Baltar of the Sonoma Biochar Initiative will enable him to incorporate a biochar component into the workshop curriculum.

With the ZWS Board’s approval, staff will execute a Services Agreement with Compost Depot for a term of June 19, 2026 – June 1, 2027. The tentative timeline proposed by Compost Depot is as follows:

- June–July 2026: Contract start, schedule site visits, collaborate on workplans and outreach
- June–Sept. 2026: Develop On-site Compost curriculum + digital tool kit, site visits, design and launch promotion for initial workshops
- Sept.–Dec. 2026: Initial two On-site Compost + Soil Health workshops, collect data, media, and participant/site reviews
- Dec. 2026–Jan. 2027: Mid-project check-in, refine workshop schedule, on-site compost curriculum and digital tool kit, design and launch promotion for second round workshops
- February–April 2027: Second round of two On-site Compost + Soil Health workshops, collect data, media, and participant/site reviews
- April–May 2027: Final round of two On-site Compost + Soil Health workshops, collect data, media, and participant/site reviews, collaborate on final reporting
- June 1, 2027: Project complete, deliver final report

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

The Compost Depot will be awarded a \$45,000 agreement from funds previously allocated in ZWS’s budget for home composting and contamination education.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- Agreement to Provide On-Site Composting Workshops in Sonoma County with Compost Depot
- Resolution to Award the Compost Depot with the Agreement

**Agreement for Professional Services to Provide Technical, On-Site
Composting Workshops**

1. CONTRACTOR INFORMATION

Contractor: Bobby Nicholson, Compost Depot
Address: 9170 Occidental Rd. Sebastopol, CA, 95472
Telephone: 707-299-8668

2. AGENCY INFORMATION

Agency: Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (also known as Zero Waste
Sonoma)
Attention: Xinci Tan, Organics Program Manager
Address: 195 Concourse Blvd, Suite B, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Telephone: (707) 837-6134

Project: **Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops**

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Exhibit A

4. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

Agency agrees to pay Contractor an amount not to exceed \$45,000 for services rendered in accordance with tasks detailed in Section 3 Scope of Work. Contractor shall invoice Agency monthly for services rendered. Travel, if requested, will be reimbursed at cost with mileage reimbursed at the current federal rate at the time of travel.

5. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Contractor is an independent contractor, working under his/her own supervision and direction and is not a representative of the Agency.

6. TERM

This agreement will go into effect on June 19, 2026 and expire on June 1, 2027.

7. INSURANCE

With respect to performance of work under this Agreement, Contractor shall maintain and shall require all of its subcontractors, consultants, and other agents to maintain, insurance as described below:

7.1 Workers' Compensation Insurance. Workers' compensation insurance with statutory limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of California.

7.2 General Liability Insurance. Commercial general liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage using an occurrence policy form, in an amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limit for each occurrence. Said commercial general liability insurance policy shall either be endorsed with the following specific language or contain equivalent language in the policy:

a. The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, its officers and employees, is named as additional insured for all liability arising out of the operations by or on behalf of the named insured in the performance of this Agreement.

b. The inclusion of more than one insured shall not operate to impair the rights of one insured against another insured, and the coverage afforded shall apply as though separate policies had been issued to each insured, but the inclusion of more than one insured shall not operate to increase the limits of the company's liability.

c. The insurance provided herein is primary coverage to the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency with respect to any insurance or self-insurance programs maintained by the Agency.

d. This policy shall not be cancelled without first giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.

7.3 Automobile Liability Insurance. Automobile liability insurance covering bodily injury and damage in a form acceptable to the Agency, in an amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident.

8. INDEMNIFICATION

Contractor agrees to accept responsibility for loss or damage to any person or entity, including but not limited to Agency, and to defend, indemnify, hold harmless, reimburse and release Agency, its officers, agents and employees, from and against any and all actions, claims, damages, disabilities, liabilities and expense, including but not limited to attorneys' fees and the cost of litigation incurred in the defense of claims as to which this indemnity applies or incurred in an action by Agency to enforce the indemnity provisions herein, whether arising from personal injury, or property damage, that may be asserted by any person or entity, including Contractor, to the extent arising out of the negligent acts or omissions or willful misconduct in the performance by Contractor hereunder, whether or not there is concurrent negligence on the part of the Agency, but, to the extent required by law, excluding liability due to the sole or active negligence or due to the willful misconduct of the Agency, upon Contractor obtaining a final adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction, Contractor's liability for such claim, including the cost to defend, shall not exceed the Contractor's proportionate percentage of fault. If there is a possible obligation to indemnify, Contractor's duty to defend exists regardless of whether it is ultimately determined that there is a duty to indemnify. Agency shall have the right to approve legal counsel selected by Contractor, at the expense of Contractor, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. This indemnification obligation is not limited in any way by any limitation on the amount or type of damages or compensation payable to or for Contractor or its agents under workers' compensation acts, disability benefit acts, or other employee benefit acts.

9. CHANGES TO THE AGREEMENT

Changes to this Agreement must be approved in writing by the Agency's Executive Director and Contractor.

10. CONTRACTOR'S STANDARD OF CARE

Agency has relied upon the professional ability and training of Contractor as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. Contractor hereby warrants that all of Contractor's work will be performed in accordance with generally accepted and applicable professional practices and standards as well as the requirements of applicable federal, state, and local laws, it being understood that acceptance of Contractor's work by Agency shall not operate as a waiver of release.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Contractor and Agency shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations relating to performance of the scope of work under this Agreement.

12. APPLICABLE LAW AND FORUM

This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted according to California law and any action to enforce the terms of this Agreement or for the breach thereof shall be brought and tried in the County of Sonoma.

13. UNCONTROLLABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. Provided that the requirements of this Section 13 are met, neither party shall be considered in default in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement (not including the obligation to make payments) to the extent that such performance is prevented or impaired by the occurrence of Uncontrollable Circumstances. If, as a result of an event of Uncontrollable Circumstances, either party is wholly or partially unable to meet its obligations under this Agreement, then it shall give the other party prompt written notice of such event, describing it in reasonable detail. The obligations under this Agreement of the affected party shall be suspended, other than for payment of monies due, but only with respect to the particular component of obligations affected by the event and only for the period during which the event of Uncontrollable Circumstances exists; provided, however, that Contractor shall have a reasonable time during which to assess the impacts caused by an event of Uncontrollable Circumstances and sole discretion to determine whether it will continue operations or whether it will terminate all operations.

14. TERMINATION; DEFAULT. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon giving the other party written notice if the other party: (i) fails to make any payment required hereunder, not disputed in good faith, within thirty (30) days after receiving notice of nonpayment from the non-defaulting party; (ii) materially fails to comply with any federal, state or local laws, rules, orders or ordinances, or regulations that pertain to the handling of the waste hereunder; or (iii) breaches any other material obligation under this Agreement and fails to cure such breach within thirty (30) days after receiving written notice thereof from the non-defaulting party, provided, that in the event the party shows good cause why it should be entitled to reasonable additional time to cure the breach, the non-breaching party shall allow such reasonable additional time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first written by their respective officers duly authorized in that behalf.

SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

By: _____
Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director

Date: _____

COMPOST DEPOT

By: _____
Bobby Nicholson, Owner, Educator, and Soil Steward

Date: _____

Reviewed as to form:

Ethan Walsh, Agency Counsel

Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops in Sonoma County

Lead Proposer: Bobby Nicholson, Compost Depot

Project Partners: Sonoma Ecology Center (Sonoma Garden Park, EnviroLeaders, Sonoma Biochar Initiative)

Total Budget: \$45,000

Proposal Cover Letter

Dear Xinci Tan,

One pile at a time, Compost Depot, in partnership with Sonoma Ecology Center and Sonoma Biochar Initiative is pleased to submit this proposal to collaborate with local practitioners, provide hands-on workshops that will highlight on-site compost tools, technology and soil health practices to build capacity for on-site compost programming in Sonoma County.

At the core, Compost Depot is an education platform that provides onsite, in-school and community programming about how compost is made and the tools of healthy soil for our future.

Compost Depot in collaboration with Sonoma Ecology Center and Sonoma Biochar Initiative is committed to soil science for everyone, of all ages, and in spanish.

Thank you for this opportunity, let's get dirty!

Sincerely, mulch love,

Bobby Nicholson

Educator and soil steward

www.thecompostdepot.com



Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops in Sonoma County

Lead Proposer: Bobby Nicholson, Compost Depot

Project Partners: Sonoma Ecology Center (Sonoma Garden Park, EnviroLeaders, Sonoma Biochar Initiative)

Total Budget: \$45,000

Proposal Summary

Compost Depot in partnership with Sonoma Ecology Center and Sonoma Biochar Initiative proposes a series of six on-site compost + soil health workshops to highlight on-site compost tools / technology and healthy soil practices, provide accessible, hands-on learning opportunities and resources for workforce, community and students across Sonoma County.

Bobby Nicholson, Compost Depot will provide hands-on, experience based tools to re-envision local organic material streams and divert these from the landfill by sharing the tools to build CCOF compliant compost on-site for all scale of farmers. Each workshop will highlight the location practitioner with their existing on-site compost and soil health practices. Participants will engage in a soil science lesson and have the opportunity to use a microscope and observe the beneficial biology in healthy soil to reinforce how to make these tools accessible for everyone. We will get our hands dirty building compost and community together. First Nations community engagement will open each workshop with a land acknowledgment. This series of on-site compost + soil health workshops will serve as a healthy soil network for small / medium-scale / non-profit farms, vineyards, schools, and community gardens in Sonoma County.

The project will also provide a youth career development pathway through Sonoma Ecology Center's EnviroLeader program. Teen EnviroLeaders will participate in selected workshop preparation, compost monitoring, documentation, and hands-on soil health education at Sonoma Garden Park.

The proposed series of on-site compost + soil health workshops, tool kit of info graphics and promotional material will highlight Zero Waste Sonoma's goal to empower small to medium-scale local producers with the tools to build on-site compost programs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the transport of agricultural materials and food scraps out of Sonoma county. The on-site compost toolkit will emphasize accessible steps to increase compost use and soil health practices that can reduce farmer costs, increase local nutrient cycling in farm land, and fortify community resilience in Sonoma County.

Proposed Workshop Sites + Audiences

- Sonoma Garden Park w/ SBI - Youth / Community Farmers (spanish / english)
 - Petaluma Bounty Farms w/ Webber Chicken Farm - Production Youth / Community Farmers
 - Poncia Fertilizer - First Nations / Youth / Community Farmers
 - 3 Springs Community Farm - Production Farmers / Community Farmers
 - Yagi Sisters Farms - Production Farmers / Community Farmers
 - Old World Winery - Production / Youth / Community Farmers (spanish / english)
 - Tierra Vegetables - Production / Youth / Community Farmers (spanish / english)
 - Bernier Farms and Vineyards - Production / Vineyards / Community (spanish /english)
-

Proposal Team and Roles

Compost Depot — Lead Proposer and Compost Educator

Bobby Nicholson, Compost Depot will lead project collaborations with SEC and SBI to coordinate workshops, build on-site compost + soil health curriculum and media, co-teach workshops and deliver final reports. Compost Depot will serve as the lead proposer, contract holder and project facilitator.

Bobby Nicholson, he/him, is an educator and soil steward. Bobby is passionate about collaboration with nature, healthy soils and accessible, inclusive information as tools for our future together. Bobby invites us to get our hands dirty and open our minds to the magic of soil science. Join us, to build compost on-site for farms and provide healthy soils education to students, workforce and community in Sonoma county.

Bobby Nicholson, raised in Geyserville, completed high school at Sonoma Academy, Valedictorian and Student Council member of the first graduating class, May '04. Bobby studied Arts Education and Media at California College of the Arts, Oakland and graduated with a BFA, May '08. After twelve years as an Assistant Director, leading the set for commercial video productions in Los Angeles, Bobby returned to Sonoma county and re-educated in micro biology with Dr. Elaine Ingham, Soil Food Web School. For five growing seasons, Compost Depot has collaborated to build and maintain compost programs on-site with eight farms and vineyards - over 2,000 planted acres. Compost Depot has hosted and taught more than thirty hands-on workshops with workforce, farmers and community and three semesters of healthy soils education to students in Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake counties. This Jan. '26, Bobby

Nicholson, Compost Depot was honored at the US Compost Conference for on-site compost education and awarded third place as Emerging Composter!

In collaboration with Sonoma Ecology Center and their student EnviroLeaders, Compost Depot activated the compost program at Sonoma Garden Park, spring semester '25. Compost Depot has trained the SGP staff and three semesters of Enviro Leaders to design, build and maintain the onsite thermophilic compost program. This SGP compost program is EnviroLeader powered, a learning tool for visitors of all ages, a platform that hosts community compost workshops and highlights the ZWS compost hub at SGP.

A life long learner, Bobby Nicholson is committed to create an inclusive learning environment for everyone to think creatively, access the tools to make compost on-site and build healthy soil together in Sonoma County.

Compost Depot Responsibilities:

- Lead project collaborations, workshop coordination, co-teachers and reports
- Observe and confirm host sites, co-teachers and schedule workshops
- Build comprehensive on-site compost curriculum and digital tool kit to reinforce learning
- Collaborate to teach hands-on compost workshops with accessible lessons and tools
- Deliver the final report, impact metrics, media and learning examples

Sonoma Ecology Center- Education, Biochar, and Outreach

Sonoma Ecology Center will serve as a focused support partner to Compost Depot, providing outreach, education, youth engagement, demonstration-site hosting, and targeted biochar expertise through the Sonoma Biochar Initiative, a project of Sonoma Ecology Center.

SEC has extensive experience providing hands-on, place-based environmental education and stewardship programs. SEC's Education and Outreach Program reaches over 1,200 students annually, and its EnviroLeader program provides youth ages 14–18 with paid opportunities to gain job and life skills through sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. Sonoma Garden Park is already used as a hands-on education site where students learn about sustainable gardening, pollinators, decomposers, food webs, compost workshops and giveaways.

Through Sonoma Garden Park, SEC can host workshops and demonstrations that connect composting to community gardening, youth education, soil health, resilient landscaping, and local nutrient cycling. EnviroLeader Teens will support compost monitoring, workshop setup and breakdown, participant engagement, signage, photos, and follow-up documentation where appropriate. Through this role, teens will gain applied experience in compost systems, soil health, and sustainable land practices.

SEC will also bring targeted technical support through the Sonoma Biochar Initiative. Founded by SEC in 2009, SBI has trained foresters, farmers, landowners, tribal members, California Conservation Corps members, Resource Conservation District partners, and private landowners in field-based biochar practices. Raymond Baltar has personally conducted more than 50 field training demonstration burns.

For this RFQ, SBI's role will remain on-site compost + soil health focused: helping participants understand how biochar can be integrated into on-site compost programs and soil health tool. SBI will support curriculum development selected workshops with brief instruction on biochar conditioning, compost integration, water retention, nutrient retention, soil structure, carbon storage, and climate-beneficial biomass use.

SEC responsibilities:

- Sonoma Biochar Initiative will co teach soil health education / biochar demonstration
 - Collaborate to develop on-site compost and biochar soil health curriculum, adapt for community, youth, and small-grower audiences
 - Collaborate to build promotional media / on-site compost tool kit
 - Outreach to schools, community gardens, nonprofit farms, and Sonoma Valley partners
 - Connect EnviroLeader youth programming and career development
 - Host workshop at Sonoma Garden Park, Co-host additional workshops
 - Documentation of outreach, youth engagement, and Garden Park outcomes
-

Scope of Work

Task 1. Site Review / Workshop + Media Schedule

Lead: Compost Depot

Support: SEC

Timeline: June–August 2026

Compost Depot will collaborate with SEC and SBI to finalize the workplan, confirm and review workshop sites / collaborators, the workshop calendar, partner roles, and materials needs for each workshop.

Deliverables:

- Confirm Workshop sites
 - Build workshop schedule
 - Site visit review / schedule
 - Promotion outreach plan
-

Task 2. Workshop Site Visits

Lead: Compost Depot

Support: SEC/SBI as needed

Timeline: July–August 2026

Compost Depot will collaborate with SBI to observe on-site compost programs and soil health practices to highlight in the curriculum before each workshop, coordinate the workshop date / time, learning zone, feedstocks / water available, setup needs, and any safety considerations with the site host.

Site Visit Review:

- Observe onsite compost program and soil health practices to highlight
 - Coordinate workshop date / time
 - Identify learning zone
 - Feedstock / Water access / opportunity for biochar integration
 - Set Up / tools / materials needed
 - Safety considerations
-

Task 3. Workshop Curriculum / Tool Kit + Media

Lead: Compost Depot

Support: SBI, SEC

Timeline: June–September 2026

Compost Depot will lead collaboration with SEC and SBI to develop an on-site compost + soil health curriculum for each of six workshops, to collaborate with local practitioners, highlighting on-site compost tools and soil health practices in Sonoma County, and ensure accessible messaging for all ages, skill level and in Spanish. SBI will collaborate to deliver biochar curriculum when applicable and provide one demonstration burn workshop. Together, Compost Depot and SEC will develop workshop media and promotional materials, to adapt language for professionals, community, school garden, youth, nonprofit farm, and spanish speaking audiences.

On-site Compost Curriculum: Compost Depot will deliver six on-site compost workshops with hands-on learning for all audiences at selected sites across Sonoma County. Each workshop will be collaboratively taught to highlight on-site compost practices, get dirty with an introduction to soil science, re-envision material streams into compost feedstocks for on-site programs, use the tools together to model CCOF compliant thermophilic compost practices, and techniques for healthy soil applications.

Proposed Workshop Sites + Audiences

- Sonoma Garden Park w/ SBI - Youth / Community Farmers (spanish / english)
- Petaluma Bounty Farms w/ Webber Chicken Farm - Production Youth / Community Farmers
- Poncia Fertilizer - First Nations / Youth / Community Farmers
- 3 Springs Community Farm - Production Farmers / Community Farmers
- Yagi Sisters Farms - Production Farmers / Community Farmers
- Old World Winery - Production / Youth / Community Farmers (spanish / english)
- Terra Vegetables - Production / Youth / Community Farmers (spanish / english)
- Bernier Farms and Vineyards - Production / Vineyards / Community (spanish /english)

Educational Tool Kit / Promotional Media Materials: digital QR code + postcard

- Educational Tool Kit: On-site Compost + Biochar production / applications (Info graphics)
 - Promotional Media: Workshops / Info graphics
-

Task 4. Outreach and Recruitment

Lead: SEC

Support: Compost Depot, SBI, ZWS, Site Host / Collaborators

Timeline: August 2026–May 2027

SEC will lead collaboration with Compost Depot + SBI to develop outreach and educational media campaigns for youth and community-based audiences, Compost Depot will support in reinforcing outreach and educational media campaigns to all scale farms, vineyards, and producers committed to create an inclusive learning environment for everyone to access the tools to make compost on-site and build healthy soil together in Sonoma County.

Outreach:

- SEC network, newsletter and partner list
- Sonoma Garden Park / EnviroLeader / Community garden / School garden networks
- Compost Depot all scale producers, dairies, educational centers, non profits network
- Site / Collaborator networks
- ZWS network, newsletter and partner list

Deliverables:

- Workshop schedule, announcements and educational media campaigns
 - ZWS promotion and SEC registration support, if needed
 - Audience / Participant reminders
 - Outreach summary for final report
-

Task 5. On-Site Compost + Soil Health Workshops

Lead: Compost Depot

Support: SEC, SBI, Site Host / Collaborators

Timeline: Sept. 2026–May 2027

Compost Depot, SEC, SBI will collaborate with host sites and local practitioners to hold six hands-on workshops, highlight on-site compost tools / technology and soil health practices to build capacity for on-site compost programming in Sonoma County. Compost Depot, SEC, SBI, collaborators, and host sites are committed to ensure accessible messaging for all ages, skill level and in Spanish.

Proposed On-site Compost workshops / site / audience:

1. Sonoma Garden Park Compost + Biochar Soil Health, Sonoma:
SPG w/ SBI - Youth / Community Farmers (Spanish / English)
2. On Farm Compost + Soil Health: Petaluma Bounty Farms w/ Webber Chicken Farm,
Petaluma: Production / Youth / Community Farmers
3. Commercial Compost Facility Tour + Soil Health, Rohnert Park:
Poncía Fertilizer - First Nations / Youth / Community Farmers
4. Community Compost + Soil Health Workshop, Bohemian Hwy W.:
3 Springs Community Farm - Production / Youth / Community Farmers
5. Community Compost + Soil Health Workshop, Hwy 116 W.:
Yagi Sisters Farms - Production / Youth / Community Farmers
6. On Farm Compost + Soil Health Workshop, Santa Rosa:
Old World Winery - Production / Youth / Community Farmers (Spanish / English)
7. On Farm Compost + Soil Health Workshop, Windsor:
Tierra Vegetables - Production / Youth / Community Farmers (Spanish / English)
8. On Farm Compost + Soil Health Workshop, Healdsburg:
Bernier Farms and Vineyards - Production / Vineyards / Community (Spanish /English)

* Eight potential workshops / site / audience listed to ensure the delivery of six successful collaborative learning opportunities.

Deliverables:

- 6 on-site compost workshops
- Site / Participant sign-in sheets
- Workshop Photos + Educational / Promotional Media
- Site / Participant evaluations
- Brief site / workshop notes

Task 6. Sonoma Garden Park and EnviroLeaders

Lead: SEC

Support: Compost Depot, SBI

Timeline: Sept 2026-May 2027

SEC, Compost Depot, and SBI will collaborate with Sonoma Garden Park as the site for the Compost + Biochar Soil Health workshop. The workshop will build on Sonoma Garden Park's existing compost program and provide a hands-on demonstration site for community members, youth, and small growers.

EnviroLeader Trainees will support compost monitoring, workshop setup and breakdown, participant engagement, signage, photos, and follow-up documentation where appropriate. Through this role, teens will gain applied experience in compost systems, soil health, climate-beneficial land practices, public education, event support, and basic project documentation. This strengthens the project's workforce development value while creating a visible youth leadership component at Sonoma Garden Park.

Deliverables:

- Sonoma Garden Park Compost + Biochar Soil Health workshop
 - EnviroLeader support during workshop preparation and/or delivery
 - On-site compost program monitoring and maintenance
 - Photos/media documentation
 - EnviroLeader participation and career development summary
-

Task 7. Final Report and Summary

Lead: Compost Depot

Support: SEC, SBI, EnviroLeaders

Timeline: Final by June 1, 2027

Compost Depot will lead collaboration with SEC and SBI to prepare and deliver the final report, impact metrics, examples of workshop curriculum and on-site compost digital tool kit.

Metrics may include:

- Geographic distribution / demographic of audiences reached
- Youth / Community / Farmer participation per workshop / participant feedback
- On-site Compost programs built, improved, or supported / Site Reviews
- Examples of workshop curriculum + On-site compost tool kit info graphics
- Recommendations for future on-site compost programming in Sonoma County

Proposal Timeline

Month / Year	Process
June–July '26	Contract start, schedule site visits, collaborate on workplans and outreach
June–Sept. '26	Develop On-site Compost curriculum + digital tool kit, site visits, design and launch promotion for initial workshops
Sept.–Dec. '26	Initial two On-site Compost + Soil Health workshops, collect data, media and participant / site reviews
Dec. '26–Jan. '27	Mid-project check-in, refine workshop schedule, on-site compost curriculum and digital tool kit, design and launch promotion for second round workshops
February–April 2027	Second round of two On-site Compost + Soil Health workshops, collect data, media and participant / site reviews
April–May 2027	Final round of two On-site Compost + Soil Health workshops, collect data, media and participant / site reviews, collaborate on final reporting
June 1, 2027	Project complete, deliver final report

Proposal Budget

Budget Detailed Line Items	Amount	Budget Notes
Administrative management	\$ 3,000.00	SEC Education Program Manager: 20 hrs @ \$150/hr; partner coordination, and internal budget management.
Waivers, registration, and risk management	\$ 1,000.00	SEC Administrative Support / Assistant: 10 hrs @ \$100/hr; administrative support.
Promotion and outreach	\$ 2,000.00	SEC Outreach & Communications Specialist: 20 hrs @ \$100/hr; Includes flyers/email copy/social channels/partner outreach.
Sonoma Garden Park hosting and site logistics	\$ 1,500.00	SEC Volunteer Coordinator / SGP staff: 15 hrs @ \$100/hr; Covers staff time and Garden Park coordination
EnviroLeader teen support at Compost Workshops	\$ 1,500.00	SEC EnviroLeader: 20 hrs @ \$45/hr + Coordinator 6 hrs @ \$100/hr; Youth engagement component through EnviroLeaders.
Documentation, evaluation, and reporting support	\$1,000	SEC Grants Manager: 10 hrs @ \$100/hr; Supports final reporting and partner documentation.
SBI biochar curriculum and workshop support	\$2,000	SBI Project Manager: 17 hrs @ \$100/hr; One demonstration burn and resources/materials for workshops
Lead collaborator / facilitation / promotional outreach	\$ 8,000.00	Compost Depot: 6.5 hrs / mo. at \$100 per hour (12 months: June '26 - June '27)
On-site Compost Curriculum and digital tool kit design	\$ 5,500.00	Compost Depot: 18 hrs / mo. at \$100 per hour (3 months: June / July / August '26)
Site visits / host partner + co teacher collaboration	\$ 2,000.00	Compost Depot: 10 hrs. / mo. at \$100 per hour (2 months: June - August '26)
On-site Compost + Soil Health workshop co-facilitation	\$ 7,500.00	Compost Depot / Co-Teachers: 12.5 hrs. at \$100 per hour x 6 workshops
Workshop land acknowledgement + supplies	\$ 3,000.00	Compost Depot: \$500 per workshop (6 workshops)
Travel / mileage	\$ 1,500.00	Compost Depot / Co-Teachers / SEC: \$0.72 per mi.
Reporting and technical documentation delivery	\$ 2,500.00	Compost Depot: 2 hrs. / mo. at \$100 per hour (12 months: June '26 - June '27)
Workshop Host Site stipends	\$3,000	Six host sites stipends at \$500 per site for site facilities / time
Total Grant Request	\$45,000	

Assistance Requested - ZWS

Compost Depot will lead collaboration with SEC, SBI, and invites Zero Waste Sonoma to join us in building capacity for on-site compost programming in Sonoma County, with ZWS support:

- Share logo/branding and promotion requirements
- Collaborate on ZWS / SB 1087 + SB 279 messaging in promotional media / curriculum
- Promote on-site compost + soil health workshops using Zero Waste Sonoma channels
- ZWS will be invited to support a mid project review
- Highlight final report data and media in future on-site compost education

Dated: June 18, 2026

RESOLUTION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY (“SCWMA”), ALSO KNOWN AS ZERO WASTE SONOMA, (“ZWS”) AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL, ON-SITE COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS WITH THE COMPOST DEPOT “CONTRACTOR.”

WHEREAS, the ZWS board approved the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Provide Technical, On-Site Composting Workshops in Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, encouraging more local small to mid-scale composting operations would help orchards, vineyards, schools, community gardens, and/or other crop farmers reduce costs, increase local nutrient cycling, and increase community resiliency; and

WHEREAS, Contractor represents to ZWS that it is a duly qualified organization experienced in providing technical, on-site composting workshops; and

WHEREAS, in the judgement of the Board of ZWS, it is necessary and desirable to employ the services of Contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Zero Waste Sonoma does hereby authorize ZWS’s Executive Director to execute the Agreement to Provide Technical On-Site Composting Workshops with The Compost Depot from June 19, 2026 to June 1, 2027.

MEMBERS:

-- 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: June 18, 2026

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



Agenda Item #: 8
Cost Center: Education
Staff Contact: Pagal
Agenda Date: 06/18/26
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Informational Presentation from CRV Operators Regarding Recent Program Changes in Sonoma County

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board receive an informational presentation from representatives of United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay (UCPNB) and from Our Planet Recycling regarding recent and anticipated changes to California Redemption Value (CRV) collection services and recycling center operations in Sonoma County and provide comments or feedback as appropriate.

II. BACKGROUND

California's Beverage Container Recycling Program, administered by CalRecycle, provides consumers with California Redemption Value (CRV) refunds for eligible beverage containers. Historically, residents have accessed redemption opportunities through a network of certified recycling centers and retail redemption locations.

In recent years, California has enacted significant changes to the Beverage Container Recycling Program through legislation intended to expand consumer access to redemption opportunities, improve collection infrastructure, and increase beverage container recovery rates. These changes have altered the operating environment for recycling centers and organizations involved in CRV collection.

ZWS partnered with UCPNB in 2021 on an application for a pilot grant from CalRecycle which added four new weigh-and-pay CRV recycling locations in Sonoma County, which are open on varying days and hours throughout the week. That program plan included a transition from staffed locations to automated drop-off that could be open extended days and times. As that initial grant has closed, UCPNB has been awarded additional Recycling Innovation Grant (RIG) from CalRecycle to cover costs for the new Recycletek Drop+Go Pods, which have now replaced staffed sites in Healdsburg, Windsor, Sebastopol, and Rohnert Park. UCPNB also operates the Petaluma Recycling Center, established in 1974, while also supporting workforce development and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Separately, Our Planet Recycling (OPR) has provided CRV collection and recycling services within San Francisco for over ten years. Over the past several months, OPR began operating mobile BottleBank sites in Santa Rosa, Gualala, and other North Bay locations.

As state regulations and program requirements continue to evolve, local operators are adapting their collection systems, facility operations, and service offerings to meet changing program expectations and community needs.

III. DISCUSSION

Representatives from United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay and Our Planet Recycling will provide an overview of current CRV collection operations in Sonoma County and discuss recent changes affecting the beverage container recycling system.

The presentation will cover:

- Current CRV collection and redemption services available to Sonoma County residents.
- Recent state policy and programmatic changes affecting certified recycling centers and redemption opportunities.
- Operational adjustments being implemented by UCPNB and Our Planet Recycling.
- Efforts to improve convenience, accessibility, and customer service for residents redeeming CRV containers.
- Opportunities and challenges associated with maintaining and expanding redemption infrastructure within Sonoma County.
- Potential implications for local jurisdictions, residents, and regional waste diversion and recycling goals.
- Future plans and anticipated developments related to CRV collection and recycling operations.

This item is provided for informational purposes only. No action is requested of the Board beyond receiving the presentation and providing feedback or direction, as appropriate.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact. Any future programmatic partnerships, funding requests, or operational agreements resulting from the topics discussed would be presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting, if necessary.

V. ATTACHMENTS

None