SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 19, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

Regular Session will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Estimated Ending Time 11:30 a.m.

Zero Waste Sonoma Board Chambers
195 Concourse Blvd., Suite B
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

November 19, 2026

REGULAR MEETING
Regular Session will begin at 9:00 a.m.

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Note: This packet is 44 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, November 18th. 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 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

4.2 October, November, and December 2026 Outreach Calendar

Regular Calendar

5. Gold Resolution Recognizing Courtney Scott's Ten Years of Service to ZWS [Lukacs]

6. Annual Presentation of Waste Activities by Republic Services [Lukacs]

7. Construction and Demolition Diversion Program Support [Lukacs]

8. Sona Trial Results and Request for Implementation [Lukacs/Jyothiswaran]

9. Boardmember Comments – NO ACTION

10. Executive Director Report – VERBAL REPORT

11. Staff Comments – NO ACTION

12. Next ZWS meeting: December 17, 2026

13. 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 195 Concourse Blvd, Suite B, 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 19, 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.

4.1 Minutes of the October 15, 2026 Meeting
4.2 October, November, and December 2026 Outreach Calendar

5. Gold Resolution Recognizing Courtney Scott's Ten Years of Service to ZWS.
Courtney Scott was hired by the agency on October 3, 2016 as a Waste Management Specialist II. Throughout her ten years with ZWS, Courtney has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail. Her technical expertise, strong project management skills, and excellent oversight of Agency contractors have been instrumental in the success of ZWS's HHW programs.
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board join staff in recognizing ten years of service to Zero Waste Sonoma by Courtney Scott, HHW Program Manager.

6. Annual Presentation of Waste Activities by Republic Services.
Republic Services began operating Sonoma County's solid waste facilities on April 1, 2015, pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the County of Sonoma. Section 11.9 of the MOA requires Republic to submit an annual report to the County and present its progress toward the goals established in the agreement, including waste diversion, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, and implementation of new activities and programs. Republic also provides the Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) Board with an informational update on its annual activities and performance.
Staff Recommendation: The Board receives this informational presentation

7. Construction and Demolition Diversion Program Support
ZWS supports its member jurisdictions in implementing construction and demolition (C&D) diversion requirements through public outreach, a directory of local recycling and reuse resources, and development of a model Construction, Deconstruction, and Demolition Ordinance. To further support these efforts, the County of Sonoma has funded a project and contracted with R3 Consulting Group, Inc. to assist all ZWS member jurisdictions in evaluating and improving their existing C&D diversion programs.
Staff Recommendation: Receive an informational presentation on County of Sonoma's support for Member Agency Construction and Demolition Diversion Programs.

8. Sona Trial Results and Request for Implementation
Staff developed Sona in March 2026 and conducted a 100-day public trial from April 16 through July 24 with Board approval. Sona has been offline since July 24 and the baseline usage data results have been analyzed.
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Director to implement Sona, a chatbot using CustomGPT.ai at the Premium plan rate.

Agenda Item #: 4.1

Minutes of October 15, 2026 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on October 15, 2026, at the Zero Waste Sonoma Board Room, 195 Concourse Blvd., Suite B, 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 – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

Staff Present:

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

1. Call to Order

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

Introductions

Andrés Marquez arrived at 9:16 a.m.

2. Agenda Approval

Motion: To approve the agenda.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey
Second: City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – ABSENT
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 – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-
Motion passed.

3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

- None

4. **Consent** (w/attachments)

4.1 Minutes of the August 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
4.2 August, September, October, and November 2026 Outreach Calendar
4.3 Fourth Amendment to E-Waste Handling Agreement with Recology Sonoma Marin

Board Comments:

- None

Public Comments:

- None

Motion: To approve the consent calendar.

First: City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer
Second: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale – ABSENT
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 – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

AYES -9- NOES -0- ABSENT -1- ABSTAIN -0-
Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. **Award of Construction Manager at Risk Contract to Swinerton Builders for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 5885 Pruitt Avenue, Windsor and Budget Adjustment [Lukacs]**

Board Discussion:

- Thank you for the presentation. Our past experience with Swinerton has been positive.
- Is the timeline accelerated because the building has already been constructed? If so, how does this affect the permitting process?
- Is the overall project cost lower due to the reduced number of subcontractors?
- What was the original cost estimate for the entire project?
- Given continued price increases, how do we plan to mitigate the risk of exceeding the budget?
- Do you anticipate that this project could result in increased fees for Sonoma County residents?
- Does the solar feasibility summary accurately reflect the projected costs and benefits?
- How long will the federal depreciation incentives remain available?
- Why is solar identified as a project risk?
- If solar is included in the project, would it be installed on both the canopy and the main structure? What is the reason for that approach?
- Thank you for putting together such a thoughtful and informative presentation.

- The resolution does not currently include the contingency. I would like to see the contingency included if the project is authorized today.
- It is exciting to see construction moving forward.

Public Comments:
- None

Motion: Award a contract a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Agreement with Swinerton Builders (Swinerton) for preconstruction services, in the amount of $406,198, for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility Project located at 5885 Pruitt Avenue in Windsor; and delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute the contract and any other related or required documents; and Authorize a contingency up to 10%, in the amount of $40,620, for a total value of $446,818. With the amendment to the resolution to include the contingency fund.

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 – Dianna MacDonald
City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Glenn Morelli
Town of Windsor – JB Leep

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-
Motion passed.

6. 2025–26 State Legislative Update [Lukacs]

Board Discussion:
- Thank you for the effort put into summarizing these updates.
- Regarding SB 501, is the expectation that larger retailers would be responsible for accepting the return of larger batteries?
- What is the background behind the proposed restrictions on nitrous oxide canisters? Would whipped cream dispensers still be permitted?
- There is concern that nitrous oxide canisters are being marketed to and targeted at children. What measures are being considered to address this issue?
- The marketing of tobacco vapes to children is particularly concerning. What role could local jurisdictions play in addressing this issue?
- How is enforcement being handled to prevent the illegal sale of these products?
- Regarding vape batteries, how would enforcement requirements apply to online retailers?
- What is the latest update on the marine flare bill?

Public Comments:
- None

7. Boardmember Comments:

- Cloverdale Grange community hub and thrift store is thriving with items for reuse. Unfortunately, people are starting to abuse the donations and drop off items without permission as well as taking frustrations out on volunteer staff. We are working on mitigating this.
- Sonoma has many events happening during Zero Waste Week.
- The Rohnert Park Reuse and Repair will be held on October 17th.

8. **Executive Director Report** – VERBAL REPORT

9. **Staff Comments**:

- National Reuse Day is on October 20th.
- Reuse Alliance is launching a new campaign called the Joy of Reuse. More info can be found on reusealliance.org.

10. **Next ZWS meetin**g: November 19, 2026

11. **Adjourn:** 10:11 a.m.

Submitted by: Amber Johnson

DRAFT

Agenda Item #: **4.2**
Agenda Date: **11/19/2026**

ITEM: October, November, December 2026 Outreach Calendar

October 2026 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
10/2/26	10/4/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Windsor E-Waste Recycling Event
10/3/26	10/3/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Windsor Mattress Collection Event
10/3/26	10/3/26	11:00 AM	7:00 PM	Many Moons Festival (Sebastopol)
10/3/26	10/3/26	10:00 AM	3:00 PM	Sonoma Ecology Center Harvest Festival
10/6/26	10/6/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Kenwood)
10/11/26	10/11/26	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	Compost Giveaway Event (Sebastopol)
10/11/26	10/11/26	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	Children's Jamboree & Marketplace (Santa Rosa)
10/13/26	10/13/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Santa Rosa - East)
10/16/26	10/18/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Cloverdale E-Waste Recycling Event
10/17/26	10/17/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Cloverdale Mattress Collection Event
10/17/26	10/17/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Reuse & Repair Fair (Rohnert Park)
10/20/26	10/20/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Guerneville)
10/22/26	10/22/26	3:30 PM	5:30 PM	SRJC Green Living Fair
10/27/26	10/27/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Healdsburg)

November 2026 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
11/3/26	11/3/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Petaluma)
11/10/26	11/10/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Santa Rosa - West)
11/14/26	11/14/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Repair Fair (Santa Rosa)
11/17/26	11/17/26	3:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Cloverdale)
11/20/26	11/22/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Santa Rosa E-Waste Recycling Event
11/21/26	11/21/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Repair Fair (Petaluma)

December 2026 OUTREACH

Start date	End date	Start time	End time	Event
12/1/26	12/1/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Sonoma)
12/5/26	12/5/26	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Repair Fair (Windsor)
12/8/26	12/8/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Windsor)
12/11/26	12/13/26	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	E-Waste Recycling Event (Petaluma)
12/15/26	12/15/26	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	HHW Collection Event (Oakmont)

Agenda Item #: **5**
Staff Contact**:** **Lukacs**
Agenda Date: **11/19/2026**
Approved By: **LL**

ITEM: Gold Resolution Recognizing Ten Years of Service by Courtney Scott

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board join staff in recognizing ten years of service to Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) by Courtney Scott, HHW Program Manager.

II. BACKGROUND

Courtney Scott was hired by the agency on October 3, 2016 as a Waste Management Specialist II. She joined the agency after five years as an Environmental Management Coordinator for San Rafael Fire Department. Over the past decade, Courtney has played an instrumental role in advancing ZWS's household hazardous waste programs, expanding services, developing innovative initiatives, and strengthening the safe and responsible management of hazardous materials throughout Sonoma County.

III. DISCUSSION

Throughout her ten years with ZWS, Courtney has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail. Her technical expertise, strong project management skills, and excellent oversight of Agency contractors have been instrumental in the success of ZWS's HHW programs, which are recognized as some of the best in California.

Courtney has been a driving force behind several significant Agency initiatives. She provided leadership in securing and implementing ZWS's solar panel recycling grant project, helping establish the first program of its kind in California. She also worked with the National Stewardship Action Council and Senator Catherine Blakespear on marine flare extended producer responsibility legislation, helping advance statewide efforts to establish safe and responsible disposal options for expired marine flares.

Most recently, Courtney has played a central leadership role in the development of ZWS's new Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 5885 Pruitt Avenue in Windsor. Her technical knowledge, attention to detail, and coordination with consultants and contractors have been invaluable in advancing this complex capital project.

Courtney's accomplishments have received numerous professional recognitions, including:

- 2020: CalRecycle Renaissance Person Award
- 2020: California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) Outstanding HHW/Universal/Electronic Recycling Program Award
- 2021: California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) Arrow Award for Associate of the Year
- 2024: North Bay Business Journal Forty Under 40
- 2024: North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) Best New Program Award for the solar panel recycling pilot program

Beyond her accomplishments at ZWS, Courtney is highly respected throughout the hazardous waste and recycling industry. She is a fellow of the Leadership Institute for Just and Resilient Communities, serves on the Board of the Pacific Chapter of the National Hazardous Materials Management Association and is a technical adviser to the California Resource Recovery Association's HHW Technical Council. She has delivered more than 25 presentations at conferences and professional events nationwide, sharing her expertise and helping advance best practices across the industry.

Equally important, Courtney is a highly regarded and valued colleague who brings strong professional judgment, offers candid and thoughtful perspectives, and consistently advocates for the best interests of ZWS. Her dedication, integrity, and commitment to the Agency have earned her the respect and appreciation of her coworkers.

Courtney is an invaluable member of the ZWS team. Her leadership, commitment to excellence, and contributions over the past decade have been instrumental in establishing ZWS as a statewide leader in household hazardous waste management. The Agency is proud to recognize her ten years of outstanding service and the lasting impact she has made on our organization and the communities we serve.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

This is informational only. There is no funding impact.

V. ATTACHMENTS

2026-01 Gold Resolution

Gold Resolution

Resolution No.: 2026-01
Dated: November 19, 2026

RESOLUTION OF ZERO WASTE SONOMA
RECOGNIZING COURTNEY SCOTT FOR TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS, Courtney Scott joined the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, also known as Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS), on October 3, 2016, as a Waste Management Specialist II; and

WHEREAS, throughout her ten years of service, Ms. Scott has demonstrated exceptional dedication, professionalism, technical expertise, and commitment to the Agency's mission of protecting public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott has provided outstanding leadership in developing, managing, and expanding the Agency's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs, helping establish ZWS's programs among the most respected and successful in California; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott demonstrated exceptional initiative and leadership in securing and implementing the Agency's solar panel recycling grant project, establishing a first-of-its-kind program in California and expanding opportunities for the safe and responsible recycling of solar panels; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott worked with the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) and Senator Catherine Blakespear to advance marine flare extended producer responsibility legislation, helping establish a framework for the safe and responsible management of expired marine flares; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott has played a central leadership role in the planning and development of the Agency's new Household Hazardous Waste Facility on Pruitt Avenue in Windsor, bringing exceptional technical knowledge, project management skills, and attention to detail to this significant capital project; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott's excellent oversight of Agency contractors, commitment to accountability, and consistently high standards have been instrumental in ensuring the quality, effectiveness, and continued success of ZWS's HHW programs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott is a Fellow of the Leadership Institute for Just and Resilient Communities, serves as a board member of the Pacific Chapter of the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA), and serves as a technical adviser to the California Resource Recovery Association's HHW Technical Council; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott's outstanding professional accomplishments have been recognized through numerous awards, including the 2020 CalRecycle Renaissance Person Award, the 2020 California Resource Recovery Association Outstanding HHW/Universal/Electronic Recycling Program Award, the 2021 California Product Stewardship Council Arrow Award for Associate of the Year, and the 2024 NAHMMA Best New Program Award for the Solar Panel Recycling Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott was also recognized by the North Bay Business Journal as one of its Forty Under 40 honorees in 2024, acknowledging her professional accomplishments and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott has shared her knowledge and expertise through more than 25 presentations at conferences and professional events nationwide, contributing to the advancement of hazardous waste management practices throughout the industry; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott is highly regarded by her colleagues and respected throughout the hazardous waste management industry for her expertise, sound professional judgment, candid perspectives, and unwavering commitment to the best interests of Zero Waste Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Scott's dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence have made her an invaluable member of the ZWS team and have contributed significantly to the Agency's reputation as a statewide leader in household hazardous waste management;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors takes great pleasure in recognizing Courtney Scott for ten years of outstanding service and expresses its sincere gratitude for her exceptional contributions to the Agency and the communities it serves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors extends its deepest appreciation to Courtney for her exceptional leadership, technical expertise, integrity, and steadfast dedication to Zero Waste Sonoma. The Board recognizes that her contributions have been invaluable to the Agency and instrumental in establishing its household hazardous waste programs as models of excellence throughout California. Her lasting impact on the Agency, its staff, and the communities it serves is sincerely appreciated.

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: November 19, 2026

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

ZERO WASTE SONOMA

Agenda Item #: **6**
Cost Center: **All**
Staff Contact**:** **Lukacs**
Agenda Date: **11/19/2026**
Approved by: LL

ITEM: Annual Presentation of Waste Activities by Republic Services

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational and no action is required by the Board at this time.

II. BACKGROUND

Republic Services began operating Sonoma County's solid waste facilities on April 1, 2015, pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the County of Sonoma. Section 11.9 of the MOA requires Republic to submit an annual report to the County and present its progress toward the goals established in the agreement, including waste diversion, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, and implementation of new activities and programs. Republic also provides the Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) Board with an informational update on its annual activities and performance.

III. DISCUSSION

Waste Diversion

For the reporting period of June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026, Republic reported diverting 97,022 tons of material, exceeding the annual diversion goal of 44,735 tons established in the MOA. Total diversion remained relatively consistent with the previous reporting period, when 96,977 tons were diverted.

Approximately 80,175 tons, or 83% of the reported diversion, consisted of soil, earth, dirt, and concrete-related materials managed for beneficial reuse. Central Material Recovery Facility (MRF) diversion totaled 7,712 tons, compared with 8,615 tons in the previous reporting period.
The diversion reporting period differs from the April–March annual reporting period because the MRF began operating in June 2017.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Republic reported total GHG emissions of 86,126 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MTCO_2e$) for calendar year 2025, an increase of 20,690 $MTCO_2e$, or 31.6%, compared with 2024. The increase was primarily attributable to reported landfill methane emissions, which increased from 62,420 $MTCO_2e$ in 2024 to 84,422 $MTCO_2e$ in 2025. Emissions associated with landfill equipment decreased during the same period.

Republic has indicated that improvements in monitoring and data accuracy contributed to the increase in reported emissions. Because landfill GHG emissions are estimated using monitoring data and calculation methodologies, changes in reported emissions may reflect both actual operating conditions and changes in how emissions are measured or calculated. Waste diversion and landfill GHG emissions are also measured differently and are not directly correlated. For

example, diversion of materials such as soil contributes to overall diversion totals but does not necessarily reduce landfill gas generation.

SB 1383 Organics Processing

Republic completed installation of food waste processing equipment in 2025 and began processing material in June 2025. The recovered food waste is transported to a regional anaerobic digestion facility for energy production. Republic reported processing 4,600 tons of food waste in calendar year 2025, compared with 8,504 tons in 2024. Republic continues coordinating with franchise haulers to capture additional food waste streams for processing.

Landfill Capacity and Improvements

As of December 31, 2025, Republic reported approximately 6.06 million cubic yards of remaining landfill airspace, with an estimated remaining landfill life of 13 years based on current waste disposal rates and density assumptions. Recent and ongoing improvements include landfill cell construction, installation of additional gas and leachate extraction wells, and upgrades to the landfill gas collection system.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There is no funding impact associated with receiving this informational update.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Republic Services 2026 Annual Presentation

MOA Annual Presentation

April 2025 – March 2026

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Site Map 2026



Photo 04/2026

Landfill Airspace

As of 12/31/2025

Projected Airspace Volume Consumed		26,590,132.90 Cubic Yards
In Place Waste Density (3-Year Average)		1,438 lb/CY
Remaining Airspace of the Landfill		6,059,867.10 Cubic Yards

Airspace Consumed
(Annual Survey Date 10/16/2024 – 10/28/2025)

- Solid Waste Placed (CY)		530,245 Cubic Yards
- Tonnage Accepted Between Surveys:	MSW	335,167 Tons
	Fire Debris	0 Tons
	Total	335,167 Tons

Landfill Site Life

Density	Remaining Tons	Annual	Remaining Life
1,250	3,787,417	325,000	11.7 years
1,350	4,090,410	325,000	12.6 years
1,450	4,393,404	325,000	13.5 years
1,550	4,696,397	325,000	14.5 years
*Based off of the Joint Technical Documents projection for annual waste tons accepted at the facility.			

1,438	4,357,044	335,167	13 years
Remaining site life based on Republic's Life of Site Model for all tonnage disposed based upon prior 3-year density average including fire debris. Projected remaining tons based solely on MSW, with no anticipated fire events. Accepted site life calculation method for CalRecycle.			

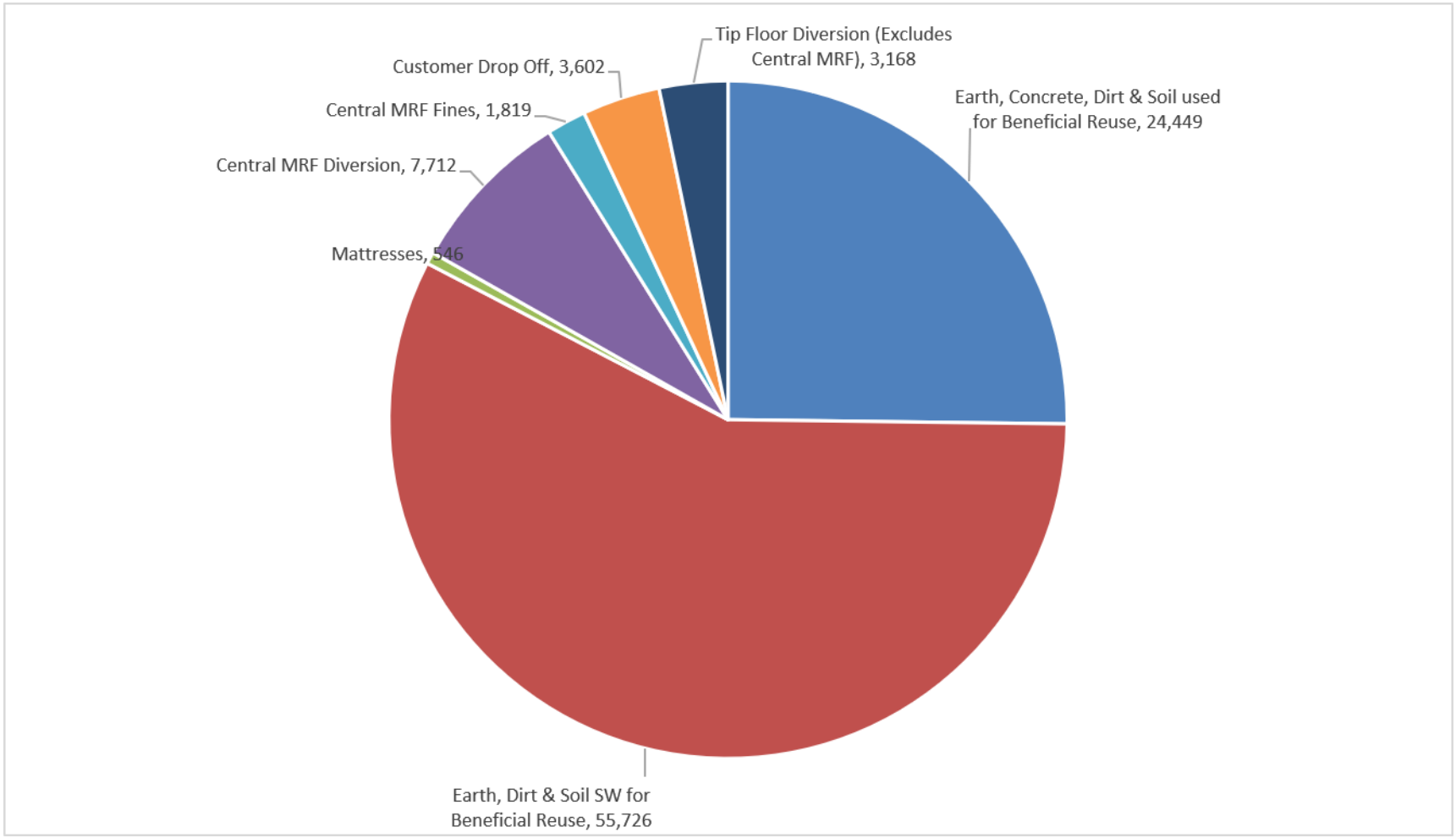
**Density units represented in pounds per cubic yard*

Diversion Analysis

	6/2025-5/2026
Earth, Concrete, Dirt & Soil used for Beneficial Reuse	24,449
Earth, Dirt & Soil SW for Beneficial Reuse	55,726
Mattresses/Carpets	546
Central MRF Diversion	7,712
Central MRF Fines	1,819
Customer Drop Off	3,602
Tip Floor Diversion (Excludes Central MRF)	3,168

Annual Goal	44,735	**Total**	97,022

Diversion Analysis



Diversion Goals

Initiative	Projected	2025-26 Actuals	2024 - 2025 Totals
Central MRF Diversion	8,098 Tons (5% Increase)	7,712 Tons	8,615
Tip Floor Diversion	3,644 Tons (15% Increase)	3,168 Tons	3,086
*All Others	90,450 Tons (5% Increase)	86,142 Tons	85,276
Totals	102,192	97,022	96,977
**Diversion Goal	44,735		

*Includes: Appliances, Soils, E-Waste, Mattresses, Tires, and Treated Wood

**Food waste has been removed from the diversion goal for Republic and included in the contract with Recology

Green House Gas Update

This GHG inventory represents a snapshot of GHG emissions at Central Landfill from 2022 to 2025. LFG-derived GHG emissions would have occurred because of placement of the waste at any landfill facility in the region.

The Site has implemented several programs and projects that directly or indirectly lead to lowered GHG emissions. Waste diverted from disposal at the MRF results in GHG reductions. Though those reductions will be indirect and offsite, the reductions are attributable to development of the MRF. Improved LFG capture could also achieve GHG emission reductions, which could result from improvements to the GCCS and/or cover management practices.

Source	2022	2023	2024	2025
Landfill Methane	62,183	51,608	62,420	84,422
Landfill Equipment	1,977	2,175	3,016	1,704
Total GHG Emissions	64,160	53,783	65,436	86,126
Biogenic CO_2	12,679	10,379	7,844	2,075

All emissions in MTCO2e

Republic Services Confidential

SB 1383 Organics Program Update

- Food Waste Processing equipment construction is completed, processing material as of June 2025.
- Working with franchise haulers to capture additional food waste streams generated in County and process through equipment.
- Material diverted through this program is being processed at an anaerobic digester to produce power regionally.
- Food waste tonnage numbers by calendar year:

- 2021	8,560
- 2022	8,658
- 2023	8,229
- 2024	8,504
- 2025	4,600

New Developments

Central Landfill Improvements 2025

- Completed construction of Cell R-3
- Installed Vertical gas/leachate extraction wells

Transfer Station Improvements 2025

- Food waste processing equipment was installed

Current Year Developments

- Mass Excavation for Phase III Cell Construction
- Construct additional 19 Gas/Leachate Extraction Wells
- Upgraded Gas Header Size (~600 SCFM Increase)

Phase III Excavation (May 2026)



Gas Well Installation (December 2025)

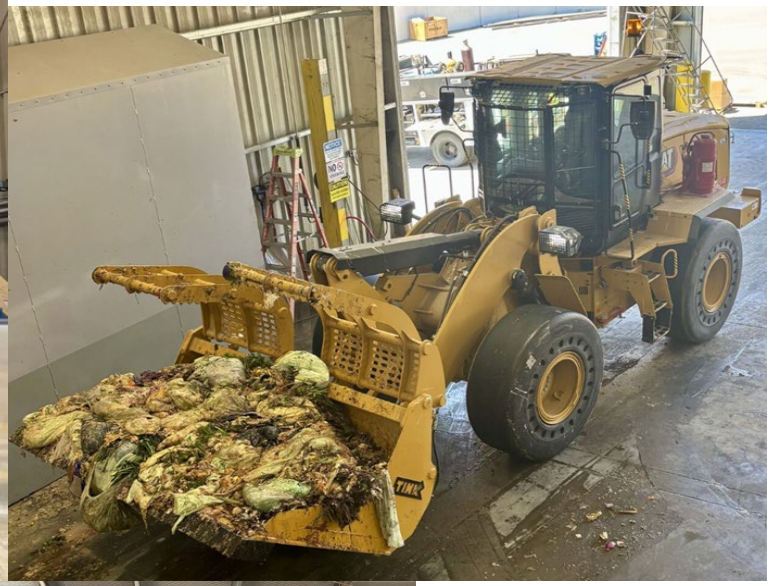


2026 Header Upgrade (January 2026)



Food Waste Processing Equipment (2025)







Landfill Animals (2025)





Agenda Item #: **7**
Staff Contact**:** **Lukacs**
Agenda Date: **11/19/26**
Approved By: **Lukacs**

ITEM: Construction and Demolition Diversion Program Support

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Receive an informational presentation on County of Sonoma's support for Member Agency Construction and Demolition Diversion Programs.

II. BACKGROUND

The California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) is the statewide mandatory green building code which was made mandatory effective January 1, 2011. One of its core provisions targets diversion of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from the landfill. The code required new construction projects to divert a specific amount of nonhazardous C&D debris through recycling, reuse, or salvage. That threshold was increased to 65% beginning January 1, 2017.

Projects covered by the regulation must recycle or salvage at least 65% of nonhazardous C&D waste. Residential coverage extends beyond new buildings to certain additions and alterations. On the nonresidential side, this includes additions of 1,000 square feet or more and alterations above a permit valuation threshold. Nonresidential projects must also generally reuse or recycle 100% of excavated soil and land-clearing debris.

CalRecycle's SB1383 regulations took effect January 1, 2022, which expanded the scope of CALGreen Reporting. Those regulations require every city and county to adopt an enforceable ordinance or similar mechanism requiring compliance with CALGreen's C&D diversion provisions. Additionally, cities and counties need to report the annual number of projects that were conducted in compliance with the CALGreen diversion requirements. Jurisdictions were required to begin enforcement starting in 2024, and CalRecycle can impose penalties on jurisdictions that fail to implement their programs.

III. DISCUSSION

Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) has historically supported its member jurisdictions in implementing construction and demolition (C&D) diversion requirements through public outreach, a directory of local recycling and reuse resources, and development of a model Construction, Deconstruction, and Demolition Ordinance.

Following the 2017 Sonoma County wildfires, PG&E settlement funds were allocated to support member jurisdictions with C&D compliance. These funds were initially intended to provide Green Halo software to assist jurisdictions with tracking C&D diversion and reporting. However, the software has not been fully implemented across ZWS member jurisdictions.

ZWS has recently been prioritizing creating consistent Construction Waste Management Plan (CWMP) forms and messaging for the ZWS member jurisdictions instead of focusing on implementation of Green Halo software at each jurisdiction. ZWS would like to ensure that each

jurisdiction has a compliant CWMP form, knows how to review submitted weight tags and final reports, and has adequate messaging to point permittees and contractors to the appropriate guidance.

To further support these efforts, the County of Sonoma has funded a project and contracted with R3 Consulting Group, Inc. (R3) to assist all ZWS member jurisdictions in evaluating and improving their existing C&D diversion programs. The project is intended to help jurisdictions streamline compliance verification, improve reporting procedures, and establish greater consistency in program implementation. This regional approach will benefit member jurisdictions by providing more consistent requirements and guidance for permit applicants and contractors working across multiple jurisdictions. It will also support jurisdictions in meeting their CALGreen and SB 1383 compliance obligations. ZWS is coordinating with the County and R3 to support the project and facilitate communication with member jurisdictions.

Separately, ZWS has been coordinating with the County on third-party verification of diversion rates at the two in-county C&D recycling facilities, Pacific Sanitation and Central Landfill. Pacific Sanitation has submitted two third-party verification reports, while Central Landfill is completing its verification process this year. Verified facility diversion rates provide important information for jurisdictions evaluating C&D diversion compliance.

The County and R3 will provide an overview of the project, including the assistance available to member jurisdictions and anticipated next steps.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

This item is informational only and has no direct fiscal impact.

V. ATTACHMENTS

N/A

Agenda Item #:	**8**
Cost Center:	**Education**
Staff Contact**:**	**Lukacs/Jyothiswaran**
Agenda Date:	**11/19/26**
Approved By:	LL

ITEM: Sona Trial Results and Request for Implementation

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Director to implement Sona, a chatbot using CustomGPT.ai at the Premium plan rate.

II. BACKGROUND

Staff developed Sona in March 2026 and conducted a 100-day public trial from April 16 through July 24 with Board approval. Sona has been offline since July 24 and the baseline usage data results have been analyzed. In addition, Staff obtained service options and pricing from another commercial chatbot vendor as a comparison and interviewed three agencies using its service: Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment, RecycleSmart, and the City of San Bernardino.

III. DISCUSSION

Trial Results

During the Sona trial, 836 sessions took place and Sona answered 1,256 questions across all 10 member jurisdictions. Residents used Sona at times when Agency offices were closed: about 45 percent of sessions occurred outside business hours, including 203 on weekends. Session logs indicate that approximately 80 percent of sessions with a recorded outcome were completed without referral to Agency staff. When a question needed personal assistance, Sona routed it to the Eco Desk as intended and captured the resident's contact information and topic. Every session is logged automatically and all figures in this report come from logs verified by ZWS and retained by the Agency. Staff will continue reviewing response quality and correcting identified issues as part of ongoing quality assurance.

Eco Desk Volume

Sona provided an additional way for residents to access Agency information, without a measurable reduction in existing Eco Desk contacts during the trial. Eco Desk contacts as mailbox arrivals averaged 4.6 per business day before launch and 4.7 during the trial. The number of sessions outside business hours demonstrates the value of providing information when Agency staff are unavailable. Logged Eco Desk contacts declined from 3,309 in FY 2020–21 to 793 in FY 2025–26, with the decline beginning years before Sona was introduced.

Privacy and Safeguards

Sona is designed to answer from Zero Waste Sonoma content only. It cannot browse the wider internet, provides sources for its answers, and directs questions to the Eco Desk when it cannot answer them. The vendor's data processing agreement states that resident conversations are not used to train any model. Sona asks for a resident's city because collection and hauler rules vary across jurisdictions. It does not ask for names and it collects contact information only when a resident chooses to provide it. The Sona trial used the entry-level service tier which contributed to several of the issues, such as phantom responses, staff has logged the identified issues, tested fixes and is confident the premium plan will address those issues. Before relaunching Sona, staff

will confirm that the platform meets applicable Agency information technology, data privacy, security, and accessibility requirements and address any outstanding issues identified through that review.

What Peer Agencies Taught Us

Staff interviewed three agencies using chat services for addressing waste, recycling, organics, HHW, and reuse questions: Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment, RecycleSmart (Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority), and the City of San Bernardino. Staff also identified examples of chat services in other California communities, including the City of Hayward, Napa Recycling, and the Town of Windsor. The agencies interviewed reported that outcomes depend on how a service is introduced and supported. Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment, which spends about $200,000 annually and has a dedicated marketing manager, reported strong results. RecycleSmart spends $13,200 annually, serving 200,000 residents, and reported strong satisfaction after 18 months. Staff reported that a QR-code magnet mailed to residents was the most frequently used way to access the service and indicated that, in hindsight, they would have launched that sooner. San Bernardino spent about $21,000 per year using grant funding and recorded roughly 900 conversations over three years. It decided not to renew, explaining that the City didn't have the time or resources to oversee the service after the grant.

Build or Buy

The vendor used by other waste management agencies provided ZWS with an annual cost estimate of $15,000 to $20,000 to serve Sonoma County's nine incorporated cities. This estimate did not include the unincorporated County, which would increase the overall cost of providing countywide service. The peer agencies interviewed reported annual costs ranging from $13,200 to $21,000, while Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment reported a substantially higher annual cost. By comparison, Sona on the Premium plan would cost $5,988 per year at the quoted subscription rate and is designed to serve all 10 member jurisdictions. The Agency retains ownership of its Sona content and session logs, subject to the platform's applicable agreement. The managed vendor's higher price reflects additional service and design support and staff weighed those services against the additional cost and staff time needed to operate Sona internally.

Relaunch Plan

Before relaunching Sona, staff will conduct comprehensive testing of the Premium tier to evaluate response accuracy, referrals, and multilingual capabilities. Each program area will review and approve its content, and written operating procedures will be developed to ensure multiple staff members are trained to manage Sona. Staff will also update content to reflect recent website changes. The goal is to relaunch Sona in 2027, contingent upon successful testing and completion of the Agency's security, privacy, and accessibility review. Following relaunch, staff will monitor usage, response quality, Eco Desk referrals, staff time, and operating costs, and provide the Board with an update.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

The original Sona trial was on the standard plan, costing $1,7879 annually. Staff recommends the premium plan costs $499 monthly ($5,988 annually), with a possible annual-payment discount.

V. ATTACHMENT

Sona Trial Results and Implementation

SONA UPDATE

SONA TRIAL RESULTS AND REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION

LESLIE LUKACS AND RAJESH JYOTHISWARAN

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

SONA

A virtual chat for all ten member jurisdictions, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

24/7 Availability

Answers after hours, weekends and holidays, with no hold times.

Jurisdiction Routing

Incorporated city or unincorporated County, routed to the right hauler.

Escalation to Staff

Complex or sensitive questions go to the Eco Desk; Sona answers zero waste only.

Automatic Logging

Every conversation logged automatically: time, city, topic, outcome.

Privacy and safety, unchanged since April

Dedicated Platform

Runs on a dedicated platform using only ZWS-approved content; no web access.

No image processing

Image processing is disabled; residents cannot share photos.

No data sharing or training

Conversation data is not shared with third parties or used to train any model (vendor DPA).

Can be turned off instantly

Sona can be disabled on the ZWS website in minutes.

TRIAL RESULTS AT A GLANCE

100-day trial. The figures are from ZWS-verified session logs, not platform dashboards.

836
public sessions

1,256
questions answered

45%
outside business hours

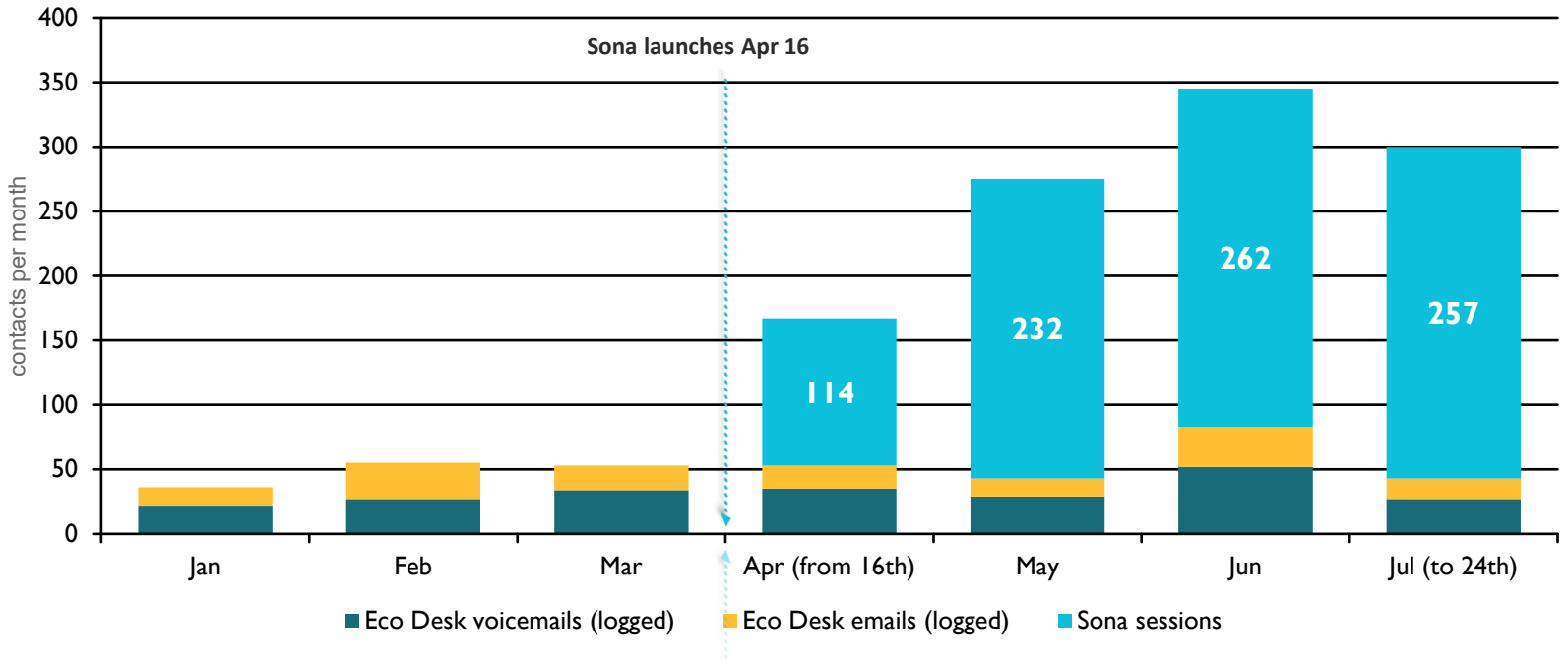
203
weekend sessions

10 of 10
member jurisdictions reached

0
promotion spent

CUSTOMER SERVICE THREE WAYS

Resident contacts per month, 2026. Eco Desk voicemails and emails logged by staff; Sona sessions stacked on top from the April 16 launch.



Eco Desk: contacts logged by staff. Sona: sessions, one conversation each. April and July are partial months for Sona.

Eco Desk held steady
No drop after launch. June, mid-trial, was the busiest month of the year.

Sona added, not substituted
836 sessions in 100 days, around the clock, auto-logged, zero promotion.

Same demand
Top topics on both channels: Recycling, HHW, Organics.

OUTCOMES

8 in 10

Sessions with a recorded outcome were resolved without staff involvement

13%

Escalated to the Eco Desk by design, with contact and topic already captured

WHAT THREE DEPLOYMENTS TAUGHT US

Staff met the commercial vendor, obtained its pricing, and held reference calls with three California agencies that use it.

LA Sanitation

~$200K / yr, 3.9M residents
Dedicated marketing manager, monthly review, multi-channel promotion. Strong results. Most volume from social media and bill inserts, not the widget.

RecycleSmart (JPA)

$13.2K / yr, 200K residents
Weekly spot tests, monthly vendor call. Mailed QR magnet is the most used entry point.

San Bernardino

~$21K / yr, 222K residents
One-person program, tool rarely reviewed; ~900 conversations in 3 years. Grant funding ended. Not renewing due to bandwidth.

BUILD OR BUY: WHY STAFF RECOMMENDS IN-HOUSE

Cost

$5,988 / yr on Premium
versus $15K to $20K quoted for the nine cities alone. Sona serves all ten jurisdictions, including the unincorporated County the quote leaves out.

Control

ZWS content only, by design
More safeguards in the premium plan to use only ZWS's information rather than drawing answers from the broader internet.

Durability

Stays with the Agency
Knowledge base, routing, and logs are ZWS property, independent of any contract or grant cycle.
Able to respond in 92+ languages.

SONA'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Sona's footprint is minimal: and its mission impact is significant.

5.5 mi

Annual carbon footprint, actual volume

$5,988

Annual premium plan price

Equity

Increased accessibility for non-English speakers

PATH FORWARD

Relaunch plan before Sona returns:

- Content refresh for website updates
- Subscribe to the premium plan
- Content sign-off by each program area
- Written procedures on operations and staff training
- Live in early 2027 and promoted through ZWS channels

Questions?