



Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 18, 2019
REGULAR MEETING

Regular Session begins at 8:30 a.m.
Estimated Ending Time 10:30 a.m.

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

Meeting Agenda and Documents

SONOMA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 18, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

Regular Session begins at 8:30 a.m.

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Note: This packet is 81 pages total



Zero Waste Sonoma

Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 18, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

Regular Session begins at 8:30 a.m.

Estimated Ending Time 11:00 a.m.

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

Agenda (Revised)

Item

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

Consent (w/attachments)

- 4.1 Minutes of the Aug 21, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 4.2 August, September, and October 2019 Outreach Calendar
- 4.3 Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Year End Financial Report
- 4.4 Correspondence

Regular Calendar

5. LTF Permitting Issues [Lukacs]
6. Compostable Products Report [Tan]
7. Boardmember Comments – NO ACTION



8. Executive Director Report – Verbal Update
9. Staff Comments – NO ACTION
10. Next SCWMA meeting: October 16, 2019
11. Adjourn

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, 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 Sonoma County Waste Management Agency Office at 2300 County Center Drive, Suite B100, Santa Rosa, (707) 565-3579, 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 at The Board of Supervisors, 575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, and at the meeting site the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa. It is also available on the internet at www.zerowastesonoma.gov



Date: September 13, 2019
To: Zero Waste Sonoma Board Members
From: Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Subject: **Summary Report for the SCWMA Board Meeting of August 21, 2019**

Closed Session: There were no reportable action in Closed Session.

Consent Calendar: All Items listed below were approved.

- 4.1 Minutes of the June 15, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 4.2 July, August and September 2019 Outreach Calendar
- 4.3 Correspondence

Regular Calendar

5. Update on Negotiations with Renewable Sonoma; Request for Formation of Ad Hoc Subcommittee of Board for the Organic Materials Processing Project Update

Ethan Walsh, Zero Waste Sonoma's (ZWS) lawyer, provided an update on negotiations with Renewable Sonoma. It was requested to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of Board Members for the Organic Materials Processing Project Update. The motion for an Ad Hoc Subcommittee was approved and the committee members include Patrick Carter, City of Petaluma; Susan Gorin, County of Sonoma; Susan Harvey, City of Cotati; Larry Zimmer, City of Healdsburg.

6. Compostable Products Report: Removed from Agenda

7. Discussion of Draft Template Agreement Regarding the Adoption of the Model Polystyrene Ordinance

The ZWS Board discussed a draft agreement and provided feedback to Agency Counsel and staff. Board members whose member agencies plan to adopt the model polystyrene ordinance may refer the draft agreement to their City Attorney/County Counsel offices for consideration. The template agreement consists of a base agreement that could be entered into by any member that adopts the model ordinance, and provides that the Agency will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the member against any claims or lawsuits that challenge the validity of the Polystyrene Ordinance, including challenges made pursuant to CEQA. The template agreement also includes highlighted language that would only be included in the event that the member wants the Agency to take responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the Polystyrene Ordinance.



To: Zero Waste Sonoma Board Members
From: Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director
Subject: September 18, 2019 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 June 19, 2019 Regular Meeting:** regular acceptance.
- 4.2 **July, August, and September 2019 Outreach Calendar:** This item provides an update on outreach events since the last meeting and upcoming outreach events. No action is required.
- 4.3 **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Year End Financial Report:** Quarterly reports are required by the SCWMA's Joint Exercise of Powers agreement. This report covers the entire FY 2018-19. The net result was a surplus of \$310,398 for the fiscal year. **Staff recommends approving the FY 2018-19 Year-End Financial Report on the Consent Calendar.**
- 4.4 **Correspondence**

Regular Calendar

5 **LTF Permitting Presentation:** In August of 2018, the Sonoma County Local Task Force (LTF) on Integrated Waste Management took action to form an Ad Hoc subcommittee referred to as the LTF Permitting Issues Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee was to identify barriers and impediments within the land use, regulatory, and other permitting processes which impact the timely and successful development of recycling, organics and other solid waste processing and/or end market infrastructure. A presentation of the Subcommittee's findings will be given.

6 **Compostable Products Report:** In August 2018, the Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) Board requested an analysis into the feasibility of accepting compostable food service ware in the new proposed compost facility as an alternative to single-use plastic products. In response, the Zero Waste Task Force created the Compostable Products Committee and tasked them to investigate the issue. Over the past year, the Committee researched other composting facilities in California and around the country where compostable bio-plastic products are accepted, spoke to industry experts, reviewed research papers, and produced three potential options for the ZWS board to consider:

- Only Unlined Fiber Products Accepted
- Single-stream; All BPI-certified Compostable Food Service Ware Accepted
- Dual-Stream; All BPI-certified Compostable Food Service Ware Accepted

Staff recommends to proceed with composting facility contract negotiations where the only materials accepted are food scraps, yard debris, and unlined fiber products containing no bioplastics.



Minutes of the August 21, 2019 Meeting

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency met on August 21, 2019, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, California.

Board Members Present:

City of Cloverdale	Marta Cruz	City of Santa Rosa	John Sawyer
City of Cotati	Susan Harvey	City of Sebastopol	Henry Mikus
City of Healdsburg	Larry Zimmer	City of Sonoma	Madolyn Agrimonti
City of Petaluma	Patrick Carter	County of Sonoma	Susan Gorin
City of Rohnert Park	Pam Stafford	Town of Windsor	Bruce Okrepkie

Staff Present:

Executive Director: Leslie Lukacs

Counsel: Ethan Walsh

Staff: Thora Collard, Courtney Scott, Xinci Tan, Bonnie Betts

Agency Clerk: Janel Perry

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting

Closed session was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Closed Session:

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: Executive Director

3. Adjourn Closed Session at 8:58 a.m.

Call to Order Regular Meeting

Regular meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Introductions

There were no reportable actions.

4. Agenda Approval

Item #6 is pulled from agenda.

5. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

Pat Mitchell-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Barbara Donahue-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Adele Landus-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Pedro Mirenas-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Greg Eicher-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Yvonne St. Clair-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Yanz Culberg-encourages board to look at other sites inside city limits.

Stacy Burrows-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Bill Sinclair-against Llano Road compost facility proposal.

Consent (w/attachments)

4.1 Minutes of the June 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

4.2 July, August, and September 2019 Outreach Calendar

Public Comments:

None.

Motion: For approval of all items on the consent calendar except 4.1 minutes.

First: City of Cotati-Susan Harvey

Second: City of Sebastopol-Henry Mikus

Vote Count:

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

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

Motion passed.

Motion: For approval of item 4.2 on the consent calendar.

First: City of Cotati-Susan Harvey

Second: City of Sebastopol-Henry Mikus

Vote Count:

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

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Update on Negotiations with Renewable Sonoma; Request for Formation of Ad Hoc Subcommittee of Board for the Organic Materials Processing Project Update [Walsh]

Public Comments:

Martin Mileck-Update on Cold Creek Compost operations and expansions

Allen Tose, Stage Gulch Organics- against Llano Road compost facility location

Pat Mitchell- against Llano Road compost facility location

Walker Ave. resident- against Llano Road compost facility location
Stage Gulch resident-against Stage Gulch Road location
Margaret Culburg-against Stage Gulch Road location

Motion: For approval of formation of Ad Hoc Subcommittee of Board for the Organic Materials Processing Project to include Patrick Carter, City of Petaluma; Susan Gorin, County of Sonoma; Susan Harvey, City of Cotati; Larry Zimmer, City of Healdsburg.

First: City of Santa Rosa – John Sawyer

Second: City of Sebastopol – Henry Mikus

Vote Count:

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

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

6. Compostable Products Report [Tan] – **Removed from Agenda**
7. Discussion of Draft Template Agreement Regarding the Adoption of the Model Polystyrene Ordinance [Walsh]

Informational only. No action.

Public Comments:
None
8. **Boardmember Comments** – NO ACTION
Comments were received by chair from various board members.
9. **Executive Director Report** –NO ACTION
Executive Director gave verbal report.
10. **Staff Comments** – NO ACTION
None.
11. **Next SCWMA meeting:** September 18, 2019
12. **Adjourn at 10:38 a.m.**

Submitted by: Janel Perry



Agenda Item #: **4.2**
 Agenda Date: **9/18/2019**

ITEM: August, September, October 2019 Outreach Calendar

AUGUST 2019 OUTREACH EVENTS

Start date	End date (multiple day only)	Start time	End time	Event	Jurisdiction
8/1/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/2/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/3/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/4/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/5/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/6/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/6/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Sebastopol)	Sebastopol
8/6/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	ReFuel Your Fun Propane Exchange Event	Sebastopol
8/7/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/7/19		4:00 PM	8:30 PM	Wednesday Night Market Recology Sustainability Village	Santa Rosa
8/7/19		8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Healdsburg Labor Center presentation	Healdsburg
8/7/19		9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Fulton Labor Center presentation	Unincorporated area
8/8/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/9/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/10/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa
8/10/19		10:00 AM	2:00 PM	Mochilazo at Bayer Farm	Santa Rosa
8/10/19		10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Back to School Health Fair	Sonoma
8/10/19	8/11/19	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	E-Waste Event (Oakmont)	Santa Rosa
8/10/19		3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair Compost/Worms Presentation	Santa Rosa
8/11/19		11:00 AM	10:00 PM	Sonoma County Fair	Santa Rosa

8/13/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Windsor)	Windsor
8/13/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	ReFuel Your Fun Propane Exchange Event	Windsor
8/14/19		6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Welcome Back to School	Sonoma
8/16/19	8/17/19	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	HazMobile Event (Sea Ranch)	Unincorporated area
8/20/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Oakmont)	Santa Rosa
8/27/19	8/28/19	4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Sonoma)	Sonoma

SEPTEMBER 2019 OUTREACH EVENTS

Start date	End date (multiple day only)	Start time	End time	Event	Jurisdiction
9/3/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Petaluma)	Petaluma
9/7/19		10:00 AM	3:00 PM	25th Annual Cloverdale Car and Motorcycle Show	Cloverdale
9/8/19		10:00 AM	3:00 PM	Sonoma Ready Day	Santa Rosa
9/10/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Santa Rosa, West)	Santa Rosa
9/10/19	9/12/19	9:00 AM	3:00 PM	Heirloom Exposition Compost Critters Hands On Table	Santa Rosa
9/11/19		8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Healdsburg Labor Center presentation	Healdsburg
9/11/19		9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Fulton Labor Center presentation	Unincorporated area
9/12/19		7:30 AM	11:30 AM	Santa Rosa DMV	Santa Rosa
9/13/19	9/15/19	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	E-Waste Event (Rohnert Park)	Rohnert Park
9/13/19	9/15/19	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Mattress Collection Event	Rohnert Park
9/14/19		12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Mexican Independence Day at KBBF Radio	Santa Rosa
9/15/19		1:00 PM	7:00 PM	Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Luther Burbank Center	Santa Rosa
9/17/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Healdsburg)	Healdsburg
9/18/19		7:30 AM	11:30 AM	Petaluma DMV	Petaluma
9/20/19		7:30 AM	11:30 AM	Santa Rosa DMV	Santa Rosa
9/21/19		2:00 PM	8:00 PM	11th Annual South Park Day & Festival	Santa Rosa
9/24/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Kenwood)	Unincorporated area

9/25/19	9/26/19	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	Westside School Compost/Worms Presentation	Healdsburg
9/28/19		9:00 AM	2:00 PM	Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Family Safety Fair	Healdsburg
9/28/19		11:00 AM	6:00 PM	First Anual Latino Event of Rohnert Park	Rohnert Park
9/28/19		9:00 AM	5:00 PM	Roseland Harvest Festival	Santa Rosa
9/28/19		10:30 AM	12:30 PM	Compost Workshop Sonoma Garden Park	Sonoma

OCTOBER 2019 OUTREACH EVENTS

Start date	End date (multiple day only)	Start time	End time	Event	Jurisdiction
10/1/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Larkfield)	Unincorporated area
10/4/19	10/6/19	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	E-Waste Event (Windsor)	Windsor
10/6/19		12:00 PM	4:00 PM	Dia de los Muertos Petaluma and Binational Health Week	Petaluma
10/8/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Forestville)	Unincorporated area
10/10/19		4:00 PM	7:00 PM	Healdsburg Business Showcase & Community Resource Fair	Healdsburg
10/13/19		10:00 AM	1:00 PM	Binatinal Health Fair (Resurrection Catholic Church)	Santa Rosa
10/15/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Cloverdale)	Cloverdale
10/16/19		8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Healdsburg Labor Center presentation	Healdsburg
10/16/19		9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Fulton Labor Center presentation	Unincorporated area
10/17/19		9:00 AM	1:00 PM	Procter Terrace School Compost Presentation	Santa Rosa
10/20/19		1:00 PM	4:00 PM	Health & Wellness Fair Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Windsor
10/21/19		6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Compost Workshop Santa Rosa Water	Santa Rosa
10/22/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Santa Rosa, East)	Santa Rosa
10/24/19		9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Procter Terrace School Compost Presentation	Santa Rosa
10/26/19		10:00 AM	2:00 PM	DEA National Drug Take-Back Day	TBD
10/29/19		4:00 PM	8:00 PM	Household Hazardous Waste Event (Cotati)	Cotati
10/29/19		9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Avance Program Presentation to Parents	Sonoma
10/31/19		9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Avance Program Presentation to Parents	Sonoma



Agenda Item #: 4.3
Cost Center: All
Staff Contact: Collard
Agenda Date: 9/18/2019
Approved by: LL

ITEM: Fiscal Year 2018-19 Year End Financial Report

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approving the FY 2018-19 Year-End Financial Report on the Consent Calendar.

II. BACKGROUND

The Joint Powers Authority agreement requires the Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS) Board of Directors receive quarterly financial reports. This report contains information about SCWMA operations, all receipts to, and disbursements from, the ZWS for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

III. DISCUSSION

This report, using information from the County accounting system (EFS) for revenues and expenditures, contains the actual amounts spent or received to date, accounts payable and receivable, the approved budget and the difference between the approved budget and the actual revenues/expenditures.

Included in this financial report are accounts payable and accounts receivable. Accounts payable are invoices that are expected to be paid after the close of the fiscal year for services received prior to June 30, 2019, the end of the fiscal year. Accounts receivable are revenues anticipated for work and/or services performed by ZWS prior to the end of the fiscal year. By including the accounts payable and receivable as well as the reserve balances, this report serves as a year-end financial statement.

Revenues

1. The State Other Funding account consists of grant funding once it has been released from a subsidiary account in EFS. All of ZWS grant awards are first placed into subsidiary accounts. When the planned and approved work has been completed, a release request is sent to the Auditor/Controller office for processing. Until the processing is complete, the State Other Funding account for those grant activities is considered unearned revenue. The remaining balance of \$11,757 will be realized in the new fiscal year.
2. County of Sonoma tipping fee revenues were \$831,152 more than budgeted this year due to increased tipping fee and organics processing fees. The increased organics revenue (\$585,517) was used to offset increased organics hauling costs.
3. Interest on Pooled Cash TPW has decreased the timeframe in which revenue disbursements were made to the agency creating more interest revenue being recognized (\$106,431 over budget).
4. Unrealized Gains and Losses related to adjustments made by the Treasury (\$88,779), which maintains ZWS's funds. Accounting practices under which the County and ZWS function (GASB

31) require the Sonoma County Treasury to adjust the fund balances on an annual basis depending on the market value of each fund, as calculated by the Treasury. Historically, the adjustments were listed in the notes of the financial statements of the Treasury, but were also listed as findings in their annual audits. The decision was made by the Treasury to include the adjustments through normal operations instead of as notes in the financial statements.

5. Donations/Contributions was under budget by \$102,063 due to the change in the E-waste recycling market.
6. Prior Year Revenue was an outstanding receivable from TPW for green waste tipping fees from September 2015. This amount was discovered in a prior year audit.
7. Residual Equity Transfers were the transfer of all reserve funds from the closed accounts when we consolidated Wood Waste, Yard Waste and the HHW Reserve accounts (78101, 78102, 78105, 78106, 78107, 78107).

Expenditures

1. Administration Services is the cost of SCWMA staff. We experienced multiple position vacancies throughout the fiscal year, resulting in a savings of \$163,000.
2. Maintenance – Bldg/Improvements is a new line item for budgeting. In prior years, the HHW facility maintenance was lumped in with labor and disposal costs. In order to give more transparency to the budget, we moved maintenance to a separate line.
3. Outside Counsel – Legal Advice is over budget in Education and Outreach and Contingency due to the lengthy Executive Director recruitment process and increase level of support needed for fiscal year 18/19.
4. Rents and Leases –Bldg/Land the original budget included a buffer for any emergency HHW collection events that may be needed as a result of natural disasters.
5. Other Contract Services was originally budgeted at \$6,416,520, but in June 2019 the Board approved a budget adjustment to increase expenditures to account for the increased organics hauling costs.
6. County Service Charges was under budget \$32,878. The original cost plan allocation from TPW was anticipated to be higher.
7. Office Supplies were over budget in Organics (\$3,417) due to the unanticipated cost related to business mailing outreach for AB1826. Education and Outreach was over budget (\$4,658) due to the need for an additional cubicle for our new staff member.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

In summary, the SCWMA received \$8,348,736 in revenue (when the residual equity transfers are backed out), which was \$947,990 more than budgeted. We incurred \$8,038,339 of expenditures (\$173,428 over our originally adopted budget), but after the budget adjustment in June resulted in a net surplus to the SCWMA for FY 2017-18 was \$310,398.

V. ATTACHMENTS

FY 2018-19 Year End Financial Report

66110000 SCWMA - Summary

Department / Account Description		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
42358	State Other Funding	315,443.00	315,443.00	303,686.42	11,756.58	3.73%
42601	County of Sonoma	6,718,229.00	6,718,229.00	7,549,381.34	(831,152.34)	-12.37%
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	47,606.00	45,706.00	152,136.82	(106,430.82)	-232.86%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	88,778.52	(88,778.52)	0.00%
46029	Donations/Contributions	321,369.00	321,369.00	219,305.15	102,063.85	31.76%
46050	Cancelled/Stale Dated Warrants	0.00	0.00	5,757.00	(5,757.00)	0.00%
46200	PY Revenue - Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	28,993.93	(28,993.93)	0.00%
46210	Refunds	0.00	0.00	697.60	(697.60)	0.00%
48004	Residual Equity Transfers	0.00	0.00	3,660,875.52	(3,660,875.52)	0.00%
All Revenues		7,402,647.00	7,400,747.00	12,009,612.30	(4,608,865.30)	-62.28%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
51041	Insurance - Liability	12,000.00	12,000.00	10,439.97	1,560.03	13.00%
51071	Maintenance - Bldg & Improve	0.00	0.00	14,281.00	(14,281.00)	0.00%
51201	Administration Services	954,730.00	954,730.00	791,724.60	163,005.40	17.07%
51205	Advertising/Marketing Svc	13,000.00	21,000.00	19,135.69	1,864.31	8.88%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,939.45	(939.45)	-4.27%
51207	Client Accounting Services	15,214.00	15,215.00	12,979.39	2,235.61	14.69%
51212	Outside Counsel - Legal Advice	32,000.00	47,000.00	43,683.74	3,316.26	7.06%
51249	Other Professional Services	198,311.00	198,312.00	200,091.21	(1,779.21)	-0.90%
51401	Rents and Leases - Equipment	3,000.00	3,000.00	464.88	2,535.12	84.50%
51421	Rents and Leases - Bldg/Land	17,250.00	17,250.00	9,824.15	7,425.85	43.05%
51803	Other Contract Services	6,416,520.00	6,981,520.00	6,740,708.41	240,811.59	3.45%
51901	Telecommunication Data Lines	6,668.00	6,668.00	4,157.52	2,510.48	37.65%
51902	Telecommunication Usage	1,160.00	1,160.00	1,085.42	74.58	6.43%
51903	Telecommunication Installation	0.00	0.00	267.11	(267.11)	0.00%
51904	ISD - Baseline Services	29,592.00	29,593.00	32,579.76	(2,986.76)	-10.09%
51905	ISD - Improvement Projects		0.00	4,118.06	(4,118.06)	0.00%
51906	ISD - Supplemental Projects	1,000.00	1,000.00	795.00	205.00	20.50%
51909	Telecommunication Wireless Svc	2,046.00	2,046.00	5,372.48	(3,326.48)	-162.58%
51911	Mail Services	850.00	850.00	391.58	458.42	53.93%
51912	Records Services	0.00	0.00	22.00	(22.00)	0.00%
51916	County Services Chgs	70,300.00	70,300.00	37,422.35	32,877.65	46.77%
51922	County Car Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,979.40	(979.40)	-97.94%
51923	Unclaimable county car exp	0.00	0.00	15.67	(15.67)	0.00%
52091	Memberships/Certifications	13,600.00	13,600.00	14,208.00	(608.00)	-4.47%
52111	Office Supplies	29,670.00	41,670.00	48,459.71	(6,789.71)	-16.29%
52162	Special Department Expense	0.00	0.00	217.34	(217.34)	0.00%
52163	Professional Development	25,000.00	25,000.00	17,336.54	7,663.46	30.65%
52191	Utilities Expense	0.00	0.00	3,638.26	(3,638.26)	0.00%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		7,864,911.00	8,464,914.00	8,038,338.69	426,575.31	5.04%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		7,864,911.00	8,464,914.00	8,038,338.69	426,575.31	
All Revenues		7,402,647.00	7,400,747.00	12,009,612.30	(4,608,865.30)	
Net Cost		462,264.00	1,064,167.00	(3,971,273.61)	5,035,440.61	
All Revenues (less Residual Equity Transfers)				8,348,736.78		
Net Cost (less Residual Equity Transfers)				(310,398.09)		

Department / Account	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
42358	State Other Funding	173,443.00	173,443.00	153,790.93	19,652.07	11.33%
42601	County of Sonoma	1,412,254.00	1,412,254.00	1,598,937.04	(186,683.04)	-13.22%
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	5,169.00	5,162.00	29,575.66	(24,413.66)	-472.95%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	22,397.23	(22,397.23)	0.00%
46029	Donations/Contributions	280,141.00	280,141.00	150,368.54	129,772.46	46.32%
46050	Cancelled/Stale Dated Warrants	0.00	0.00	5,757.00	(5,757.00)	0.00%
46210	Refunds	0.00	0.00	697.60	(697.60)	0.00%
All Revenues		1,871,007.00	1,871,000.00	1,961,524.00	(90,524.00)	-4.84%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
51041	Insurance - Liability	7,440.00	7,440.00	6,472.78	967.22	13.00%
51071	Maintenance - Bldg & Improve	0.00	0.00	14,281.00	(14,281.00)	0.00%
51201	Administration Services	382,530.00	382,530.00	275,245.83	107,284.17	28.05%
51205	Advertising/Marketing Svc	13,000.00	13,000.00	11,625.85	1,374.15	10.57%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,000.00	500.00	6.67%
51207	Client Accounting Services	9,433.00	9,433.00	9,249.68	183.32	1.94%
51212	Outside Counsel - Legal Advice	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,097.60	2,902.40	58.05%
51249	Other Professional Services	131,286.00	131,286.00	130,569.12	716.88	0.55%
51421	Rents and Leases - Bldg/Land	9,000.00	9,000.00	5,240.00	3,760.00	41.78%
51803	Other Contract Services	1,263,000.00	1,263,000.00	1,178,335.37	84,664.63	6.70%
51901	Telecommunication Data Lines	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	100.00%
51902	Telecommunication Usage	200.00	200.00	154.34	45.66	22.83%
51904	ISD - Baseline Services	4,332.00	4,332.00	4,699.36	(367.36)	-8.48%
51909	Telecommunication Wireless Svc	0.00	0.00	331.10	(331.10)	0.00%
51911	Mail Services	100.00	100.00	5.64	94.36	94.36%
51916	County Services Chgs	43,586.00	43,586.00	19,833.04	23,752.96	54.50%
52091	Memberships/Certifications	10,450.00	10,450.00	10,450.00	0.00	0.00%
52111	Office Supplies	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,312.54	687.46	22.92%
52163	Professional Development	0.00	0.00	72.85	(72.85)	0.00%
52191	Utilities Expense	0.00	0.00	3,638.26	(3,638.26)	0.00%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		1,891,857.00	1,891,857.00	1,681,614.36	210,242.64	11.11%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		1,891,857.00	1,891,857.00	1,681,614.36	210,242.64	
All Revenues		1,871,007.00	1,871,000.00	1,961,524.00	(90,524.00)	
Net Cost		20,850.00	20,857.00	(279,909.64)	300,766.64	

66110300 SCWMA - Organics Reserve

Department / Account	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	14,334.00	14,679.00	82,662.03	(67,983.03)	-463.13%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	35,584.05	(35,584.05)	0.00%
48004	Residual Equity Transfers	0.00	0.00	(650,000.00)	650,000.00	0.00%
All Revenues		14,334.00	14,679.00	(531,753.92)	546,432.92	3722.55%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
51201	Administration Services	45,723.00	45,723.00	19,556.65	26,166.35	57.23%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
51212	Outside Counsel - Legal Advice	5,000.00	20,000.00	5,266.80	14,733.20	73.67%
51803	Other Contract Services	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	100.00%
51911	Mail Services	0.00	0.00	2.05	(2.05)	0.00%
51916	County Services Chgs	0.00	0.00	243.00	(243.00)	0.00%
52111	Office Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	100.00%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		84,223.00	99,223.00	27,568.50	71,654.50	72.22%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		84,223.00	99,223.00	27,568.50	71,654.50	
All Revenues		14,334.00	14,679.00	(531,753.92)	546,432.92	
Net Cost		69,889.00	84,544.00	559,322.42	(474,778.42)	

66110900 SCWMA - Contingency Fund

Department / Account	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	18,998.00	17,065.00	36,327.45	(19,262.45)	-112.88%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	16,938.54	(16,938.54)	0.00%
46200	PY Revenue - Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	10,368.24	(10,368.24)	0.00%
48004	Residual Equity Transfers	0.00	0.00	1,829,949.78	(1,829,949.78)	0.00%
All Revenues		18,998.00	17,065.00	1,893,584.01	(1,876,519.01)	-10996.30%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
51201	Administration Services	37,348.00	37,348.00	33,677.95	3,670.05	9.83%
51205	Advertising/Marketing Svc	0.00	8,000.00	7,352.74	647.26	8.09%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
51212	Outside Counsel - Legal Advice	2,000.00	2,000.00	9,120.00	(7,120.00)	-356.00%
51803	Other Contract Services	50,000.00	115,000.00	91,641.25	23,358.75	20.31%
51916	County Services Chgs	0.00	0.00	112.00	(112.00)	0.00%
52111	Office Supplies	1,000.00	13,000.00	13,401.40	(401.40)	-3.09%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		91,848.00	176,848.00	156,805.34	20,042.66	11.33%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		91,848.00	176,848.00	156,805.34	20,042.66	
All Revenues		18,998.00	17,065.00	1,893,584.01	(1,876,519.01)	
Net Cost		72,850.00	159,783.00	(1,736,778.67)	1,896,561.67	

66111000 Education & Outreach

Department / Account Description		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
42358	State Other Funding	142,000.00	142,000.00	149,895.49	(7,895.49)	-5.56%
42601	County of Sonoma	445,975.00	445,975.00	504,927.49	(58,952.49)	-13.22%
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	2,238.00	2,379.00	1,127.31	1,251.69	52.61%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	5,681.98	(5,681.98)	0.00%
46029	Donations/Contributions	41,228.00	41,228.00	45,592.14	(4,364.14)	-10.59%
46200	PY Revenue - Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	1,522.45	(1,522.45)	0.00%
48004	Residual Equity Transfers	0.00	0.00	451,300.45	(451,300.45)	0.00%
All Revenues		631,441.00	631,582.00	1,160,047.31	(528,465.31)	-83.67%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
51041	Insurance - Liability	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,609.99	390.01	13.00%
51201	Administration Services	347,688.00	347,688.00	366,027.03	(18,339.03)	-5.27%
51205	Advertising/Marketing Svc	0.00	0.00	128.40	(128.40)	0.00%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00%
51207	Client Accounting Services	3,804.00	3,804.00	3,729.71	74.29	1.95%
51212	Outside Counsel - Legal Advice	15,000.00	15,000.00	21,114.38	(6,114.38)	-40.76%
51249	Other Professional Services	67,026.00	67,026.00	69,522.09	(2,496.09)	-3.72%
51401	Rents and Leases - Equipment	3,000.00	3,000.00	464.88	2,535.12	84.50%
51421	Rents and Leases - Bldg/Land	8,250.00	8,250.00	4,584.15	3,665.85	44.43%
51803	Other Contract Services	88,200.00	88,200.00	63,924.34	24,275.66	27.52%
51901	Telecommunication Data Lines	2,568.00	2,568.00	(2,293.97)	4,861.97	189.33%
51902	Telecommunication Usage	960.00	960.00	931.08	28.92	3.01%
51904	ISD - Baseline Services	11,461.00	11,461.00	16,345.00	(4,884.00)	-42.61%
51905	ISD - Improvement Projects	0.00	0.00	4,118.06	(4,118.06)	0.00%
51906	ISD - Supplemental Projects	1,000.00	1,000.00	795.00	205.00	20.50%
51909	Telecommunication Wireless Svc	2,046.00	2,046.00	4,386.70	(2,340.70)	-114.40%
51911	Mail Services	500.00	500.00	381.68	118.32	23.66%
51912	Records Services	0.00	0.00	22.00	(22.00)	0.00%
51916	County Services Chgs	17,575.00	17,575.00	11,124.34	6,450.66	36.70%
51922	County Car Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,979.40	(979.40)	-97.94%
51923	Unclaimable county car exp	0.00	0.00	15.67	(15.67)	0.00%
52091	Memberships/Certifications	3,150.00	3,150.00	3,758.00	(608.00)	-19.30%
52111	Office Supplies	22,670.00	22,670.00	27,328.35	(4,658.35)	-20.55%
52162	Special Department Expense	0.00	0.00	217.34	(217.34)	0.00%
52163	Professional Development	25,000.00	25,000.00	17,263.69	7,736.31	30.95%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		627,898.00	627,898.00	622,477.31	5,420.69	0.86%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		627,898.00	627,898.00	622,477.31	5,420.69	
All Revenues		631,441.00	631,582.00	1,160,047.31	(528,465.31)	
Net Cost		(3,543.00)	(3,684.00)	(537,570.00)	533,886.00	

66111100 Organics

Department / Account	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
42601	County of Sonoma	4,860,000.00	4,860,000.00	5,445,516.81	(585,516.81)	-12.05%
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	6,866.00	6,421.00	884.00	5,537.00	86.23%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	2,725.91	(2,725.91)	0.00%
46029	Donations/Contributions	0.00	0.00	23,344.47	(23,344.47)	0.00%
46200	PY Revenue - Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	17,103.24	(17,103.24)	0.00%
48004	Residual Equity Transfers	0.00	0.00	1,379,625.29	(1,379,625.29)	0.00%
All Revenues		4,866,866.00	4,866,421.00	6,869,199.72	(2,002,778.72)	-41.16%

All Expense/Expenditure Accts

51041	Insurance - Liability	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,357.20	202.80	13.00%
51201	Administration Services	141,441.00	141,441.00	97,217.14	44,223.86	31.27%
51205	Advertising/Marketing Svc	0.00	0.00	28.70	(28.70)	0.00%
51206	Accounting/Auditing Services	6,500.00	6,500.00	7,939.45	(1,439.45)	-22.15%
51207	Client Accounting Services	1,978.00	1,978.00	0.00	1,978.00	100.00%
51212	Outside Counsel - Legal Advice	5,000.00	5,000.00	6,084.96	(1,084.96)	-21.70%
51803	Other Contract Services	4,985,320.00	5,485,320.00	5,406,807.45	78,512.55	1.43%
51901	Telecommunication Data Lines	2,100.00	2,100.00	6,451.49	(4,351.49)	-207.21%
51903	Telecommunication Installation	0.00	0.00	267.11	(267.11)	0.00%
51904	ISD - Baseline Services	13,800.00	13,800.00	11,535.40	2,264.60	16.41%
51909	Telecommunication Wireless Svc	0.00	0.00	654.68	(654.68)	0.00%
51911	Mail Services	250.00	250.00	2.21	247.79	99.12%
51916	County Services Chgs	9,139.00	9,139.00	6,109.97	3,029.03	33.14%
52111	Office Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	5,417.42	(3,417.42)	-170.87%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		5,169,088.00	5,669,088.00	5,549,873.18	119,214.82	2.10%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts		5,169,088.00	5,669,088.00	5,549,873.18	119,214.82	
All Revenues		4,866,866.00	4,866,421.00	6,869,199.72	(2,002,778.72)	
Net Cost		302,222.00	802,667.00	(1,319,326.54)	2,121,993.54	

66111200 Unfunded Pension Liability Rsv

Department / Account	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Year to Date	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
All Revenues						
44002	Interest on Pooled Cash	0.00	0.00	1,560.37	(1,560.37)	0.00%
44050	Unrealized Gains and Losses	0.00	0.00	5,450.81	(5,450.81)	0.00%
48004	Residual Equity Transfers	0.00	0.00	650,000.00	(650,000.00)	0.00%
All Revenues		0.00	0.00	657,011.18	(657,011.18)	0.00%
All Expense/Expenditure Accts						
All Revenues		0.00	0.00	657,011.18	(657,011.18)	
Net Cost		0.00	0.00	(657,011.18)	657,011.18	

3rd Quarter Fund Balances FY 18/19

Fund		Beginning Balance	6/30/2019	Projected Fund Balance	Fund Balance Goal
Organics Reserve	78103	2,866,753	2,307,431	2,796,964	-
HHW	78104	1,033,868	1,339,237	1,013,019	283,778
Contingency Reserve	78109	2,011,025	1,932,451	1,838,175	156,974
Education & Outreach	78110	447,684	544,751	451,229	62,790
Organics	78111	1,373,263	1,319,327	1,071,042	775,363

August 20, 2019

Dear Zero Waste Sonoma Board Members:

I am writing in regards to agenda item number 6 on the August 21st Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors meeting: "Compostable Products Report". As a member, and now chair, of the North Bay Zero Waste Task Force (formerly the ad hoc committee of the Local Task Force on AB 939 that was tasked with writing the model Zero Waste Resolution), I have participated for the past two years in conversations and research around the issue of "compostable" plastic products (PLA plastics) in the commercial compost collection stream. From my deep dive into this topic, I strongly believe that the new composting facility planned at the Llano Rd location should not take compostable plastic materials (PLA).

PLA plastics take much longer than other organic materials (food and yard waste, fiber-based compostable food service-ware) to break down, which makes accepting the products highly problematic for compost facilities. In conversations with Recology employees, I understand that compost facilities in other areas, such as San Francisco, that accept compostable plastic are currently having to separate them out from their compost stream and send them to landfill because they take so long to break down. The need to separate out and landfill these PLA plastics adds significant expense to their operations. It is also misleading to food vendors and other customers, who purchase expensive PLA products trusting they will be composted, when in fact, they are sent to landfill, where they release methane gas (a highly potent greenhouse gas) as they slowly decompose in the anaerobic environment.

Of further concern is the fact that accepting PLA plastics would mean that our new compost facility would not be able to sell their product as organic. With our thriving organic farm community in Sonoma, there is great demand for locally produced, organic compost. It would be ethically and financially irresponsible to produce a compost product that could not be used by our organic farmers. I have heard it mentioned that a possible solution to this problem would be to have two compost waste streams: one that has the PLA plastics (and will be sold as non-organic) and one that does not have the PLA (and will be sold as organic). This would add great expense to the composting operation, and, in my understanding, necessitate two separate pick-up routes for the hauler (Recology), adding immense additional fuel cost (and attendant GHG production) as well as significant customer confusion (PLA's accepted in some pick-up routes but not others).

For these reasons, I urge the board to keep the compost stream in Sonoma County as fiber-based products only, and to continue to exclude PLA plastics from our planned new facility on Llano Rd.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and consideration on this important issue,

Sunny Galbraith

Chair, North Bay Zero Waste Task Force

Sebastopol Representative to AB 939 Local Task Force

Member, City of Sebastopol Zero Waste Subcommittee

August 20, 2019

Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors,

In response to the upcoming Agenda item; Compostable Product Report, I respectfully submit these comments for consideration as you prepare for tomorrow's meeting. As a resident of Sonoma County, and a landfill diversion expert of 10 years, I encourage you to approve ZWS's recommendation to prohibit bio-plastics and compostable plastics from the composting stream.

I hope you'll consider the following:

1. Single-stream recycling rules prioritized consumer convenience and has become an energy-intensive calamity; please do not make the same mistake with compost. You are faced with a decision of convenience vs quality. We cannot sacrifice quality of compost in an agricultural community. Composting and soil health is an imperative solution to drawing down emissions and sequestering carbon.
2. Once you allow something in the waste stream, it is extremely challenging to renege, retrain and undo. Remember how difficult it was to retrain on plastic bags and shredded paper going from recycling to landfill with Ratto Group? Stay strong, today's (perceived) hard decision will pay off in the long run.
3. In a similar vein, by keeping the allowable list simple and consistent, we can ensure clean material. Everyone knows what food waste and yard debris is, keep it simple.

The staff report states the necessity to discourage single use items. We are subconsciously promoting disposable service ware by providing a 'feel-good' disposal method such as compost or recycle.

Focus on the root of the problem, make the tough albeit unpopular decisions that are best for our County, and let's get to work on implementing policies that discourage a throwaway society.

Thank you for your time & attention to this matter.

Best,

Felicia Smith

Healdsburg resident, Sonoma County die-hard!

Letter to Zero Waste Sonoma BOD—Dissenting View from Compostable Products Subcommittee

DATE: 09/13/19

FROM: Renaud des Rosiers, Sustainability Manager, Amy's Kitchen

TO: Zero Waste Sonoma Board of Directors

RE: Dissenting View on Staff Recommendation from Compostable Products Subcommittee

As an active member of the recently completed Zero Waste Sonoma Compostable Products Subcommittee I truly wanted to be here in person to deliver my comments during the public hearing but travel out of state has prevented me from doing so.

This letter is difficult to write as I know that putting the outcome of the subcommittee into question will upset some of my fellow members who I consider to be my friends in addition to colleagues. Despite that concern, I'm moving ahead because the information below needs to be shared so that the board of Zero Waste Sonoma can be fully aware of the problems with the process we went through and the inadequacy of the staff recommendation in terms of meeting your stated request from a year ago to "figure out a way" to accept compostable packaging in the design as a requirement of continuing negotiations with Renewable Sonoma.

Specifically, I want to call out the following issues:

1-The decision making process that lead to staff's recommendation lacked transparency. The work of the committee should not be boiled down to a simple staff recommendation against accepting compostable packaging as *this does not represent a unanimous view of the committee*. The fact that it does is problematic and has the potential to bring the objectivity of the decision making into question. Ultimately a year of work was evaluated by a decision maker who had a vested interest in the outcome. That's a problem from the perspective of a public process requiring transparency.

2-More importantly, I believe we landed on a predetermined outcome that puts the interests of a single stakeholder (Renewable Sonoma) over those of the wider community. Rather than an open-minded exercise of learning from and building on best practices from other communities and composters—both in terms of facility infrastructure and processes and the supporting policy and market mechanisms necessary to make these programs successful—in consideration of what it would take to alter the initial plans to accept compostable packaging materials, there was no indication of potential compromise in system design from Renewable Sonoma. Instead of looking for and embracing the best solutions to the challenge, the work of the subcommittee was used to develop a model that quantifies the marginal cost of including compostable packaging from the facility's perspective without considering any potential benefits to the broader community and our collective path toward zero waste. Ultimately the committee was used to justify making no change to Renewable Sonoma's preliminary design.

3-But beyond these two concerns, my biggest problem with the recommendation from staff is that it does not reflect the ask of the board. The comments below from the SCWMA Board were made immediately after the August 2018 public hearing about the Sonoma Compost Facility RFP evaluation and were clearly intended to be considered during negotiations with Renewable Sonoma.

It is important to note that on the topic of whether to accept compostable packaging, all the members of the BOD (or most; I'm not familiar enough with the composition of the board to definitively say this captures all members' input though it does reflect the comments of all board members who chose to speak after the public

comment period) individually spoke on the record with some iteration of the idea that the board should move ahead with exclusive negotiations with Renewable Sonoma BUT that this should include a way to incorporate compostable packaging into the category of accepted materials.

I've gathered the key comments below but I urge all of you to listen again to those comments and then ask yourself whether the outcome the Subcommittee has provided meets the expectations laid out in your unanimous request.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Comment</u>
1:06	Zimmer	... "request to have staff comment on food packaging and utensils?" <i>Carter responded about the possibility to include a non-organic line to be discussed during negotiation, ... A non-organic line may be used to accept packaging but will have to be addressed during negotiations"</i>
1:07	Mikus	... "what's gone on over the last 8 years is we've said no we don't want compostable materials. We tried to build a wall. It hasn't worked, it hasn't gone away and it's a large part of the waste stream. If as a community we ever want to get to zero waste we've got to deal with that product and dealing with it is not saying no. So I agree completely with Larry, we've got to find a way to deal with it. And if that means that whoever our choice of composting materials contractor has to develop a separate product line to keep it separate from the organic materials, that may be the way we have to go. I don't think this is going away."
1:08	Gorin	"Agreed, that was a very good comment I think it encapsulates some our questions and concerns and I think it might be the direction of this board that we move forward on that. Obviously it's the trend of the future...I think this is an important direction for zero waste".
1:23	Agrimonti	... "with respect to including the food packaging issue... I know the city of Sonoma is willing to do a total reversal of the issue and paying attention to the issue of food packaging for public events by next year, so that's something that's very important"
1:30	Harvey	... "we need to find a way to incorporate packaging in whatever it is that we do"... "in the discussions around cost, we are talking about state of the art new facilities and new investment is going to be needed. It's become very apparent that what we had prior was outdated technology that won't lead us into the future. So, no matter who or what does it, an investment will have to be made so ... we want to keep costs in line but there is an investment that will be required" ...
1:32	Harvey	... "commercial food waste, I'm hoping we can work something out with that because I believe it's going to be the next big thing for us to be able to reach our diversion goal" ...

1:40	St. John	"In terms of service levels, I really want to echo what I heard about including compostable packaging, I think it's a no-brainer. We've got to be able to do that...if you're expecting people to take the food off their packaging before they recycle the food, it isn't going to happen, the whole thing needs to go into the food recycling bin with the packaging" ... "biosolids also need to be a part of this".
1:43	Bagby	... "I'll reiterate that compostable packaging needs to be a part of this negotiation going forward"...
1:45	Sawyer	... "I really appreciate everyone weighing in on compostable packaging and I think we have been guilty as a community of being unclear about what is and is not recyclable and we need to stop doing that and being able to have a conversation about compostable packaging and being able to live up to those expectations is important because people are taking those that look like they're biodegradable and putting them in recycling and they're having to be taken out and put into landfill and so we really need to tackle that if nothing else so that we can at least be really honest with the community about what we can and cannot do in terms of recycling and composting"...
1:54	Fudge	... "love the idea of the acceptance of a wider selection of materials" ...
1:56	Fudge	... "I do think we need to include compostable packaging materials in the negotiations"...
1:59	Mikus	... "I said earlier how I feel about compostable products. To me that's a deal breaker, that has to happen and so I think before we can seriously consider an agreement to go forward with Renewable Sonoma, we need to have that settled, we need to know whether that can happen or not"...

Upon further review of these materials it is clear that despite a year working on the issue, the Compostable Products Subcommittee has not delivered on the call to action unanimously expressed by the board members at the meeting, namely that: that conversations with Renewable Sonoma should proceed but that to meet the needs of the county, it is a "non-negotiable" that those conversations must result in a way to "look forward, not backward" and "figure out" how to include compostable packaging materials in the compost stream as a mechanism to drive Sonoma County zero waste objectives. This recommendation from staff fails on those lines.

Your comments from a year ago were prescient as compostable packaging isn't going off the market (nor should it, since on the food contact side it represents the only viable path to achieving a zero waste circular economy based on widespread organics diversion) and unless we address its management now, it will be a challenge to our community zero waste aspirations for years to come.

In summary, I urge the board to look back at your own words from a year ago, affirm your commitment to moving *forward not backward* on this challenging but important issue, and reject the staff recommendation to move ahead with continued negotiations with Renewable Sonoma around the current design which does not include the acceptance of compostable packaging.



Agenda Item #: 5
Staff Contact: Lukacs
Agenda Date: 9/18/2019
Approved By: LL

ITEM: LTF PERMITTING ISSUES

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

That the Agency receive the presentation and consider relevant recommended actions of the subcommittee for possible adoption by the Board.

II. BACKGROUND

In August of 2018, the Sonoma County Local Task Force (LTF) on Integrated Waste Management took action to form an Ad Hoc subcommittee referred to as the LTF Permitting Issues Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee was to identify barriers and impediments within the land use, regulatory, and other permitting processes which impact the timely and successful development of recycling, organics, and other solid waste processing and/or end market infrastructure. In addition to identification of issues, the subcommittee's work included the development of recommendations for potential action to reduce the identified barriers and impediments and encourage policy, public awareness and entitlement processes that facilitate the reasonable development of the critical diversion infrastructure that will be needed to support state and local recycling, diversion and zero waste goals.

III. DISCUSSION

The subcommittee met monthly from September 2018 through May 2019. The volunteer membership of the committee was diverse and included expertise from both the public and private sectors ranging from planning professionals to City and County solid waste administrators to private recycling, solid waste and organics operators as well as consulting professionals from the field. The committee's work included identifying existing conditions related to current diversion levels and infrastructure and the "Gap" between existing conditions and that which would be needed to reach our zero waste goals on both a statewide and local countywide basis. The committee conducted case study interviews and facility tours to help form a "real world" perspective of the challenges facing project developers. A fundamental premise was agreed to by the committee that the work was not intended to suggest weakening or reducing environmental protection or public health and safety but to identify potential barriers that, in and of themselves, did not contribute to the enhancement of the environment or to public health and safety. Through robust discussions the committee identified seven barriers to permitting that fit this definition and followed up with recommendations for potential action by various stakeholders to reduce or eliminate these barriers to permitting the essential recycling infrastructure that will be needed to reach our zero waste and diversion goals. The presentation outlines the Findings and Recommendations of the subcommittee. The subcommittee's Findings and Recommendations were presented to and adopted by the full LTF at their June 2019 meeting.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There is no funding impact to ZWS

V. ATTACHMENTS

LTF Permitting Issues PowerPoint presentation

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ken Wells - LTF Chair

Active Subcommittee Members:

Greg Carr – LTF 1st District Representative

Kristyn Byrne – LTF 3rd District Representative

Stu Clark – Chair – LTF 4th District Representative

Trish Pisenti – LTF Sonoma County Public Works

Glenn Morelli - LTF Sonoma County Public Works

Joey Hejnowicz – LTF Santa Rosa Representative

Mark Soiland – LTF Cotati Representative (Alt)

Dan Noble – Association of Compost Producers

Presentation to Zero Waste Sonoma

September 18th, 2019

LTF Permitting Issues Subcommittee

Findings & Recommendations

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

Acknowledgements:

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Active members of the Subcommittee:

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Stu Clark – Chair – LTF 4th District Representative

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Mark Soiland – LTF Cotati Representative (Alt)

Dan Noble – Association of Compost Producers

Purpose & Goals

- **Identify Barriers to Permitting**

- Recycling & Diversion Facilities needed to meet Zero Waste Goals

- **Recommend Action**

- To Reduce or Eliminate Unnecessary Barriers to Permitting these Facilities

Project Approach

- Diverse group of committee members
- Research existing conditions – magnitude of need
- Case study interviews – “real world” perspective
- Candid discussions – consensus on findings

Project Relevance

Why is this important

- State & Local recycling goals will not be accomplished
- Without new/expanded diversion facilities:
 - Composting
 - Anaerobic digestion
 - Material recovery facilities (MRF's)
 - Food recovery infrastructure

Project Relevance

Why is this important

- Benefits to reducing/eliminating permitting barriers
 - Lower costs
 - Increased potential to reach zero waste goals
 - Lower GHG emissions by siting locally
 - Reduced dependence on landfilling

Project Relevance

Why is this important

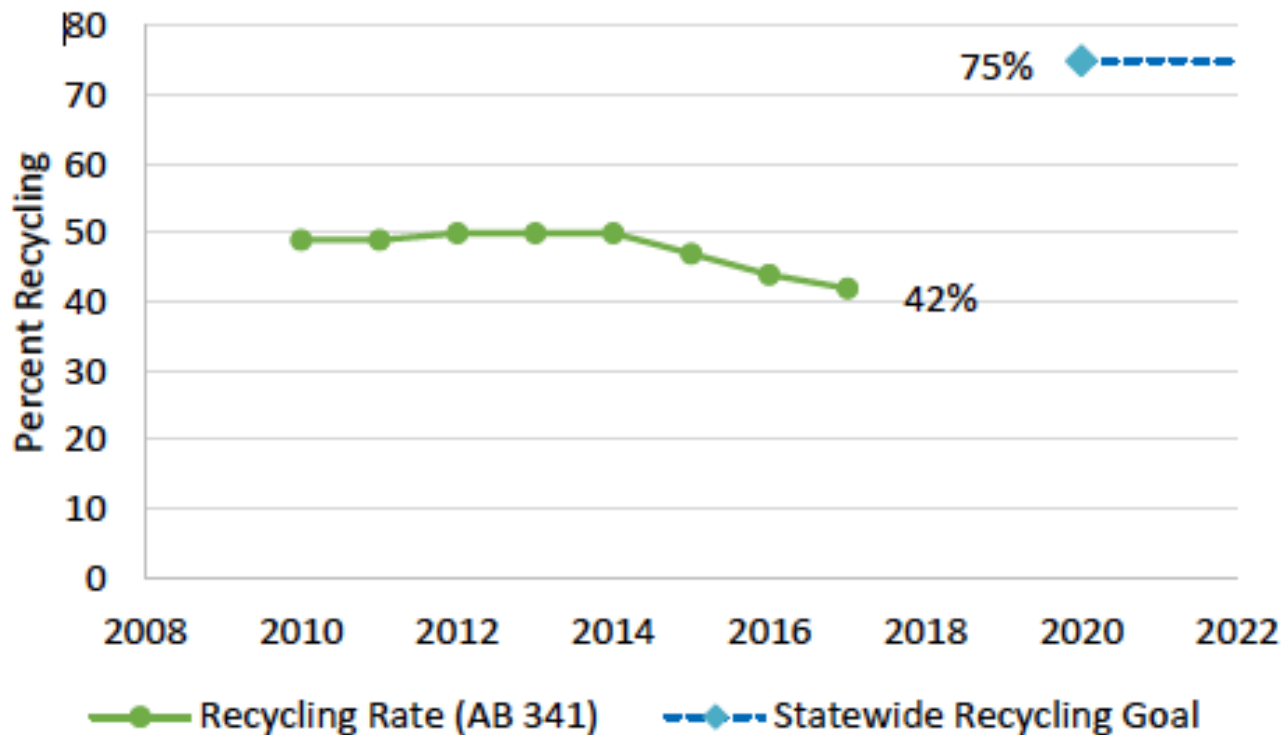
- Statewide Status¹
 - 2017 statewide “recycling rate” was 42% vs. 75% target for 2020
 - California needs 26 million tons of new diversion annually to meet the AB 341 overall recycling goal of 75% by 2020
 - 2017 statewide estimated diversion – 32.8 million tons
 - CalRecycle estimates the current organics recycling infrastructure needs to more than double to meet SB 1383 goals
 - Excess capacity of current organics recycling infrastructure – 4-6 million TPY²
 - SB 1383 Organics Reduction Targets – 10 million TPY by 2020 • 20 million by 2025

¹Source: State of Recycling for Calendar Year 2017, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, February 2019

²Source: SB 1383 Infrastructure and Market Analysis, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, April 2019 & Composting in California, Addressing Air Quality Permitting and Regulatory Issues for Expanding Infrastructure, CARB, CAPCOA, CalRecycle, August 2018

Statewide Status

Statewide Recycling Rate



Source: State of Recycling for Calendar Year 2017, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, February 2019

Statewide Status

Historical and Projected Disposal

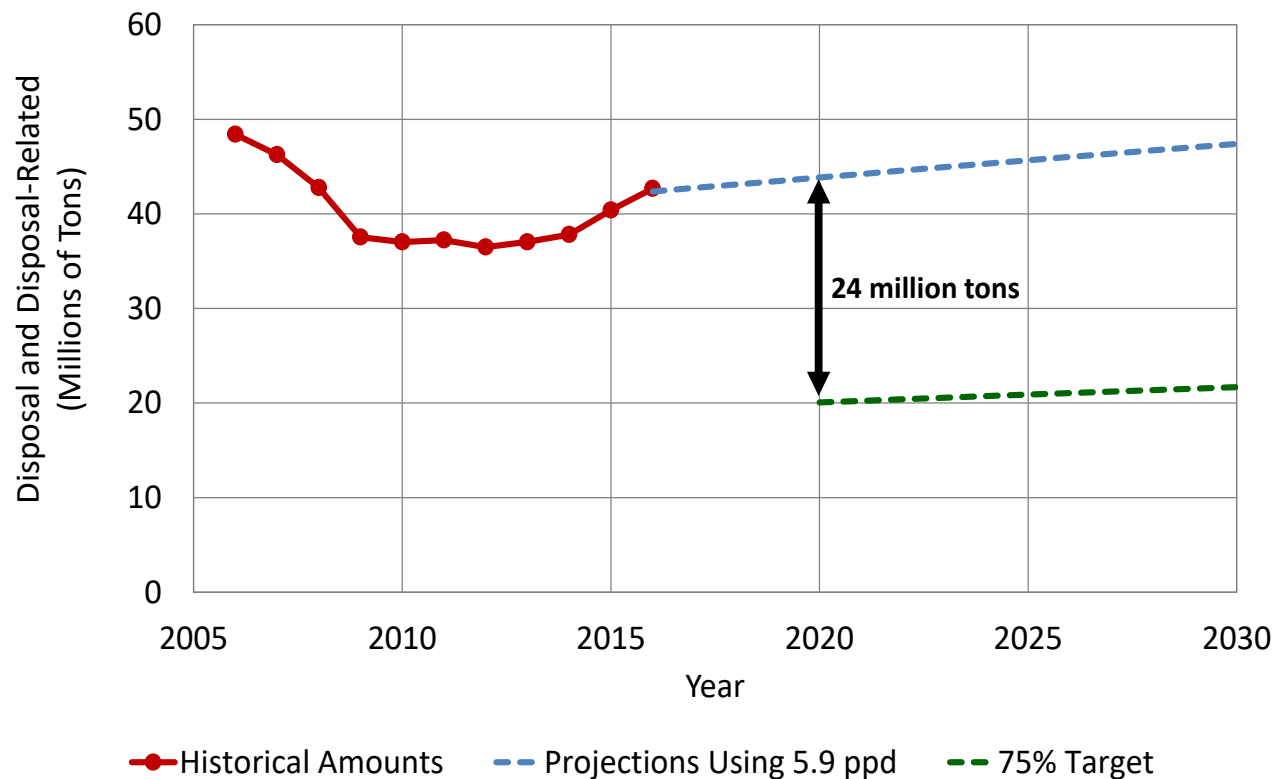
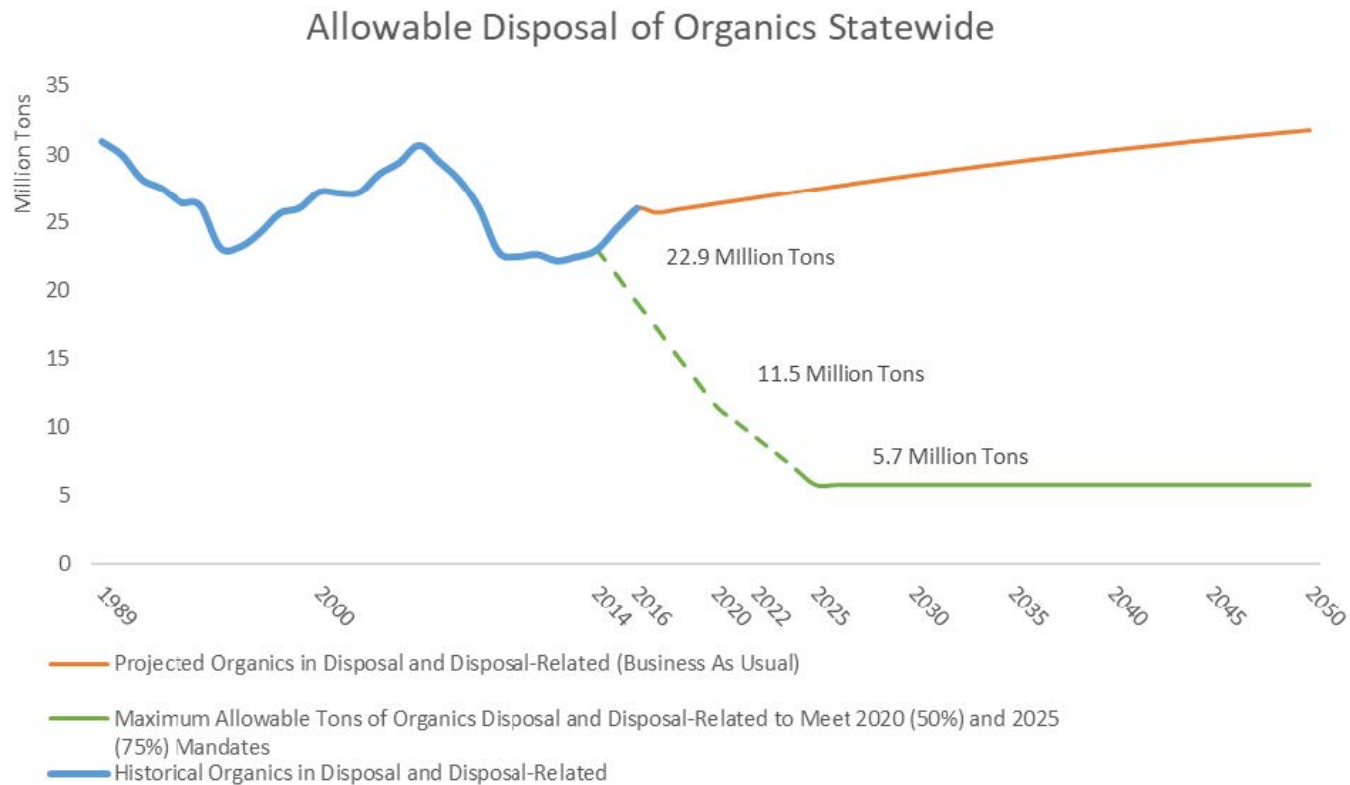


Chart shows 2016 CalRecycle data. 2017 data update shows gap to be 26 million tons

Statewide Status

SB 1383 Organic Waste Reduction Targets



Source: *State of Recycling for Calendar Year 2017*, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, February 2019

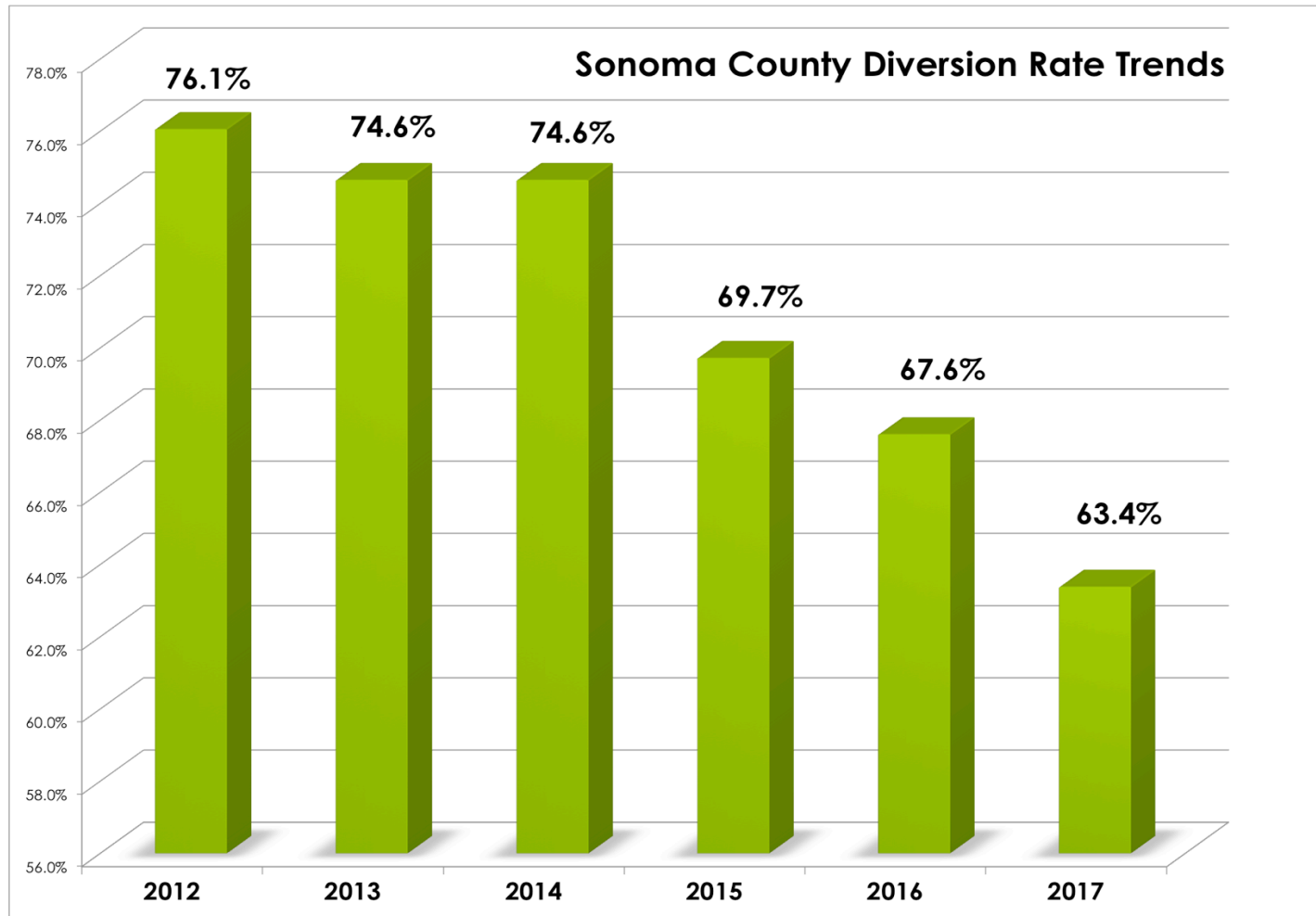
Project Relevance

Why is this important

- Sonoma County Status

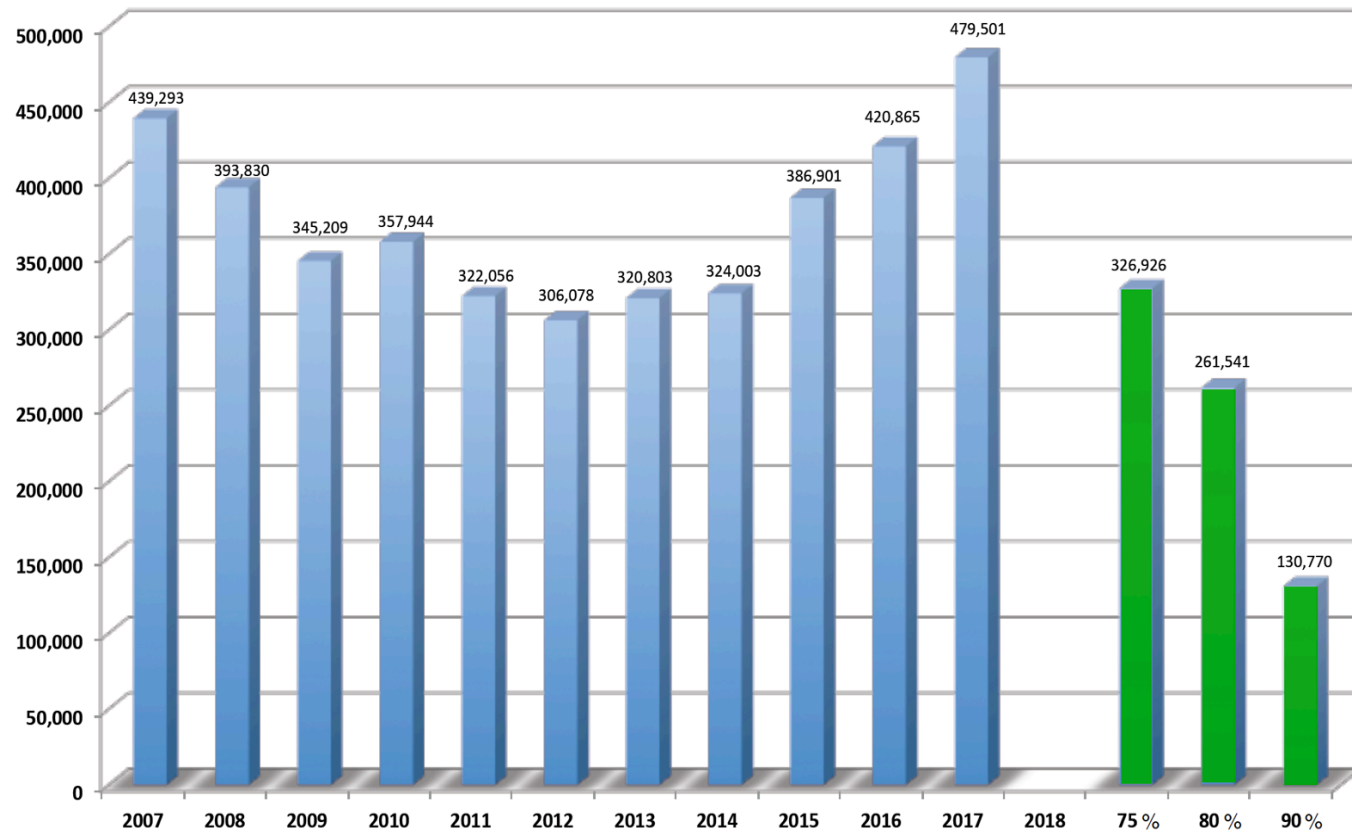
- County Diversion Rate fallen from 76.1% (2012) to 63.4% (2017)
- County Disposal Volume increasing since 2012
 - 2012 – 306,078
 - 2017 – 479,501
 - 57% Increase
- Additional 152,000 tons per year new diversion needed to get back to 75%
- Most diversion facilities in the county are at or near capacity
- Significant new/expanded facilities will be needed

Sonoma County Status



Sonoma County Status

Sonoma County Disposal Trends - Tons Per Year



Source Data from CalRecycle Jurisdiction Diversion/Disposal Rate Data. Chart & projected tonnage allowances prepared by Stu Clark

Tonnage Allowance to Meet Goals

Sonoma County Status

Sonoma County Capacity Gap Projection			
Target Diversion	Annual Disposal Tonnage Allowance	New Diversion Needed TPY	New Diversion Needed TPD
75%	326,926	152,575	489
80%	261,541	217,960	699
90%	130,770	348,730	1,118

Overview of Case Studies

- Soiland Company
- Republic Services
- Napa Material Diversion Facility
 - Public/private partnership

Project Findings

Permitting Barriers

1. Lack of public awareness regarding need for more facilities
2. Outdated zoning & general plan definitions/designations/policies for recycling facilities
3. Complexity of the permitting process & applicant awareness of the regulations and permitting path
4. Inconsistency between various permitting authorities, e.g. land use requirements different and sometimes contrary to solid waste, air, water permit requirements
5. Lack of comprehensive/integrated plan re: how to achieve zero waste in the county
6. CEQA – Agency and applicant permitting paralysis over fear of legal challenges
7. Public opposition regarding siting of facilities

Project Recommendations

Barrier

1. Lack of public awareness regarding the need for more recycling facilities

Recommended Actions:

Implement sustained public educational efforts regarding the need for many more recycling facilities using collaborative public/private partnerships via:

- Editorial board presentations
- Social media
- Workshops
- Zero Waste Sonoma newsletters
- Hauler newsletters
- Conferences
- School presentations
- Educational video
- Permit Advocacy



Action By: Policy Makers, Zero Waste Sonoma, Haulers, ZW Advocates, SCOE, City/County Staff

Project Recommendations

Barrier

2. Outdated zoning and general plan definitions/designations/policies for recycling facilities

Recommended Actions:

- All cities and the county consider updating their general plans and zoning codes to accommodate state solid waste language and zero waste policy.
- This can be accomplished either as part of the jurisdiction's next scheduled update or as a stand-alone update.
- Preferably this should occur in the near term.



Action By: **Cities & County**

Project Recommendations

Barrier

3. Complexity of the Land Use permitting process & applicant awareness of the regulations and permitting path

Recommended Actions:

- Promotion of existing or development and use of:
 - Comprehensive permit checklist for solid waste & recycling facilities
 - Ombudsman to aid in guiding an applicant through the permitting process
 - Pre-application meeting designed for solid waste & recycling facilities
- Promote a permitting system for solid waste & recycling facilities with a clear path that includes identified milestones and schedule for approval



Action By: City & County Planning Departments & Applicants

Project Recommendations

Barrier

4. Inconsistency between various permitting authorities, e.g. land use requirements different and sometimes contrary to solid waste, air, water permit requirements

Recommended Actions:

- Support streamlining the permitting process among multiple agencies involved in solid waste & recycling:
 - Land Use
 - Solid Waste
 - Water
 - Air
- Develop multi-agency tools:
 - Joint pre-application meeting
 - Multi-agency permit checklist
 - Multi-agency Ombudsman



Action By: City & County Planning Departments, LEA, Regional Water & Air Boards, Policy Makers

Project Recommendations

Barrier

5. Lack of comprehensive/integrated plan regarding how to achieve zero waste in the county

Recommended Actions:

- Update the CoIWMP



Action By: Zero Waste Sonoma & County

Project Recommendations

Barrier

6. CEQA – Agency and applicant permitting paralysis over fear of legal challenges

Recommended Actions:

- Consider developing a Program EIR for solid waste facilities, possibly in conjunction with the CoIWMP
- Develop CEQA Exemptions for small facilities at a local level



Action By: Zero Waste Sonoma, County & Local Jurisdictions

Project Recommendations

Barrier

7. Public opposition regarding siting of facilities

Recommended Actions:

- Early outreach to impacted neighborhoods/communities
- Zero Waste advocacy and support
- Coordinated public outreach and education activities (see #1)



Action By: Project Developers, Lead Agencies & ZW Advocates

Project Conclusions

- ◉ **Significantly more Recycling Facilities needed**
 - ◉ To achieve Zero Waste Goals
- ◉ **Seven permitting barrier categories identified**
 - ◉ Many unwarranted impediments exist
- ◉ **Actionable solutions recommended**
 - ◉ To feasibly reduce or eliminate unnecessary barriers

◦ Next Steps

- Presentation offer to individual jurisdictions
- ZWS Consideration of applicable action items

◦ Questions/Comments

Presentation to Zero Waste Sonoma

September 18th, 2019

LTF Permitting Issues Subcommittee

Findings & Recommendations

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

Acknowledgements:

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Active members of the Subcommittee:

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Joey Hejnowicz – LTF Santa Rosa Representative

Mark Soiland – LTF Cotati Representative (Alt)

Dan Noble – Association of Compost Producers



Agenda Item #: 6
Cost Center: Organics
Staff Contact: Tan
Agenda Date: 9/18/2019
Approved By: LL

ITEM: Compostable Products Report

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION / ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to proceed with the composting facility contract negotiations where the only materials accepted are food scraps, yard debris, and unlined fiber products containing no compostable plastics.

II. BACKGROUND

In the past few years, several aggressive pieces of legislation have been signed into state law with goals of curbing greenhouse gas emissions through landfill diversion of organic material, such as yard debris and food scraps. AB 1826 Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (MORE) and SB 1383 Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) both require businesses, schools, multifamily residential dwellings, and other commercial entities to have their organics hauled away for composting or diverted from landfill through alternative means. In response to these laws, some affected commercial entities have enquired about compostable bags and food service ware (e.g., plates, cups, and utensils).

The current organic material collection program in Sonoma County prohibits all compostable products. However, in response to public interest, several SCWMA board members requested during the August 2018 meeting that staff investigate whether compostable plastic products could be accepted at the new proposed composting facility. Shortly thereafter, the Zero Waste Task Force assembled an ad hoc Compostable Products Committee, whose participants included Agency staff and a diverse range of individuals from all parts of the compostable product lifecycle. This staff report and its attachments detail the Committee's findings.

III. DISCUSSION

Over the past year, the Committee reviewed research papers and explored other composting facilities around the country where compostable plastic products are accepted. Several composters and industry experts were invited to share their facility design, processes, challenges, and lessons learned. It became clear after many hours of vigorous discussion that one of the main barriers to compostable plastics was the change in certification for the finished compost produced.

Because the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) regards compostable plastic as a synthetic material, its inclusion in the composting process prevents the finished compost from being CDFA-listed. In other words, CDFA-listed compost can be used in organic crop and food production, and it sells at \$25/cubic yard. Non CDFA-listed compost cannot be

used in organic crop and food production, and it sells at \$5/cubic yard. Since organic farms control a large share of the agricultural market in California, this presents a large loss of revenue for composters. As an aside, the National Organic Program (NOP) holds compostable plastic in the same regard as the CDFA, but since organic agriculture is not as strong in most other states, the economic impact of accepting compostable plastics is not as significant outside of California.

The Committee has compiled all the information from the past year into a final Committee report, which is attached. Three potential options are included for the Board to consider:

- Unlined Fiber Products Only
- Single-stream; All BPI-certified Compostable Food Service Ware Accepted
- Dual-Stream; All BPI-certified Compostable Food Service Ware Accepted

The Unlined Fiber Products option represents a baseline scenario where the composting facility is built as proposed and continues to prohibit all compostable plastic. Although 100% of the compost produced will be CDFA listed and the cost of the facility does not increase, compostable plastics will continue to be landfilled. The Single-stream option envisions a facility where all compostable products are accepted in both the residential and commercial streams. In this scenario, compostable plastics are no longer landfilled, and the cost of the facility does not increase, however 100% of the finished compost will be non-CDFA listed. The Dual-Stream option attempts to strike a balance between extremes by accepting compostable plastics only in the commercial stream but not the residential. Since commercial entities produce much more food scraps than yard debris, as compared to the residential stream where the opposite is true, the majority of compostable plastic used in the community will be composted. Around 75% of the finished compost produced will remain CDFA-listed. However in this scenario, the facility will need to be completely redesigned, and the added equipment and labor will cause costs to increase. A more comprehensive look of the pros and cons of each option are explored in the Committee report.

After careful deliberation, staff recommend the Unlined Fiber Products Only option. In 2017, when the Agency released an RFP for the construction of a new in-county compost facility, the goals were not only to cease out-hauling, save on transportation costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also to bring back a valuable commodity to the local community: compost. Since most of the agriculture in Sonoma County is organic, the proposed facility must produce CDFA-listed compost. The Single-Stream option is not possible.

The Dual-Stream option is more feasible, but the tipping fee at the facility would increase. Accepting plastics requires a \$500,000 to \$2 million increase in capital expense for additional land and equipment, which translates to about \$130,000 annually if amortized over 15 years. Annual operating expense is estimated to also increase by \$500,000. These costs and the loss of revenue from producing compost that is not CDFA-listed would cause the composter to increase the tipping fee.

In addition, staff strongly advocate for waste reduction above all else. Although compostable

plastic may be a step above conventional plastic products, they still promote a single-use, throwaway culture. Unless they are processed at the proper levels of oxygen, temperature, and moisture, compostable plastics do not break down in the ocean, on the side of the road, or in a landfill. For these reasons, Alameda, Santa Monica, Canada, and the EU Parliament have recently banned all single-use plastics, including compostable plastics. The Agency must move in a similar direction in order to continue being a progressive leader to stop climate change.

IV. FUNDING IMPACT

There may be increased tipping fees at the proposed facility, but there is no direct cost impact to the Agency in regards to construction or operation of the facility. The following cost analysis summary provides estimated cost increases for the composter. Numbers in red represent a loss.

Option	Unlined Fiber products only (baseline)	Single-stream; all BPI-certified products	Dual-stream; all BPI-certified products
Change in Capital expense	\$0	\$0	(\$128,703)*
Change in Operating Expense	\$0	(\$360,000)	(\$536,853)
Change in Revenue	\$0	(\$1,975,000)	(\$400,000)
Change in Annual Cost	\$0	(\$2,335,000)	(\$1,065,557)

* Total cost \$1,250,000 amortized over 15 years.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Staff PowerPoint presentation
Compostable Products Committee report



ACCEPTING COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS AT THE PROPOSED COMPOSTING FACILITY

Presented during the September 2019 Board meeting
by Xinci Tan

SOME CONTEXT

- Aug 2018 – Board requests compostable products investigation
- Zero Waste Task Force → ad-hoc Compostable Products Committee
 - Members from all sectors:



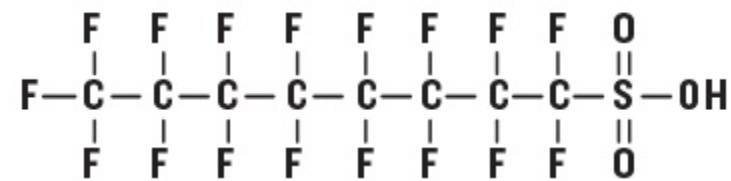
TERMS

- **Organics** – organic matter or material; containing carbon
- **CDFA-listed** – compost may be used in organic crop/food production
- **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)** – certifies compostable products
- **Polylactic Acid (PLA)** – bio-based plastic polymer

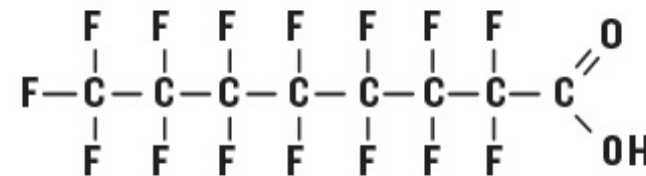
- **Aerobic composting** – with oxygen; produces CO₂ and compost
- **Anaerobic digestion (AD)** – without oxygen; produces biogas, digestate, and water

QUICK NOTE ABOUT PFAS

- Polyflourinated alkyl substances
- Man-made chemicals
 - C – F compounds not in nature
 - Bond is very strong
 - Gives water-repellant and stain-resistant properties



PFOS



PFOA

PFAS is in everyday items



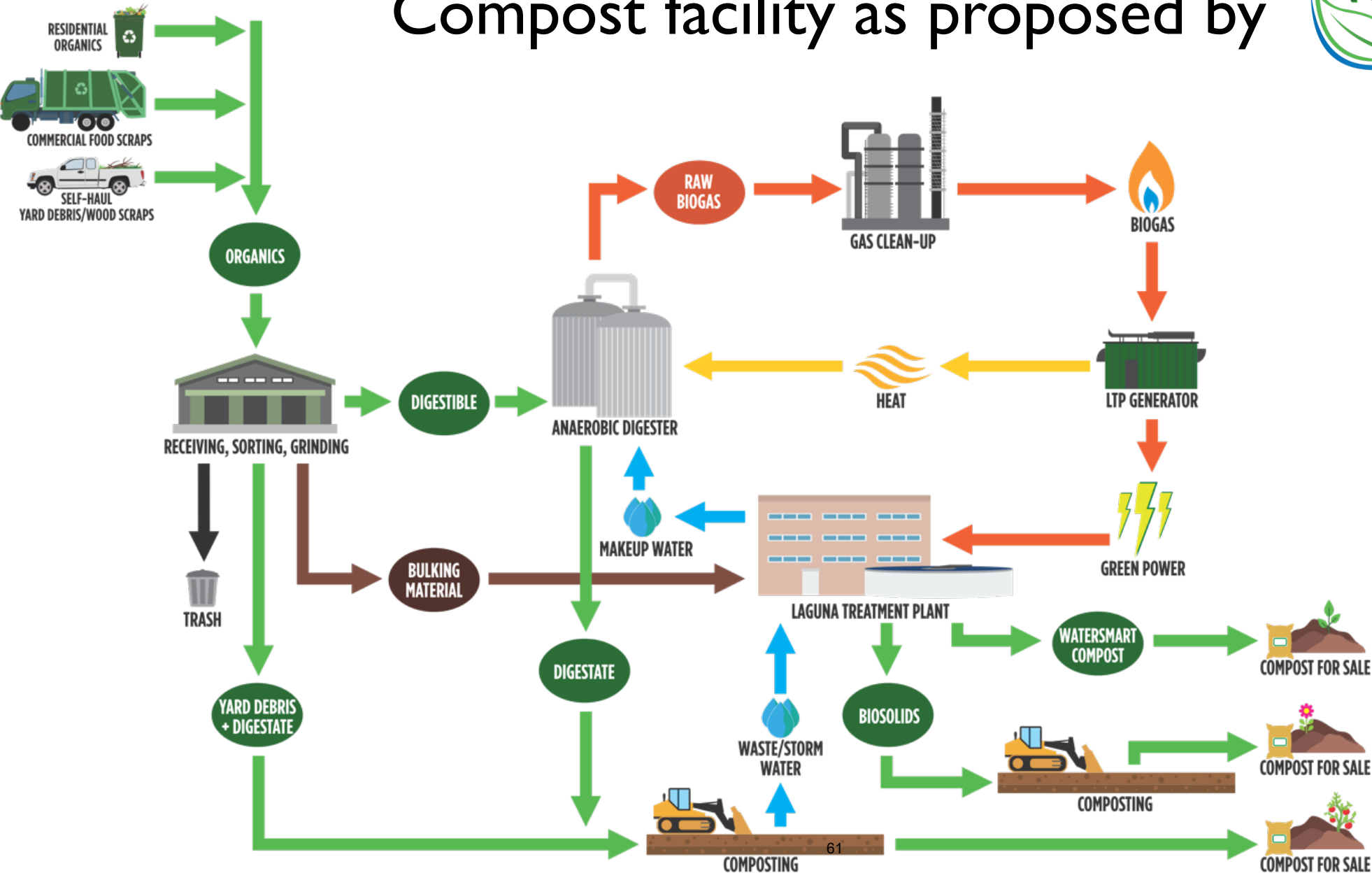
Also often in bagasse compostable products



Jan 1, 2020

Products with PFAS will no longer be BPI-certified compostable.

Compost facility as proposed by



3 options for accepting compostable products

Unlined fiber
products only

Single-stream
process;
All BPI-certified
compostable food
service ware
accepted

Dual-stream
process;
All BPI-certified
compostable food
service ware
accepted

UNLINED FIBER PRODUCTS ONLY



Yes



No

UNLINED FIBER PRODUCTS ONLY

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No need to modify compost facility from proposal• No need to modify education campaign or materials• Finished compost is CDFA-listed and sells for \$25/cy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compostable products landfilled• No additional landfill diversion• Fewer sustainable purchasing options

SINGLE-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED



Yes



No

SINGLE-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal modification to facility as proposed• Compostable products will not be landfilled• May increase landfill diversion• Compostable products may be alternative source of carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finished compost is not CDFA-listed and sells for \$5/cy• New education campaign needed• May attract lookalike petroleum-based products

DUAL-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED

I. Opt-in commercial accounts



Yes



No

DUAL-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED

2. Residential and all other commercial accounts



Yes



No

DUAL-STREAM; ALL BPI-PRODUCTS ACCEPTED

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ~75% finished compost will be CDFA-listed; \$25/cy• Compostable products will not be landfilled• May increase landfill diversion• Compostable products may be alternative source of carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of construction and operation increased• ~25% finished compost is not CDFA-listed; \$5/cy• New education campaign needed• May attract lookalike petroleum-based products• Hauler routes must be reconfigured

ANNUAL COST BREAKDOWN

Option	Unlined fiber products (baseline)	Single-stream	Dual-stream
Δ Sorting Cost	\$0	\$0	\$94,852
Δ Disposal Cost	\$0	\$360,000	\$360,000
Δ Blending Cost	\$0	\$0	\$52,000
Δ Conveying Cost	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Δ CASP land Cost	\$0	\$0	\$64,325*
Δ Screening Cost	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Δ Storage Cost	\$0	\$0	\$64,352*

* The land and storage cost each is \$625,000, amortized over 15 years.

ANNUAL COST SUMMARY

Option	Unlined fiber products only (baseline)	Single-stream; all BPI-certified products	Dual-stream; all BPI-certified products
Change in Capital Expense	\$0	\$0	\$128,703*
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Change in Revenue	\$0	\$1,975,000	\$400,000
Change in Annual Cost	\$0	\$2,335,000	\$1,065,557

* Total cost \$1,250,000 amortized over 15 years

Compostable Products Committee

Summary Report

September 2019

Purpose of the Compostable Products Committee

In August 2018, the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) board requested an analysis into the feasibility of accepting compostable food serviceware in the new proposed compost facility as an alternative to single-use plastic products. In response, the Zero Waste Task Force created the Compostable Products Committee (CPC) and tasked them to investigate the issue. The CPC acknowledges that landfilling organic materials contributes to the problem of greenhouse gases generation. While this an important issue it is beyond the focus of this project.

Mission of the Compostable Products Committee

The mission of the CPC is to:

Recognize the challenges and benefits of including compostable food serviceware as part of the Sonoma County organics diversion program, and to identify potential options for effectively resolving those challenges that could allow compostable food serviceware to be a component of organics diversion programs.

To accomplish this, CPC members elected to educate themselves on the challenges and successes that:

- 1) composting facilities encounter when accepting diverse, single-use compostable products, and how facilities have overcome those challenges in order to accept those products;
- 2) product manufacturers face in getting compostable products accepted at commercial compost facilities, and the methods employed for creating a more collaborative approach to acceptance;
- 3) municipalities face when making decisions and managing organics collection programs for their residents, businesses and institutions, and what tools they've used to minimize contamination going to composting facilities.

The CPC analyzed these challenges and successes in order to determine solutions for the acceptance of compostable products as part of the Sonoma County organics diversion program, while minimizing contamination and maintaining the production of a high-quality compost product. Such solutions may include, but not be limited to, education, ordinances, mechanical/process adaptations of the composting process, and pilot projects/field testing of products.

Compostable Products Committee Composition

The CPC is comprised of individuals representing multiple sectors of the solid waste and recycling industry including compostable resin and product manufacturers, compostable product end-user, sustainability consultant, compost facility operator, compost industry associate, solid waste hauler, County staff member, community stakeholder, and zero-waste event consultant. The requirements of the Brown Act do not apply to the CPC as membership is voluntary and it is non-governmental in its composition and administration.

Compostable Products Committee Process

Since September 2018, the CPC has spoken with industry experts, reviewed white papers, and researched case studies. After many hours of discussion and collaboration, the CPC has produced three viable options. Each option presents a different solution either by including or excluding certain compostable products, while also exploring the impact and facility modifications that result.

Due to the complex nature of this topic, the CPC chose to submit these three options and their analyses without making formal recommendations:

- Unlined Fiber Products Only
- Single-stream Process; All BPI-certified Food Serviceware Accepted
- Dual-stream Process; All BPI-certified Food Serviceware Accepted

Glossary of Terms

Anaerobic digestion (AD): Natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials in the absence of oxygen. The end products include digestate, water, and biogas. In this instance, “organic” means coming from or made of plants or animals. The initials “AD” may refer to the process of anaerobic digestion or the built system where anaerobic digestion takes place, also known as a digester.

Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI): A North American organization that certifies compostable products and packaging. The certification program ensures that products and packaging displaying the BPI logo have been independently tested and verified according to scientifically based standards. They promote best practices for the diversion and recovery of compostable materials through municipal and commercial composting.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA): State department responsible for protecting and promoting agriculture. They test and inspect fertilizing materials such as compost, and the products that pass are registered in the Organic Input Materials (OIM) program, effectively supporting the claim that the product can be used in organic crop and food production.

Clopyralid: (3,6-dichloro-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid) Selective herbicide used for control of broadleaf weeds, especially thistles and clovers. Clopyralid is known for its ability to persist in dead plants and compost. In a few highly publicized cases, it has been shown to accumulate phytotoxic levels in finished compost.

Compostable Food Serviceware: includes cold and hot cups, plates, bowls, utensils, clamshells, and bags made with paper, fibers, bamboo, other organic materials, or containing compostable plastics, such as PLA (defined below), instead of traditional petroleum-based plastic.

Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP): Refers to any of a number of compost systems used to biodegrade organic material without physical manipulation during primary composting. Blended compostable material is usually placed on perforated piping, providing air circulation for controlled aeration, and is then covered with large tarpaulins or a biofilter.

Digestate: The solid material remaining after anaerobic digestion of a biodegradable feedstock. The other main products of anaerobic digestion are water and biogas.

Feedstock: A raw material to supply or fuel a machine or industrial process.

Food scraps: All excess food, including surplus, spoiled, or unsold food such as vegetables and culls (lower quality vegetables or trimmings such as onion peels or carrot tops), as well as plate scrapings. Food scraps are also commonly called food remnants, food residuals, or food waste.

Other Compostable Paper: Items that were soiled with food or water during use. This type includes paper towels, paper plates, waxed paper, tissues, waxed corrugated cardboard, fast food wrappers, waxed paper, and other papers (e.g., pizza boxes and pizza box inserts).

Overs: Overs are also called compost/mulch-overs. They are large, woody parts of the compost/mulch piles that have not completely broken down after a full composting cycle and will not pass through a screen. It is common practice to mix overs back into the active compost pile.

Pathogen Reduction: Pathogens are organisms that can cause disease within another host organism. Host organisms may be microbes, plants, wildlife, livestock, pets, or humans. High heat produced during the composting process is an effective means for reducing pathogen concentrations in a variety of organic materials, including manure, yard trimmings, and biosolids (sewage sludge).

Polylactic Acid (PLA): A bio-based plastic polymer commonly manufactured through the conversion of plant sugars into lactic acid. These plant sugars typically come from feedstocks such as corn, cassava, sugar cane and sugar beets. It is an alternative to petroleum-based plastics.

Yard debris: Compostable materials generated from the maintenance or alteration of public, commercial or residential landscapes including, but not limited to, yard clippings, leaves, tree trimmings, prunings, brush, and weeds.

Wood scraps: Debris consisting of wood pieces or particles which are generated from the manufacturing or production of wood products, harvesting, processing, or storage of raw wood materials, or construction and demolition activities. Wood scraps excludes chemically-treated wood.

Summary of Renewable Sonoma Proposal

Renewable Sonoma proposes to bring a state of the art composting facility to Sonoma County that will meet the regulatory requirements of CalRecycle, Water Board, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, etc. In keeping with the track record of its predecessor Sonoma Compost the facility will produce high quality, mature compost, and a variety of mulches that meet the needs of our community.

The project includes the development of a receiving building to accept curbside organics (yard debris and food scraps), commercial food scraps, self-haul yard debris, self-haul wood scraps, manures, food-soiled paper, fiber packaging material, and others to be agreed upon (including compostable plastics). All materials will have specific drop-off locations within the building so that they can be processed for the best and highest use. The receiving building will have a sort line for the curbside green cart material to separate non-organic recyclables and garbage from desired compostables.

Renewable Sonoma Composting Stream Options

As mentioned earlier the CPC examined three options:

- Unlined Fiber Products Only
- Single-stream Process; All BPI-certified Food Serviceware Accepted
- Dual-stream Process; All BPI-certified Food Serviceware Accepted

For all options please note that because products with fluorinated compounds (PFOS) will no longer be BPI-certified starting January 1, 2020, they will not be a concern by the time Sonoma County's new compost facility opens.

OPTION – UNLINED FIBER PRODUCTS ONLY

OVERVIEW

This option is “business as usual.” This option includes BPI-certified and non-BPI certified fiber products such as plates, bowls, clamshells, and bamboo flatware with no PLA or plastic coating. It prohibits BPI-certified compostable food serviceware containing compostable plastic. The resulting finished compost will be CDFA-listed, however, any compostable food serviceware used in the community will continue to be sent to landfill.

Accepted Materials	Prohibited Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food scraps• Yard debris• Unlined paper products (e.g., paper towels, napkins, plates/bowls with no PLA or plastic coating)• BPI-certified fiber only products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All BPI-certified compostable food serviceware except unlined fiber products• Traditional petroleum-based plastics• Corrugated cardboard• Waxed cardboard/paper products• Glass, metal, and other recyclable materials that should go into the blue bin• Animal waste and other trash items that should go into the gray/black bin

PROS AND CONS

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No need to change current education campaign or materials• No need to modify compost facility construction plans• The finished compost will be CDFA-listed, bringing in higher revenue than compost that is not CDFA-listed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All BPI-certified compostable food serviceware used in the community will continue to be landfilled• Any potential increase of landfill diversion as a result of using compostable food serviceware will be lost• Due to the limited availability of unlined fiber products, businesses have few sustainable purchasing options for food serviceware

FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

None.

COSTS

Please see the Annual Cost Breakdown and Summary at the end of the document.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL WASTE DIVERSION

It is estimated additional organic materials will be diverted from the landfill with this option but the tonnage is unknown. A waste characterization study would be required to determine the estimated tonnages.

POLICY AND EDUCATION

No changes.

OPTION – SINGLE-STREAM PROCESS; ALL BPI-CERTIFIED FOOD SERVICEWARE ACCEPTED

OVERVIEW

In addition to yard debris and food scraps, this option involves the collection and processing of all BPI-certified compostable food serviceware. It has the potential to increase landfill diversion without increasing the cost of facility construction and operation. However, the inclusion of compostable plastics will prevent the finished compost from being CDFA-listed, resulting in a large loss of revenue.

Accepted Materials	Prohibited Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food scraps• Yard debris• All BPI-certified compostable food service ware (e.g., coffee cups, plates, utensils, clamshells, and bags)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional petroleum-based plastics• Corrugated cardboard• Waxed cardboard/paper products• Glass, metal, and other recyclable materials that should go into the blue bin• Animal waste and other trash items that should go into the gray/black bin

PROS AND CONS

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any BPI-certified compostable food serviceware used in the community can be composted and not landfilled.• Accepting compostable food serviceware may increase diversion of food scraps from the landfill.• The use of compostable food serviceware may provide an alternative source of carbon during the composting process.• There will be minimal modification to the facility as proposed.• Compostable Food Serviceware – both paper and plastic – provide alternatives to almost all conventional petroleum-based plastic food serviceware.• Numerous composters and cities have found that non-compostable plastic products account for a majority of the contamination at composting operations and when replaced by equivalent compostable products contamination can be significantly reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The finished compost will not be CDFA-listed, reducing its marketability and causing a large loss of revenue• A new education campaign must be launched to help consumers identify what is and isn't BPI-certified compostable food serviceware• Accepting compostable food serviceware may attract look-alike petroleum-based products• Most certified compostable products are not marine degradable. If improperly disposed or as litter, compostable plastics still contaminate waterways and land, and harm fish and wildlife.

FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

Pre/post screening equipment for removal of look-alike petroleum-based plastic.

COSTS

Please see the Annual Cost Breakdown and Summary at the end of the document.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL WASTE DIVERSION

It is estimated additional organic materials will be diverted from the landfill with this option, but the tonnage is unknown. A waste characterization study would be required to determine the estimated tonnages.

POLICY AND EDUCATION

A new countywide education campaign must be launched to help consumers identify what is and isn't BPI-certified compostable food serviceware. Since the Model Polystyrene Ordinance already includes language requiring that food providers replace any disposable food serviceware with recyclable or certified compostable alternatives, more outreach is needed to encourage jurisdictions to adopt it. Additionally, a plan for enforcement should be put in place.

OPTION – DUAL-STREAM PROCESS; ALL BPI-CERTIFIED FOOD SERVICEWARE ACCEPTED

OVERVIEW

This option involves building a dual-stream facility to process all BPI-certified compostable food serviceware (e.g., plates, cups, lids, straws, clamshells, and cutlery) in addition to yard debris and food scraps. It has the potential to increase landfill diversion, but it will also increase the cost of facility construction and operation. Because the inclusion of compostable plastics will prevent the finished compost from being CDFA-listed, material collected from commercial entities who choose to use compostable food serviceware will be processed separately. The portion of finished compost that is not CDFA-listed will be less marketable and result in an overall lower revenue.

Accepted Materials	Prohibited Materials
<p>Residential and General Commercial Stream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food scraps • Yard debris <p>Opted-in Commercial Stream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All BPI-certified compostable food serviceware (e.g., coffee cups, plates, utensils, clamshells, and bags) • Food scraps • Yard debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional petroleum-based plastics • Corrugated cardboard • Waxed cardboard/paper products • Glass, metal, and other recyclable materials that should go into the blue bin • Animal waste and other trash items that should go into the gray/black bin

PROS AND CONS

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A portion of the finished compost will still be CDFA-listed • Any BPI-certified compostable food serviceware used in the community can be composted and not landfilled • Accepting compostable food serviceware may increase diversion of food scraps from the landfill • The use of compostable food serviceware may provide an alternative source of carbon during the composting process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capital cost of construction and operating costs every year thereafter will be higher • A portion of the finished compost will not be CDFA-listed, which will decrease overall revenue • A new education campaign must be launched to help consumers identify what is and isn't BPI-certified compostable food serviceware • Accepting compostable food serviceware may attract look-alike petroleum-based products • Hauler collection routes must be reconfigured since material from opted-in commercial entities will have to be in separate trucks from the rest

FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

- Additional land to accommodate added equipment and space for processing;
- More equipment to process two different streams of material;
- Additional labor to sort material, operate equipment, and prevent cross contamination;
- Pre/post screening equipment for removal of an anticipated increase of look-alike petroleum-based plastics.

COSTS

Please see the Annual Cost Breakdown and Summary at the end of the document.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL WASTE DIVERSION

It is estimated additional organic materials will be diverted from the landfill with this option but the tonnage is unknown. A waste characterization study would be required to determine the estimated tonnages.

POLICY AND EDUCATION

Commercial entities must be required to opt-in and notify the hauler before placing any compostable food serviceware in their green container. For these opted-in commercial entities, staff or the hauler will need to provide education on what products are acceptable, namely how to identify and purchase BPI-certified products only. Since the Model Polystyrene Ordinance already includes language requiring that food providers replace any disposable food serviceware with recyclable or certified compostable alternatives, more outreach is needed to encourage jurisdictions to adopt it. Additionally, a plan for enforcement should be put in place.

ANNUAL COST BREAKDOWN

Please note that the symbol Δ means “a change in”. Numbers in red represent a cost or loss.

Option	Unlined Fiber Products Only (baseline)	Single-stream; All BPI-certified Products	Dual-stream; All BPI-certified Products
Δ Sorting Cost	\$0	\$0	\$94,852
Δ Disposal Cost	\$0	\$360,000	\$360,000
Δ Blending Cost	\$0	\$0	\$52,000
Δ Conveying Cost	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Δ CASP Land Cost	\$0	\$0	\$64,325*
Δ Screening Cost	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Δ Storage Cost	\$0	\$0	\$64,352*

* Land and storage costs are each \$625,000, amortized over 15 years.

ANNUAL COST SUMMARY

Capital expenses include CASP land and storage costs. All other costs listed in the Annual Cost Breakdown table are operating expenses.

Option	Unlined Fiber products only (baseline)	Single-stream; all BPI-certified products	Dual-stream; all BPI-certified products
Δ Capital expense	\$0	\$0	\$128,703*
Δ Operating Expense	\$0	\$360,000	\$536,853
Δ Revenue	\$0	\$1,975,000	\$400,000
Δ Annual Cost	\$0	\$2,335,000	\$1,065,557

* Total cost \$1,250,000 amortized over 15 years.