

# Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 9/24/24

Meetings take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10am – 12pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Teams

Host: [Eric.Wolff@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Wolff@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Minutes

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Vecita Jones, City of Carlsbad
- Joe Coppola, City of Chula Vista
- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista
- Bree Ward, City of Coronado
- Alma Ramirez, City of Escondido
- Caitlin Barboza, HF&H Consultants
- Ali Nicoloff, I Love a Clean San Diego
- Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
- Roshan Christoph, MOE
- Ken Prue, City of Oceanside
- Annabelle Burruss, Port of San Diego
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Anthony Smith, Republic Services San Diego
- Polina Osipova, City of San Diego
- Brooke Yaptangco Flinn, County of San Diego
- Ellyn Law, County of San Diego
- Eric Wolff, County of San Diego
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Mallika Sen, Solana Center
- Leslie Webb-Blanco, City of Vista
- Jesus Aramburo, WM Oceanside

## 2. Open Forum

- **Mallika Sen, Solana Center:** Solana Center continues SB 1383 site visits and technical assistance. Observations from visits include businesses being slow to implement food donation programs and high turnover in staff. At the previous Edible Food Recovery Working Group, attendees discussed tier 2 restaurants not having edible food recovery programs as they primarily focus on food waste prevention and noted the challenge in finding the right partner for these entities. Solana Center launched the [discounted rain barrel program](#) with Think Blue San Diego.
- **Serena Lee, City of La Mesa:** Is mattress recycling at Miramar Landfill open to all residents? Answer: Yes
  - [ByeByeMattress](#) has a facility locator tool.
- **Vecita Jones, City of Carlsbad:** The City connected with Feeding San Diego and the San Diego Food Bank to discuss food recovery agreements with plazas and property managers.

## 3. Presentation

- **Caitlin Barboza, HFH Consultants:** Caitlin presented an overview of the California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) Regulations as it pertains to state and local government fleets and high priority fleets which includes solid

waste haulers. The ACF regulation went into effect January 2024 and aims to reduce emissions through requirements to phase in the use of zero-emission vehicles. Government fleets can comply by utilizing the zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) purchase schedule option or the ZEV milestones option and the compliance method chosen will determine when ZEVs need to be added to the fleet. There are considerations for electric refuse vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell refuse vehicles. Local power company and air district grants, state funding and resources, federal grants and tax incentives are available. There is also potential for upcoming legislation to modify the regulations. AB 2626, AB 3219, and AB 2514 were introduced this year, but none passed. Jurisdictions are encouraged to review their agreements and engage haulers as needed.

#### 4. CalRecycle Update:

- **Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle:**
  - The last SB 1383 chat was held on 9/18 with a focus on non-local entities and local education agencies. A listserv announcement will be sent when the next topics are scheduled.
  - Jurisdictions are encouraged to complete a brief survey about the materials accepted for recycling in the jurisdiction's residential curbside program. Feedback is requested by October 18.
  - Open loan/grant programs include Beverage Container Recycling Grant Program (due 9/24), Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program (due 10/8), Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant Program (due 10/16), Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Program (due 11/19), Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant Program (due 12/5), Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program (continuous), Recycling Market Development Zone Loan Program (continuous).
  - The next monthly public meeting is October 15.

#### 5. CPSC Update

- **Joane Brasch, CPSC:** The Governor has until Sept 30 to sign bills into law. An update on the following bills was shared:
  - **SB 707**, Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024. Waiting on signature.
  - **SB 1280**, Waste management: propane cylinders: reusable or refillable. Signed into law 9/22/24.
  - **AB 660**, Food and beverage products: labeling: quality dates, safety dates, and sell-by dates. Waiting on signature.
  - **SB 1053**, Solid waste: recycled paper bags: standards: carryout bag prohibition. Signed into law 9/22/24.

#### 6. NSAC Update

- **Heidi Sanborn, NSAC:** An update on the following bills was shared:
  - **SB 615**, Electric vehicle traction batteries. Waiting on signature.
  - **SB 1143**, Paint products: stewardship program. Waiting on signature.

- **SB 1066**, Hazardous waste: marine flares: manufacturer responsibility. Waiting on signature.
- **AB 863**, Carpet recycling; producer responsibility organizations: fines: succession: training. Waiting on signature.

## 7. Zero Waste Youth Group

- **Nikki Lee, Zero Waste San Diego:** Nikki Lee is a third-year student, studying environmental science and is interning with Zero Waste San Diego (ZWSD). ZWSD is looking for driven high schoolers and young professionals in the environmental field to implement a zero waste-themed convergence in April. This would be a 2-5 hour commitment per week from October-April. There will be committees for communications and marketing, finance and fundraising, outreach and advocacy, and programs and logistics. For more information visit Zero Waste San Diego's [website](#).

## 8. Wasting Fee Update

- **Rick Anthony:** Rick noted that there hasn't been progress on this. He still has an interest in presenting the fee to the Board of Supervisors. Rick requested that attendees of the Regional Recycling Working Group vote if they are against raising the AB 939 fee from \$0.02 to \$1.
  - **Eric Wolff, County of San Diego:** Eric noted that the Regional Recycling Group is an information sharing group and does not vote on policy.
  - **Heather Heckman, City of Santee:** It's not at her level to say if a jurisdiction agrees to an increase in the wasting fee.

## 9. SB1383 Rollout Roundtable – no update

## 10. Other Regional Working Group Reports

- **Edible Food** – Brooke Yaptangco Flinn will be chairing the meeting moving forward and will send out a new meeting notice. The last meeting included a presentation from the County's Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice on the Food Justice Community Action Plan. Digital engagement is open through October 7. The County is working on the SB 1383 webpage and hopes to share it at the next meeting. The USDA has a [funding opportunity](#) for community food projects.
- **HHW** – no report.
- **Organics** – There is a new contact with the UC Coop who will work with compost and mulch applications. Solana Center shared information on their upcoming master composter course and SB 1383 inspection trainings. The County kicked off the fall compost giveaway events.
- **Reuse and Repair Network** – Interest in hosting fixit clinics at the Spring Valley swap meet. The group also discussed the County's Climate Action Plan items related to reuse. Architectural Salvage is a hardware and deconstruction outlet in San Diego.

## 11. Roundtable

- **Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista:** Manuel noted a load up service for household items pop up in their area. The Attorney General is suing Exxon Mobile for deception of recycling.
- **Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego:** County of San Diego Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice is compiling a list of existing local circular economy efforts for organic materials in the San Diego region. Please submit any recommendations for this list (case studies, initiatives, programs, policies, businesses, etc.) to [Natalia.King@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Natalia.King@sdcounty.ca.gov). In particular, please review the current document and help fill in gaps for the highlighted yellow sections. [240905 Regional Organics CE Efforts.docx](#).
- **Rick Anthony, Zero Waste San Diego:** The National Zero Waste Conference is coming up the first week of October.
- The 2025 Zero Waste Symposium will tentatively be held 2/26/25. Call for speakers application ends on 10/1 and early bid registration begins. Apply [online](#) if interested.

1. **Adjournment** – the next meeting will be 10/22.