

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024, 1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Contact: Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov

Agenda

1. Introductions

- Amanda Boudreault, City of San Diego
- Collen Foster, HF&H
- Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Abby Hunt, Republic Services
- Jessica Toth, Solana Center
- Kenneth Prue, City of Oceanside
- Kimberly Silva, City of Escondido
- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista
- Natalie Levy, UC Cooperative Extension
- Monica Martinez, City of El Cajon
- Nicole Grucky, City of Solana Beach
- Ofelia Andrade, City of Coronado
- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
- Nicholas Vallejo, City of San Diego
- Dr. Travis Alexander, San Pasqual Valley Soils, UC resource
- Victoria Nava McClellan, City of Oceanside
- Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Rocio Ramos, City of Oceanside
- Julia Gallaway, County of San Diego
- Janin Rodarte, City of Escondido

2. SB 1383

a. General Updates

- i. Reminder to send in your EAR.
- ii. Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego: SB 1383 procurement includes an upcoming County program to offer a compost subsidy program for farms; expanding compost/mulch giveaway events to local communities, gardens, & schools; incorporating compost and mulch into watershed management in the form of watersmart landscape rebates.
- iii. Colleen Foster, HF&H: Clients that have started the compliance review process share that it's a quick process. Make sure your implementation records are ready. Working with CalRecycle makes the process easier so reach out for help.
- iv. Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle: Emily will be reaching out to all San Diego jurisdictions, offering assistance with implementation records and helping do a review of reports to see if anything is missing or needs more information.
 1. This is not for enforcement nor an official review, just initial assistance.
 2. Local Assistance will be doing similarly for all jurisdictions.

- i. Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego: Suggested adding **a new section to the monthly meetings** highlighting different compost and mulch uses to offer a training, resources, etc. for jurisdictions interested in replicating these practices.
 1. Example Topic: How to add compost as a top dressing for turf fields, athletic fields, golf courses, etc.
 - a. Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils: Presented initial thoughts to consider: How many sqft/acres of turf in each jurisdiction? Create an inventory of turf fields to see who could use it. See what the potential could be. After this, then the conversation shifts to deciding which fields should be prioritized and who's involved in the decision making? Where's the material coming from? How's it being transported? Who's paying? How should it be applied? What's the upkeep going to be after the first application? Can you have field closures for restoring and refreshing the turf?
 2. There are case studies available for review.
 3. Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego and Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils will co-lead this topic and will develop resources, a survey to assess interest, potential, etc. City/County Park and Rec (or other key depts.) staff could be invited to attend future meetings.
- ii. Other topics of interest presented by members
 1. Heather Heckman, City of Santee: Would the downtime be shorter with compost alone than a top dress plus fertilizer?
 - a. Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils: Put compost down at the same time as fertilizer. Compost is not a good source of nitrogen which is what turf grass needs, so need to supplement compost with nitrogen fertilizer. Carbon/nitrogen balance will be key.
 2. Jessica Toth, Solana Center: 1) A closed loop concept of ordinance updates for municipalities and the pilot projects/grants available. Like an ever-changing accessible database for information sharing focused on organic ordinance updates and pilot projects/grants. 2) Brownfield site re-development with digestate and excess compost.
 - a. An example the database could share: USDA's [Composting and Food Waste Reduction \(CFWR\) Pilot Project](#) (due September 4, 2024)
 3. Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista: Biofiltration cells and using compost to remediate contaminated soils, heavy metal removal, stormwater management.
 - a. Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils can give tips and assistance delivering environmental resources on this topic. Contact him more information craig.kolodge@spvsoils.com
 4. Colleen Foster, HF&H: Suggests these sessions be presented in bite size pieces, streamlining topics with fact sheets and showcasing funding resources available for local jurisdictions.
 - a. Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils says there are many ways to use the materials that many have not even been exposed to.

Could be ideal for jurisdictions to identify projects/problems that they are trying to solve and then see how compost can be used in the solution.

5. Colleen Foster, HF&H: Cover pilot programs that increase participation and public acceptance of recycling food waste at residences/MFCs.
 - a. Current RFP offering different options to clients at multi-family sites such as basic education, kitchen pails, technologies in the kitchen (i.e. composters and digesters), testing which technologies, tools, and resources encourage food waste disposal best practices at home-- which eliminate barriers and encourage participation.
 - i. They are still offering a collection service, but seeing if there's more successful diversion through these interventions.
6. Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista: What is the recommended policy that should be implemented in cities? What specific compost and organic use policy requirements can impact new development projects? Is there a fact sheet or resource available for project developers to follow these policies?
7. Colleen Foster, HF&H: Address PFAS and other concerns in the use of compost.
 - b. Trainings, tip sheets, specifications
 - i. CalRecycle fact sheets can be extensive for customers so jurisdictions should work towards providing something more digestible and understandable.
 - c. Contact Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego or Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils if you have other suggested topics.
4. Highest and Best Use of Food Scraps
 - a. Feed for Animals
 - b. Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego: [Denali](#) is partnering with Walmart and other companies to develop a de-packaging technology at the store/retail level to capture food scraps in the correct waste stream. It has led to a 60% increased diversion rate and a 12% organics reduction in the trash compactor.
5. Legislative Updates
 - a. NA
6. News & Events
 - a. August 18-21, 2024 - [CRRRA Conference: Shifting the Conversation](#) coming soon to Anaheim, CA! [Event Schedule](#)
 - i. Colleen Foster, HF&H, will be on several SB54 panels.
 - ii. Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista, will be on a panel discussing the policy track on procurement and how it applies to jurisdictions.
 - iii. **Highly recommended session:** CRRRA Annual Policy Roundtable on Sunday, August 18 at 2:30-5:00pm.
 - b. August 25, 2024 - HF&H Annual Emerging Issues Summit, free to participate!
 - i. Reach out to Colleen Foster, HF&H, cfoster@hfh-consultants.com.

- c. September 10, 2024 - Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils will be featured on a panel discussing Caltrans use of organic materials. Register for [Meeting Compost Market Demands for Caltrans](#)
 - d. September 12, 2024 - Save the date! [Southern California SWANA Workshop](#) will be at the Discovery Cube Orange County.
 - e. September 23-27, 2024 – [Storm Water Awareness Week](#) – It’s free!
 - i. Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils is presenting on September 24.
7. Roundtable
- a. [OWR2 grant with CalRecycle](#) deadline extended to March 3, 2025. The grant automatically extends unless you opt out. Right now, we are in OWR4 cycle.
8. Adjournment - next meeting September 5, 2024, 1:00- 2:30 p.m.