

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting

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

Location: Virtual Meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Contact: Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov

Agenda

- Introductions

- a. Craig Kolodge – San Pasqual Valley Soils
- b. Alma Fernandez – City of Escondido
- c. Abby Hunt – Republic Services
- d. Jessica Toth – Solana Center
- e. Kenneth Prue III – City of Oceanside
- f. Kimberly Silva – City of Escondido
- g. Natalia King – County of San Diego
- h. Jill Larner – CalRecycle
- i. Dave Didonato – City of Chula Vista
- j. Manuel Medrano – City of Chula Vista
- k. Serena Lee – City of La Mesa
- l. Melissa Perez – Republic Services
- m. Alma Martinez
- n. Ofelia Andrade – City of Coronado
- o. Heather Heckman – City of Santee
- p. Jennafer Steffen – City of Poway
- q. Avecita Jones – City of Carlsbad
- r. Nicole Grucky – City of Solana Beach
- s. Shannon Lee – County of San Diego
- t. Michael Wonsidler – County of San Diego

- SB 1383

- a. General Updates

- i. Staff from County of San Diego and San Pasqual Valley Soils presented at a [California Stormwater Quality Association \(CASQA\)](#) meeting to help demystify compost and mulch application best practices and explain its benefits, in relation to watersheds. The presentation was well received and several people have inquired about the County's organic procurement program. Mike and Craig will share their presentations, and can also provide information on how to host the presentation for your team.
- ii. The University of California hired a new organics management advisor that will act as an academic resource and connection to higher education. To introduce her to the San Diego community, she will be invited to attend a future meeting.

- b. Procurement

- i. City of Chula Vista is working on passing an Environmentally Preferred Procurement policy.
- ii. City of Coronado has implemented a new policy for procurement of SB 1383 products, including paper. The policy also has an exhibit for contractors to purchase SB 1383 compliant products.
- iii. City of Carlsbad asked how jurisdictions are navigating mulch procurement for dog parks? There is concern about particle size to ensure dogs are not injured from accidental ingestion of mulch.
 - 1. SPV Soils shared that mulch that is finer (half inch or smaller) and softer is less likely to be picked up by pets to eat and will be small enough to not pose a danger.

- Market development of processed organics
 - a. Compost & mulch application
 - 1. [ReScape](#) is a nonprofit that educates about and advocates for a whole-systems regenerative approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment.
 - 2. County of San Diego's Sustainable Landscape Guide is a resource for the public, landscaper industry, and other professionals: [San Diego Sustainable Landscapes \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
 - b. Trainings, tip sheets, specifications
 - i. City of Chula Vista plans to hold a training with various jurisdictions and developers to review compost equipment.

- SB 1383 Grant Funds Usage
 - 1. City of La Mesa plans to use their SB 1383 grant for a consultant to their franchised waste hauler, EDCO.
 - 2. City of Chula Vista used their SB 1383 grant to buy equipment to spread compost and mulch material in their parks, primarily for turf application during its initial roll out.
 - 3. City of Solana Beach used their SB 1383 grant for consultants to provide technical assistance and inspections. EDCO also acts on their behalf to give away compost and mulch.
 - 4. City of Santee has a contract with [Zero Foodprint](#) for compost procurement. Zero Foodprint helps farmers, in California, to buy high quality compost at a reduced rate, and that procurement counts towards Santee's procurement target. This allows the farmer to become a direct service provider for the city. They report that this method is also less expensive to meet the procurement target than other methods.
 - a. Information on [Zero Foodprint Compost Connector Program](#)
 - 5. Are jurisdictions using funding to transfer materials?
 - a. None reported

- Highest and Best Use of Food Scraps
 - a. Operating in North County is a single-use edible cup company called [Amai](#), which produces their product from spent grains. They are looking to expand and are interested in [RMDZ](#) and other low-interest loans.

- Legislative Updates
 - a. SB 54 rule-making continues and will be a critical element in future single use product and packaging management. All jurisdictions are encouraged to track the legislation and provide feedback.

- News & Events
 - a. The County of San Diego's Recycling and Parks Department collaborated to host Compost Awareness Week at six County Parks. To advance equity and align with

grant requirements, locations were selected using the [California Healthy Places Index](#). For information on this index, please review their helpful [FAQs](#).

- b. SPV Soils host compost giveaways every second Saturday of the month.
<https://spvsoils.com/specials/>
 - c. Republic Services completed a compost giveaway for all customers on May 11.
- Roundtable
 - a. Jessica Toth, Solana Center – Jessica wrote an article: “[The Food System’s Natural Circularity](#)”. Review and feedback would be greatly appreciated.
 - Adjournment- next meeting (first Thursday 1:00- 2:30 p.m.)