

Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 2/27/24

Meetings take place the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10am – 12pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Teams

Host: Eric.Wolff@sdcounty.ca.gov

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Monica Martinez, City of El Cajon
- Paul Maechler, City of Encinitas
- Caitlin Barboza, HF&H Consultants
- Amy Unruh, I Love a Clean San Diego
- Yvonee Codero, City of Imperial
- Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
- Christian Olivias, City of Lemon Grove
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Shannon Pritchett, ProduceGood
- Anthony Smith, Republic Services
- Polina Osipova, City of San Diego
- Quincy Smith, City of San Diego
- Megan Kendall, City of San Diego
- Daron Warkentin, City of San Diego
- Ryane Hughes Gehman, County of San Diego
- Eric Wolff, County of San Diego
- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista
- Daniel Butler, Waste Management
- Jenna Roripaugh, Waste Management
- Cynthia Mallett, Waste Management
- Debbie Descans, Waste Management
- Lori Somers, Waste Management
- Avecita Jones – City of Carlsbad
- Valeria Lake, One Earth Recycling
- Rick Gloria, City of San Diego
- Nate Pelczar – CPSC
- Joanne Brasch - CPSC
- Mallika Sen – Solana Center
- Leslie Webb-Blanco – City of Vista
- Tracy Bills – CRRA
- Fernando Moreno – SCS Engineers
- Craig Kolodge – San Pasqual Valley Soils
- Rick Anthony – Rick Anthony & Associates
- Darlene Cossio
- Garcia Mayra
- James Wood
- Cedric Cesena
- Roland Harpin Jr.
- Jennafer Steffen
- Ofelia Andrade

2. Open Forum

- a. **Rick Anthony, RAA:** Thinks there will be 300 attendees at Zero Waste Symposium tomorrow. They are sold out in person but can attend virtually. Renee Robertson City of San Diego and Nick Lapis of CPSC will be speaking.
- b. **Mallika Sen, Solana Center – [Upcoming events](#)** Backyard Composting Basics 3/23, Taking on Textile Waste 3/23 10 am -1 pm, expert sewers will be there and they have started created a sustainable business list.

Link Shared - https://solanacenter.org/inspire_events/taking-on-textile-waste-event

- c. **Amy Unruh, ILACSD** - [Upcoming events](#) today (2/27) organics webinar in Spanish. 3/16 Lindo Lake Cleanup and San Ysidro community clean up and art expedition at library. 3/27 Sustainable Saturday with clean up swap and DIY workshop.

3. Presentations:

a. **CRRA: Tracy Bills, CRRA Executive Director & Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad**

- CRRA founded in 1974.
- Encouraged Board Membership – 3-year term, each year there is an open position.
- Advisors – actively involved and a part of the conference.
- Tracy – Strategic planning began in January for a new strategic plan. Updating bylaws and internal policy for the first time in 10 years. You can apply for a scholarship for CRRA membership and/or one day conference attendance. Can also pay for conference by volunteering. Will be offering second year of mentorship program.
- Zero Waste Certification training will be 3/18-3/22
- Technical Council – EFR Edible Food Recovery, HHW, K-12, CORC California Organics Recycling Council, CSC Climate, C&D, PRR, ZWCC, GRC, LATC, SBS, NEW - Behavior Change Technical Council Monthly meetings. Join councils where you need the most help. They host webinars.
- Why join CRRA – discounts on conference
- CRRA Conference – will be in Anaheim from August 18-21. Peter Hawkins will be a keynote speaker.

b. **Joanne Brasch – CPSC – California Product Stewardship Council**

- Textile Update – One of fastest moving industry response.
- From a recycling standpoint textiles are difficult because there is such a blend of material. Not wanted at MRFs because of tangling and combustion. Labeling is at Federal level.
- Many textile recovery pilot projects going – Santa Barbara is a hub of textile pilots.
 - a) Sorting
 - b) Repair/Reuse
 - c) Hubs
 - d) Recycling
 - e) Repair
 - f) Audit
 - g) Workshop
 - h) Shoe Research
 - i) Unconfirmed projects - San Diego RMDZ hotels – Every wear Apparel. Hospitality market is strong, company located here. 100% cotton and 100% recycled content. LA 28 Olympics and textiles will increase.

Working with Nike and Polo/Ralph Lauren. All of LA 28 products to have recycled content.

- GHG Impact from SF Project
- LA Textile Hub Pilot – annually has over 70k tons of textiles in trash.
- CPSC – next steps – back out slowly and move on.
- EPR Bill – SB707 Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023 – developing enforceable mechanisms. Lower fees for less blends. Lower fees for better labeling. Setting global precedence.
- Mallika Sen submitted question – What would you recommend that we do right now as the most impactful thing to help this?

Joanne:

- 1) Talk to current stakeholders and ask how you can help (thrift stores, laundry)
- 2) Look at economic justice
- 3) Make sure our organizations are supporting brands that are invested in the cause – buy eco-brand, thrift store, etc.

4. CalRecycle Update, Emily Schutz:

- a. The next 1383 monthly chat with CalRecycle is scheduled for Thursday 2/29 at 1 pm with a focus on capacity planning.
- b. All previous chats with CalRecycle are recorded.
- c. Grant updates: Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program (due 4/2), Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program (continuous), Recycling Market Development Zone Loan Program (continuous), Beverage Container Redemption Pilot Project Grant Program (continuous).
- d. March 19th is the next public meeting.

5. CPSC Legislative Update – Joanne Brasch, CPSC:

- Red bills have died – after the first year they didn't meet certain deadlines. Green ones passed last October, white bills were introduced last year, met deadlines, but will move forward into next year's legislative cycle.
- AB-2 (Ward) Recycling solar photovoltaic modules – solar panels there is a partner bill to use water heat and chemicals to deconstruct. Right now, they recycle a small portion and landfill the rest as HHW.
- Other still in process: AB-45, AB-347, AB660, AB 863
- SB560 (Laird) – bill died likely because of funding but unsure – Solid Waste – gas cylinders; stewardship program.
- SB 552 (Newman) – Public safety – pools and spas
- SB707 (Newman) – Responsible Textile recovery Act of 2023
- New 2024 bills
- Ban on Plastic Bags
- Female Products and PFAS
- SB1066 - Marine Flare Switch
- SB 1280 (Laird) - reintroduction of SB560

6. SB 1383 & AB 1826 Rollout Roundtable –

None reported.

7. Other Regional Working Group Reports

- a. **Edible Food** – Mallika – great meeting presentation from Jim Larson, Food Donation Connection.
- b. **HHW** – none
- c. **Organics** – Mike Wonsidler provided update – talked about education and outreach to schools and growing interest & support. Using ILACSD, Solana Center, haulers. Outreach to non-public school to ensure outreach is happening. Greater discussion in March meeting on equipment to spread mulch etc. Incentives needed to encourage farmers to use compost. Enforcement discussion – hearing jurisdiction are working to avoid enforcement through technical assistance. Some jurisdictions are using code enforcement and some blend, recycling specialist to code enforcement. County of San Diego has almost finalized the procurement contract. Mike hopes to share more on March 7. Santee is working with Zero Foodprint to fulfill procurement requirements.

Next organics working group will have two presentations:

1. SB54 – Coleen Foster
2. Procurement/Equipment presentation Colleen Foster and Craig SPVS

Eric - Training on Organics capacity planning is available, and Eric will send out the link.

- d. Reuse/Repair - Committee is looking at Spring Valley Swap meet for a location for a reuse/repair/fixit similar to the previous Earthfair event. Could also have a load check for reusables at the landfill similar to Urban Ore.
- e. Rick discussed wasting fee. Disposal Fee for planning & education. \$0.02/ton = \$60,000 per year. If there was a \$1/ton would be 3.5-4 million for a regional program. No longer calling it a wasting fee but a disposal proposal. Only charge on waste, not blue bin or green bin. Alameda county is offering grants and loans to organizations participating in the circular economy. Landfill disposal in Alameda county has gone down to where it was 25 years ago.

Eric asked if there was a budget to get to the number of \$1/ton.

Rick asked for the overall approval and then turn it over to DPW to come up with a plan over a 90 day period.

8. Roundtable

None.

9. Adjournment – the next meeting will be 3/26/24