

## Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 1:00- 2:30 p.m.

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

**Contact:** [Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov)

### Agenda

#### 1. Introductions

- Wbaldo Arellano – City of Imperial Beach
- Emily Schuetz, Cal Recycle
- Risa Baron, Republic Services
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Colleen Foster, HF&F
- Ken Prue, City of Oceanside
- Kim Silva, City of Escondido
- Nick Vallejo, City of San Diego
- Manual Medrano- City of Chula Vista
- Roshan Christoph, MOE
- Craig Kolodge & Travis Alexander - San Pasqual Valley Soils
- Jessica Toth, Solana Center for Environmental Innovation
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Avecita Jones - City of Carlsbad
- Jennafer Steffen- City of Poway
- Natalie Levy- UCCE for Soil Health and Organics Material Management
- Serena Lee- City of La Mesa
- Amanda Boudreault, City of San Marcos
- Natalia King Quick, County of San Diego

#### 2. SB 1383

##### a. General Updates

##### i. Farm Bureau and UC Soil Health Advisor Welcome & Introduction

1. Natalie Levy is the new UCCE advisor!
2. She is assisting several Southern CA counties.

##### ii. Solana Center- Discussed the benefits of the Master Composter Course, which is available to expand to interested cities. Also, Solana Center is providing an SB 1383 inspection training course and recently updated their Compost it Yourself guide. For more details, contact Jessica T.

##### iii. Fall Compost Week- County of San Diego holding giveaway events at 7 County Parks 9/22-9/28. Also, open to exploring others interest in regionwide promotion/ giveaway events next May for US Composting Council's International Compost Awareness Week.

1. Those mentioning interest included: Republic, Escondido, and La Mesa

##### b. Education and Outreach – no updates.

##### c. Procurement

- i. County of San Diego has a compost and mulch contract for County departments and is actively promoting use and pilot projects internally.
      - ii. Solana Center has developed resources for recycled products procurement requirements and is able to assist cities with surveys and providing consultations.
      - iii. Carlsbad- meeting with every single department regarding procurement requirements. Have a new sustainable purchasing policy that Directors are helping to implement. CalRecycle had a review meeting with team to verify information.
    - d. Enforcement
      - i. Interested in CalRecycle providing written notice to jurisdictions in advance of start of enforcement process to ensure information goes to the correct contact.
      - ii. CalRecycle's Emily S. is available to review implementation records prior to official enforcement process.
        - 1. Goal is to conduct compliance evaluations within a 4-year period for all jurisdictions.
        - 2. Completing first batch of reviews currently.
    - e. Facility Updates
      - i. Republic's depackager unit will be starting operation soon and expect capacity to increase.
3. Market development of processed organics
  - a. Compost & mulch application
  - b. Discussion: Developing a jurisdictional survey & plan for compost and mulch application
    - i. Survey Development: Natalie Levy, UC Soil Health and Organic Materials Management Advisor: [nlevy@ucanr.edu](mailto:nlevy@ucanr.edu)
      - 1. Intent of survey is to find interest, opportunities and challenges in San Diego
      - 2. Request to identify the key people Natalie should engage with within each jurisdiction.
    - ii. Identification of key depts and contacts, estimated acreage, challenges and limitations, equipment needs, opportunities, priority projects
      - 1. Key Depts: General Services, Parks & Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Watershed Protection, Waste & Recycling, Landscape Architects, Civil Engineers. etc.
  - c. Topic areas of interest for future events: Brownfield Development, Application on Existing Turf (Ballfields, Golf Courses, etc.), Stormwater Protection-Construction Projects, Policy Recommendations/Requirements for Project Developers, Addressing Contamination & PFAS in Compost/Mulch, etc., Developing the business case for using compost
    - i. Please poll other departments to get their insight.
  - d. Trainings, tip sheets, specifications
    - i. [Compost and Mulch Use Toolbox](#) – has been updated on the webpage.

4. Highest and Best Use of Food Scraps
  - a. Feed for Animals- no update.

5. Legislative Updates

- SB 2436
  - Expands SB 1383 procurement sources
  - Allows procurement credit with a DPS agreement
  - Allow reevaluation for procurement target based on local basis
  - Consider a 5-year target, not annual
  - Extends rural exemptions till 2037
- SB 392
  - Extend rural exemption
  - Increases incentives for carbon farming
- AB 392
  - Technical assistance requirements for CalRecycle
  - Would require CalRecycle to pursue assistance before enforcement

6. News & Events

- CalRecycle: CalTrans utilization webinar, September 10, 2024 Tuesday 1-3:30  
webinar: <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/event/meeting-compost-market-demands-for-caltrans/>
- [Storm Water Awareness Week](#) September 23-27, 2024 Free webinars on compost and mulch BMPs
- Rescape trainings on Sustainable Landscape Practices trainings
  - [Maintenance Qualification Training \(MQT\)](#) – September 10, 11, 17, 18, 2024
  - [Heat Qualification Training \(HQT\)](#) – September 12, 19, 26 and October 3, 2024
- CRRRA California Organics Council Meetings held bimonthly
- 19th Annual California Bioresources Symposium 11/19-11/20 Davis/Sacramento. Registration details not yet available- will be distributed in mid-Sept.

7. Roundtable

- a. Natalia King Quick (County of San Diego, OSEJ) is working on 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](#)

8. Adjournment- next meeting (first Thursday 1:00- 2:30 p.m.)