

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**  
**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE**  
**March 2, 2023, 3:00 – 4:18 pm**  
**County Board Chambers**  
**701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Santa Cruz CA 95060**



**Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present:** Justin Cummings (County), Felipe Hernandez (County), Jacob Guth (County alt), Bob Nelson (SC), Scott Newsome (SC), Allan Timms (SV), Will Smith (Wat), Tami Stolzenhaller (Wat alt)

**Alternates Present:** Leslie O'Malley (SC alt), Chris Lamm (SV alt.)

**Absent:** Jessica Kahn (Cap), Eduardo Montesino (Wat), Rene Golder (SC alt), Danielle Green (Wat alt), Alexander Pedersen (Cap alt)

**Task Force Staff:** Kasey Kolassa (County), Beau Hawksford (County), Darcy Pruitt (County)

**Agency Staff:** Christine Horvat (County), Mary Ann LoBalbo (County), Ramon Gomez (County), Celeste Gutierrez (County).

**Guests:** Sally-Christine Rodgers (Trash Talkers), Jeffrey Smedberg (Master Composter).

1) Welcome and Introductions

- Each voting member/alternate provided a brief introduction, including name, affiliation, length of public service, and prior service on the Task Force.

2) Election of Officers

- Justin Cummings, Task Force Chair for 2023-2024 session.
  - Nominated by Hernandez, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelson
  - Voice vote resulted in Cummings unanimous election as chair.
- Felipe Hernandez, Task Force Vice-Chair for 2023-2024 session.
  - Nominated by Cummings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelson
  - Voice vote resulted in Hernandez unanimous election as vice-chair.

3) Task Force Introductory Presentation (Summary of Task Force background and mandate)

- Staff presentation summarized Task Force role in regional collaboration to meet State waste diversion mandates.
  - Presentation outlined oversight and update schedule for Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.
  - Presentation also provided succinct summary of State law solid waste diversion requirements
  - Presentation slides attached (see Attachment A).
- Task Force members discussed current challenges in reaching waste reduction and diversion goals, especially as it relates to organics.
  - Challenges discussed include:
    - difficulty in changing waste disposal behaviors in the population,
    - changes in waste diversion accounting make achieving goals more difficult,
    - various smell, vector, and contamination issues related to food waste.
  - Questions raised about SB 1383 Food Waste implementation in different jurisdictions.

- Food only in separate bin in Santa Cruz City
- Food waste mixed with yard waste in other jurisdictions.
- Questions about compostable bags (Rodgers)
  - Bags, including compostable bags not allowed because they don't decompose on the same timeframe as organic waste.
  - Concerns about contaminating the organic waste stream.
- Encouraged Task Force to provide feedback to CalRecycle on compost issues (Smedberg)

4) Oral communications from the public

Sally-Christine Rodgers introduced Trash Talkers goals to engage the community in making Santa Cruz County the cleanest county in the nation. Goals include to educate and engage people to reduce illegal dumping and clean up of encampments and roadside litter. Trash Talkers have developed a website and logo in English and Spanish to engage the public in cleanup activities.

5) Oral communications from Task Force members/alternates

Felipe Hernandez:

- Thanked Sally-Christine Rodgers for Trash Talkers presentation and her work in coordinating an effective countywide waste removal program.
- Asks for tour of local and regional waste disposal infrastructure to better understand countywide waste management issues.

Bob Nelson:

- Announced City's acquisition of an all-electric trash collection truck and the City's plans to expand its fleet of electric vehicles. Truck was on order for 2 years before delivery.

Tami Stolzenthaler:

- Announced compost give away to the Watsonville community that illustrates the renewable waste cycle from composting food scraps/yard waste into soil amendments.
- Announced Watsonville's pending acquisition of its first all-electric trash collection truck

6) Approval of minutes from meeting of December 1, 2022

- Nelson moved approval on the December 2022 Task Force minutes. Smith seconded.
- Voice vote resulted approval of the minutes by 3 voting members. Vote included 5 abstentions by new members not present at the December meeting.

7) In Person Meetings – End of Covid State of Emergency, Summary of Brown Act Meeting Requirements

- Task Force discussion and questions about in person and hybrid meeting options.
  - Task Force expressed an interest in continuing to offer hybrid option for public participation purposes and to allow alternates to keep up with meetings when their attendance is not required for quorum.
- Newsome moved to provide a hybrid meeting option, Timms seconded.
  - Voice vote resulted in unanimous approval to provide hybrid meeting option.

8) Meeting Protocols - Discussion and Location Selection. (Previous meeting locations have included: Watsonville Council Chambers, Capitola Council Chambers, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Meeting Room, Santa Cruz County Board Chambers.)

- Smith moved to hold June meeting at Watsonville Council Chambers, Timms seconded.
  - Voice vote resulted in unanimous approval to hold June meeting in Watsonville.

9) 5-Year Plan Update – Next submission due March 2024

- Timms requested staff prepare a presentation and schedule for CIWMP (Plan) update.
  - Include staff and task force responsibilities.

10) Compliance Discussion and Update –

- Task Force thanked staff for the prior presentation that included a summary of waste diversion mandates.
- Vice-Chair Hernandez requested a summary of current State laws that guide Task Force work.

11) Zolly v. City of Oakland

- County Counsel recommended Task Force members seek advice from their city attorneys.
- Nelson provided a brief summary of the facts related to the Zolly outcome.
- Staff agreed to provide a link to an independent case summary to assist Task Force members in raising the issue with their home jurisdiction.
  - [Zolly v. City of Oakland Requires Reexamination of Local Franchise Fees | Rural Counties \(rccrcnet.org\)](https://www.rccrcnet.org/)

12) Legislative Update

- Staff provided a summary of bills recently introduced by State legislators that are relevant to solid waste management and recycling.
- Staff summarized 10 bills to watch including:
  - Producer responsibility legislation
  - Solar panel recycling legislation
  - Health protection zone legislation that could prevent the expansion of existing solid waste facilities in the County.
    - Task Force Chair Cummings asked for staff to follow this bill.

13) Call for June 1<sup>st</sup> Agenda Items

- Prepare legislation follow-up for distribution/discussion.
- Prepare presentation and schedule for CIWMP (Plan) update.
  - Include staff and task force responsibilities.
- Summarize waste resources within the county.
  - Provide capacity information for each county jurisdiction.
- Plan waste management facility tour

14) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm

## Attachment A



Community Development & Infrastructure

# Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force

## Purpose, Duties, and Waste Diversion Mandates

### AB 939 – Integrated Waste Management Act

- 1989 State Law Overhauled California Solid Waste Management
  - **Repealed Solid Waste Management Laws** in the *Government Code* and *Health and Safety Code*.
  - **Established New Solid Waste Management Laws** in the *Public Resources Code*.
    - Restructured Waste Management Oversight
      - Created a New Professional Oversight Board
    - Prioritized California's Waste Management Goals:
      - (1) Source Reduction
      - (2) Recycling and Composting
      - (3) Environmentally Safe Transformation and Land Disposal
  - **Created Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force**
    - Task Force required to:
      - Coordinate a Cost-Effective Regional Recycling System
      - Oversee the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP or Plan)
      - Develop the Countywide Siting Element



## Task Force Purpose: Coordinate Regional Recycling

- (1) Identify solid waste management issues of countywide or regional concern.
- (2) Determine the need for solid waste collection and transfer systems, processing facilities, and marketing strategies that can serve more than one local jurisdiction within the region.
- (3) Facilitate the development of multijurisdictional arrangements for the marketing of recyclable materials.
- (4) To the extent possible, facilitate resolution of conflicts and inconsistencies between or among city and county source reduction and recycling elements.



## Task Force Duties: Oversee Regional Plan

- **Oversee Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP or Plan)**
  - Addresses waste management conditions within the county.
  - Provides an overview of actions needed to divert *at least 50%* of all solid waste produced on or after January 1, 2020.
  - Maintain 15 years of disposal capacity.
- **CIWMP Planning Elements:**
  - Countywide Siting Element (CSE)
  - Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)
  - Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE)
  - Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE)
- **Five-Year CIWMP Review Report**
  - Santa Cruz CIWMP first submitted in March 1992.
  - State law requires plan elements of the CIWMP to be reviewed every five years after the original approval date, and revised, if necessary.
  - Next Santa Cruz Countywide Plan review date is in **March 2024**.



## Waste Diversion Mandates

Current Diversion Requirements  
75% Solid Waste Diversion  
50% Organics Diversion

- **AB 939** – Integrated Waste Management (1989) – Requires diversion from land disposal of at least 50% of all solid waste produced by January 1, 2000.
- **AB 341** – Mandatory Commercial Recycling (2011)– Requires recycling for businesses that generate four cubic yards of solid waste per week and all 5+ unit multifamily residential dwellings. Increased solid waste diversion requirements from 50% to 75% by January 1, 2020, through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities.
- **AB 1826** – Mandatory Commercial Organic Recycling (2014)– Requires organics recycling for businesses that generate two cubic yards of solid waste per week and all 5+ unit multifamily residential dwellings. Requires diversion from land disposal by January 1, 2020 of at least a 50% statewide reduction of the amount of organics based on the 2014 organic waste disposal baseline.
- **SB 1383** – Short-Lived Climate Pollutants..Organic Waste: Landfills (2016) – Authorized CalRecycle to develop regulations and set a statewide organics disposal reduction target for landfills based on the 2014 organic waste disposal baseline.
  - Requires all single and multi-family residences to comply with organic collection service
  - Requires either source separation or commercial separation of organics, recycling, and trash.
  - Requires diversion from land disposal of at least a 50% statewide reduction in the amount of organics by January 1, 2020 and at least 75% by January 1, 2025.

## Unincorporated County – Diversion Rates

2022 Annual Tonnage Summary			
Customer Type	Material	Total	Material Type as a Percentage of the Customer Type Total Tonnage
Single Family	MSW	27,031.5	43%
	Recycle	16,379.1	25%
	Organics -YT	19,659.5	32%
	<b>Diversion</b>		<b>57%</b>
MFD	MSW	3,937.0	78%
	Recycle	889.3	18%
	Organics	197.1	4%
	<b>Diversion</b>		<b>22%</b>
Commercial	MSW	10,393.1	69%
	Recycle	3,424.8	23%
	Organics	1,174.9	8%
	Organics - FW	-	-
	<b>Diversion</b>		<b>31%</b>
Agency	MSW	1,319.8	78%
	Recycle	270.8	16%
	Organics	101.8	6%
	Organics - FW	-	-
	<b>Diversion</b>		<b>22%</b>
Summary of Total Tonnage for All Customer Types	MSW	42,681.2	50%
	Recycle	20,964.0	25%
	Organics	21,133.3	25%
	Organics - FW	-	-
	<b>Diversion</b>		<b>50%</b>

## Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Four Elements

### Countywide Siting Element (CSE)

- Counties are required to prepare a Countywide Siting Element (CSE) that describes areas that may be used for developing new disposal facilities.
  - Estimate the total permitted disposal capacity needed for a 15-year period if counties determine that their existing disposal capacity will be exhausted within 15 years or if additional capacity is desired.
  - Identify areas, numbers, and types of new/expanded solid waste disposal and transformation facilities to meet a minimum of 15 years of combined permitted disposal capacity.
  - Discussion of strategies to dispose of the excess solid waste must be included if new or expanded facilities cannot be established.
  - Description of siting criteria that must include: environmental considerations, environmental impacts, socio-economic and legal considerations; environmental justice considerations to ensure the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes; and any other additional criteria included by jurisdictions that approve the element.
- 2017 General Plan Guidelines Update
  - Expanded the Land Use Element of the General Plan to address the Statewide need for additional recycling, anaerobic digestion, composting, and remanufacturing facilities.

### Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)

- Each City and County is required to prepare, adopt, and submit a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to CalRecycle
  - Solid Waste Generation Study - describes representative waste disposal by residential, commercial and industrial sectors, including base year diversions.
  - Evaluates alternatives, selects and implements programs related to:
    - Source Reduction
    - Recycling
    - Composting
    - Special Wastes
  - Identifies existing disposal facility capacity and documents all solid waste import and export agreements.
  - Provides cost estimates for source reduction, recycling, composting, and special waste disposal and public outreach to implement the SRRE.
  - Describes public outreach programs to promote source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting in the SRRE.
  - Integrates SRRE programs and implementation schedules to achieve State source reduction, recycling, and composting mandates.

## Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE)

- Each City and County is required to prepare, adopt, and submit a Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) to CalRecycle
  - Describes waste diversion, recycling, and compost facilities that recover at least 5% of the total volume diverted by the jurisdiction
    - Diversion facilities currently used by the jurisdiction
      - Inside of the jurisdiction
      - Outside of the jurisdiction
    - Existing facilities suitable for expansion
    - Properties suitable for development of new facilities
  - Describes transfer stations located within and outside the jurisdiction which recover less than five percent of the material received.
- NDFE must be consistent with implementation of the jurisdiction's Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE).

## Household Hazardous Waste Element

- Each City and County is required to prepare, adopt, and submit a Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE) to CalRecycle
  - The HHWE identifies a comprehensive program for the safe collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of household hazardous wastes.
    - Evaluates household hazardous waste collection alternatives.
    - Identifies program implementation, monitoring, and evaluation methods.
    - Estimates household hazardous waste program costs and identifies revenue sources to support household hazardous waste program(s).
    - Provides a master implementation schedule for all tasks related to the household hazardous waste program.
    - Describes public outreach programs to promote source reduction, reuse, recycling, and safe disposal of household hazardous waste.