

**MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS & SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

AB 939 Local Task Force Meeting
Thursday, January 4, 2023
1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 211
San Rafael, CA 94903

Action Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Christie, Bay Cities Refuse
Alice Cochran, City of San Rafael
Vicki Nichols, Marin Conservation League
Matt McCarron, Public Member - Novato
Dale McDonald, Las Gallinas Valley SD

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ramin Khany, Redwood Landfill
Garrett Toy, TCSD
Dee Johnson, Novato Sanitary
Adam Ratner, Marine Mammal Center
Justin Wilcock, Marin Sanitary Service

STAFF PRESENT

Casey Fritz, ZWM
Justin Newsome, DPW
Casey Poldino, ZWM

OTHERS PRESENT

Meilin Tsao, ZWM
Andrew Shelton, ZWM

1. Open Time for Public Comment

Members, staff, and attendees went around the room and introduced themselves. No other public comment was tendered.

2. Approval of the November 2, 2023 JPA Local Task Force

Dale McDonald moved the approval of the minutes for the March 7, 2024 meeting.

3. Presentation by Staff: Legislative and Policy Updates

Casey Fritz shared the plan to do a legislative update at each meeting as part of the revamping and improving efforts for the LTF to keep everyone updated. With January 1, 2024, having passed, deadlines are now in effect for SB-1383 (Climate Pollutants Reduction Act). This act targets greenhouse gas emissions considered to be short lived climate pollutants, specifically methane. Other efforts include reducing organic disposal to a landfill, recovering surplus edible food, procuring compost, and using it in soils.

Ms. Fritz continued with the Tier 2 commercial update now in effect since January 1, 2024. Tier 2 commercial edible food generators are now online to donate their surplus edible food. An example of surplus food donations would be restaurants having 50 rotisserie chickens that they did not sell, being edible without a customer for them; this food would be donated to a local food bank. These tier 2 commercial food generating restaurants would be 250+ seating, health facilities with 200 or more beds (Marin General), state facilities with cafeterias, hotels with 200 rooms or more, local agencies with an on-site food facility, schools and school districts and large venues and events that serve 2000 people or more per day.

Tier 1 has been donating since January 1st, 2022. Tier 2 generators just came online on January 1, 2024. These are much smaller generators of food, and they have a very different type of food than they're generating. An example would be prepared foods that were not eaten but could still be donated.

Ms. Fritz shared that the inspection and enforcement process needs to be in place as of January 1, 2024, and staff are actively working to finalize it. The plan is to begin with education and support rather than punitive actions with the understanding that smaller food generators have never been part of a food donation program. A compliance flow chart is being explored for what happens and in what order.

A question-and-answer session was held afterward, and the procedures and expectations were clarified by Ms. Fritz.

A question was raised about the number of tier 1 and 2 participants and if there is enough capability to oversee the inspection enforcement process.

Ms. Fritz explained that there are just over 100 tier 1's and about 60 tier 2's and that is a manageable number. Regarding inspection and enforcement, an information collection database has been set up for the generators. A request will go out to the tier 2's inquiring about their readiness to comply with the enforcement regulations and that information will inform the inspection process. The implementation plan is to target about 10% for the inspection enforcement. Focusing on the generators each year that have gone into radio silence.

Ms. Fritz was asked to expound on what the inspection and enforcement process looked like when ZWM shows up. She replied, it could be going to the business, looking into their compost service, inspection on if the generators are complying with the edible food donation aspect, compost bin inspection, confirming if a green container is available to the customers inside the business, and clear signage. Additionally, issuing 60-day to comply memos for follow ups; there will be a series of steps prior to issuing a citation. Site visits with a consultant will be made for commercial edible food generators that request more information.

An additional question was asked if Ms. Fritz or staff would be doing the follow ups and who would need to be contacted for concerns.

Ms. Fritz replied that a complaint form is being generated and will be available on the website and that she is available to be emailed for complaints. Additionally, the follow-ups will be split up amongst staff.

Additional comments were from attendees were made regarding compliance.

Ms. Fritz added that the last piece of SB-1383 is the local assistant grant funding that is available from Cal Recycle, and the application has been successfully submitted and applied as the Joint Powers Authority for the entire county of Marin to have a unified approach with the funding. Staff will know if the approval was successful in March 2024.

Ms. Fritz was asked about the distribution and allocations of the funding to the jurisdictions.

She replied that Cal Recycle has determined the maximum allocation by city and town. Since the funding was applied for on behalf of everyone the allocations were compiled and had the amount that was asked for. From there, a budget will have to be built explaining how the funds will need to be spent across the county.

A follow up question-and-answer session was held, and additional questions were addressed by Ms. Fritz.

Ms. Fritz delivered the update stating the beginning of the Federal Farm Bill was in 1933 and the policy focused on agriculture, but also included forestry, nutrition, and conservation. The bill must be renewed every 5 years and the last renewal was in 2018. Ms. Fritz went on to explain the commodity support programs, saying this program supports farmers growing popular crops and guarantees their income. This incentivizes the growth of popular crops such as: corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, etc.

Ms. Fritz continued, the Zero Food Waste Coalition has been vocal about the improvement opportunities in the next Farm Bill; suggesting that a food loss and waste reduction office should be held within the USDA. This office would be dedicated to ensuring that food is not wasted. Funds would be requested for planning and infrastructure to support food waste prevention and food waste recycling. Also, they want support for research and food waste prevention and standardization of food date labeling.

A question-and-answer session was held afterward, and the ancillary scope of the Farm Bill was clarified by Ms. Fritz.

4. Review the Approved Amendments to the LTF Procedures

Dale McDonald opened the floor for updates for the 4 subcommittees that were created: infrastructure and end markets, compliance, and regulations, outreach and education and construction and demolition.

Matt McCarron gave an update on the infrastructure and end markets. He shared that the expansion projects at Redwood Landfill for compost are trying to scope out the demand and flow to understand how much to invest over the next few years of the project. More time will be spent on understanding better ways to audit study countywide. Matt mentioned there are funds available that could be used to fund that study. Once the study is completed, the LFT could make a recommendation to the JPA to consider applying to the grant fund.

A question-and-answer session was held afterward, and the expectations were elaborated on by Mr. McCarron.

Dale McDonald spoke on behalf of the compliance and regulations subcommittee with action updates. Regarding the Local Assistance Grant, he stated there was an

application submitted like the JPA, made up of 11 special districts led by Garrett Toy; the goal is to get answers to enforcement questions and how to best be compliant with SB-1383. For Las Galinas, Dale mentioned the continued outreach with newsletters regarding SB-1383 to grow education regarding compliance.

Dale McDonald concluded this update and introduced the Outreach and Education subcommittee; Alice Cochran gave an update. She stated the print ad campaign was the focus of the subcommittee along with the website. She reported the visibility of the ads have been good, seeing them in print on buses and digitally in commercials. A note Alice shared was being able to update the visuals on current effective messaging such as: usable produce bags, detergent sheets instead of big plastic jugs, reusable dryer balls, and zip lock bags.

Alice also presented the idea of messaging to encourage giving gifts of low waste during holidays and promoting this via ads. She mentioned that her subcommittee looked at the website and was happy with the current information posted but wants the navigation to be more user-friendly and give awareness of haulers in their specific city. Additionally, a value proposition would be a good addition to the information on the website and working with people that can publicize the message to their groups.

A questions and comments session were held afterward, and responses were given by Alice.

Dale McDonald opened the floor for the final subcommittee - construction and demolition. Justin Wilcox did not attend the meeting, Casey Poldino stepped in with an update. She stated that Justin Wilcox is the only member of the C&D subcommittee, but Zero Waste Marin recently hired for construction and demolition, self-haul, and a few other areas to report on for SB-1383. Casey mentioned that once Andy and Justin can meet, they will have a report out for the next meeting.

Dale concluded the subcommittee updates and turned the floor over to Casey Fritz for the next agenda update.

5. Review of Current and Upcoming SB-1383 Outreach Efforts

Ms. Fritz shared an overview of outreach efforts regarding SB-1383. Casey shared that a countywide mailer was sent out to 125,000 addresses in Marin County. The response back was requests for kitchen pails for resident's homes for compost, and some residents were unhappy with the information. She added, Zero Waste Marin also has been informing people via social media fulfilling their governmental jurisdiction responsibility of informing residents. There will also be correspondence to businesses with a permit in the county via mailers along with a compliance checklist.

She shared a website revamp was underway to make sure the SB-1383 information is clear and prominent and easy to navigate on the website.

A follow up question-and-answer session was held, and additional questions were addressed by Ms. Fritz.

6. Recommend Agenda Items for the next LTF Meeting

Dale McDonald opened the floor for recommendations for the next LTF agenda items.

Alice Cochran suggested having guest speakers from groups aligned with the mission of the LTF.

Casey Fritz mentioned for March's meeting to discuss the LTF's plans for April and a debrief in May to for recommendations to the JPA board.

An additional suggestion was to investigate the demolition and removal of solar modules.

7. Adjournment

Next LTF Meeting TBD

Recommendation

Adopt a Motion approving the subject minutes.

LTF Chair: Please confirm the vote on this item by reading the following items out loud after the vote.

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Abstentions: _____
