

AGENDA: AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

TIME 10:00am – 11:15am

LOCATION 1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 210, San Rafael CA 94903

CALL TO ORDER

1. Open Time for Public Comment (Information Only) 5 Minutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approve LTF Meeting Minutes from July 9th, 2026 (Action) - 1 Minute.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. Legislative Update – 10 Minutes
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
4. CupCycle Pilot Presentation – 15 Minutes
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
5. ZWM Annual Report: 2025/26 FY
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
6. Studies Update – 10 Minutes
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
7. Subcommittee Updates - 10 Minutes.
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
8. Suggested Agenda Items - 2 Minutes.
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
9. Adjournment

Agendas & Staff Reports also available at <https://zerowastemarin.org/>



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MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Belvedere Cortes Madera County of Marin Fairfax Larkspur Mill Valley
Novato Ross San Anselmo San Rafael Sausalito Tiburon

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEM 1

TO Local Task Force

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT Open Time for Public Comment

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

The public is welcome to address the Local Task Force at this time on matters not on the agenda that are within its jurisdiction.

Please be advised that pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, the LTF is not permitted to discuss or act on any matter not on the agenda unless it determines that an emergency exists, or that there is a need to take immediate action which arose following posting of the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive public comment. Information Only.



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

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APPROVE LTF MEETING MINUTES – ITEM 2

TO Local Task Force

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT Approve LTF Meeting Minutes from July 9th, 2026

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

Please find attached the Draft Action Minutes from the last meeting on May 14th, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a motion to receive and file the Action Minutes.

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



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Belvedere Corte Madera County of Marin Fairfax Larkspur Mill Valley
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AGENDA: AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING

DATE Thursday, July 9, 2026

TIME 10:00am – 11:15am

LOCATION 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 350, San Rafael CA 94903

Local Task Force Members Present

Special Districts

Angela Beran, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

Casey Poldino, Novato Sanitary District

Kevin McElroy, Bolinas Public Utilities District

Environmental Organizations

Haulers

Greg Christie, Bay Cities Refuse

Justin Wilcock, Marin Sanitary Service

Celia Furber, Recology Sonoma-Marin

Public

Matt McCarron, Novato

Jinesse Reynolds, Ross Valley

Deirdre Fennessy, Unincorporated

Chuck Hornbrook, Southern Marin

Staff Present

Casey Fritz (Staff)

Meilin Tsao (Staff)

Ellie Vendegna (Staff)

Justin Newsome (Admin)

Public Non-Members Present:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Regular session was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Open Time for Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)

No public comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approve LTF Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2026

Motion to approve the LTF Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2026.

First Casey Poldino, Novato Sanitary District

Second Kevin McElroy, Bolinas Public Utilities District

Vote Count

Angela Beran: Aye
Casey Poldino: Aye
Kevin McElroy: Aye
Susan Hopp: Absent
Kyle LaRue: Absent
Greg Christie: Aye

Justin Wilcock: Aye
Celia Furber: Aye
Matt McCarron: Abstain
Jinesse Reynolds: Aye
Deirdre Fennessy: Aye
Chuck Hornbrook: Absent

Ayes: 10 Noes: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 1

Motion passed

3. Presentation from Joanne Brasch, California Product Stewardship Council

Joanne Brasch presented to the Local Task Force (LTF) on the California Product Stewardship Council's (CPSC) background and mission. CPSC's legislative priorities and campaigns were shared (Marine Flare, batteries act and solar waste programs). The LTF was informed on the pilot program for solar panels and the accompanying case studies and panel reuse projects.

A brief Q&A followed.

4. Presentation from Graduate Program: Contamination Reduction

Brittany Klipper, Devika M, and Devika B spoke to the LTF on their sorting report for waste diversion. The team shared study results from the 2025 Waste Characterization Study (WCS) while presenting the systemic hangups while proposing smart hauler cameras as a possible solution. The team met with Prairie Robotics on their methods to improve community waste behavior (education, warnings, fees). The team requests a formal proposal consideration to the JPA Board. A brief discussion was held.

5. Recommendation: Plastic Nursery Pots

The Infrastructure and End Markets subcommittee presented to the LTF on the operational impediments that arise from plastic nursery pots and its landfill impacts. The three-tier solution on reuse, collection, and county-wide consistency

(policies) was emphasized. Additionally, a five-step recommended action plan was proposed with a target launch of February 2027. A brief discussion was held.

Motion to move recommendation to the JPA Board

First Chuck Hornbrook, Southern Marin

Second Justin Wilcock, Marin Sanitary Service

Vote Count

Angela Beran: Aye
Casey Poldino: Aye
Kevin McElroy: Aye
Susan Hopp: Absent
Kyle LaRue: Absent
Greg Christie: Aye
Justin Wilcock: Aye
Celia Furber: Aye

Matt McCarron: Aye
Jinesse Reynolds: Aye
Deirdre Fennessy: Aye
Chuck Hornbrook: Aye

Ayes: 10 Noes: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 0

6. Subcommittee Updates

Infrastructure and End Markets shared their continued monitoring of landfill capacity with a field trip to an Eastbay reuse facility and potential hauler camera program.

Construction and Demolition shared the recruitment of a speaker for a presentation.

Education and Outreach did not have updates.

7. Suggested Agenda Items

BioMass study update from ZWM, WCS and legislative update

8. Adjournment

Chair Furber adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m



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

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

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Abstentions: _____



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – ITEM 3

TO Local Task Force

FROM Meilin Tsao, Waste Management Specialist

SUBJECT Legislative Update

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

During the current legislative session running from January 2026 – September 2026, ZWM staff have tracked or followed 31 bills. Twelve of these bills were related to household hazardous waste (HHW), and the remainder were related to municipal solid waste. Staff Meilin Tsao will provide an update on the status of the main priority bills.

In addition to tracking proposed legislation, ZWM has also been preparing for the implementation of SB 54. To prepare for implementation of SB 54, ZWM has created a tracking sheet for potential reimbursements, pilot program plan ideas, a Covered Material Categories (CMC) Acceptance Matrix to compare SB 54 determinations to current hauler rules, a responsibilities matrix that pertains to all requirements related to local governments, and a template for submitting CMC exemption requests to the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) & CalRecycle.

In addition, staff have been participating in monthly Local Government calls with other Bay Area JPAs and Circular Action Alliance (PRO) to stay up-to-date on developments. Staff have also read and analyzed the full CalRecycle regulations and CAA's proposed Program Plan. The Program Plan is being reviewed by the Advisory Board and CalRecycle will need to approve, partially approve, or deny the plan by December 28, 2026. The Program will then be fully effective in January 2027.

ATTACHMENTS:

Item 3a: ZWM Staff Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only. Receive and file.

ZWM & SB 54

The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging
Producer Responsibility Act

What is SB 54?

- **Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for single-use packaging and single-use plastic food serveware.**
 - Includes recyclable and compostable packaging.
- **Producers pay fees to sell / distribute their products in CA.**
- **Producer fees pay for Program Implementation, including but not limited to:**
 - Recycling collection, system improvements, new recycling programs, and reimbursements.



What is SB 54?

- Program Implementation begins January 1, 2027.
- Producers must reduce overall plastic packaging and ensure recycling targets are met.
- Producers required to pay \$500mil / year until 2037 into the Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund.
 - Unique to CA Packaging EPR Law
 - Addition to program fees



Required in CA by 2032:



100% of single-use packaging and plastic single-use food ware will be recyclable or compostable.



65% of plastic single-use packaging and food ware will be recycled.

30% by 2028 | 40% by 2030



25%* of plastic single-use packaging and food ware will be source reduced by weight and unit.

10% by 2027 | 20% by 2030

*10% must be achieved through reuse/refill



25% recycling rate for expanded polystyrene food ware
= **banned as of January 1, 2025**

Who are the stakeholders?

- **CalRecycle – Regulator**
 - Oversee compliance – PRO, local jurisdictions, recycling service providers
 - **Advisory Board** – established by CalRecycle to identify barriers & solutions to creating a circular economy inline with SB 54.
- **Circular Action Alliance – Producer Responsibility Organization**
 - Program Operator
 - Producers “join” CAA or register as Individual Producers
- **Local Jurisdictions**
 - Recycling Service Providers – Contract + Reimbursement Approval

Who is Circular Action Alliance?

- Producer responsibility organization (PRO).
- Non-profit founded / governed by producers.
- Approved as PRO for packaging EPR in: California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon, & Washington.
 - Oregon first state with implemented program.
- **Role of PRO:**
 - Fully plan, fund (through producer fees), and implement program.
 - Reimburse local jurisdictions and recycling service providers.
 - Work directly with producers to ensure mandates are met.



Local jurisdiction requirement

- Jurisdictions and/or haulers must include recyclable and compostable covered material in their programs by January 1, 2027, or receive an exemption.
 - Include = collect and transfer to a responsible end market.
- Two options for local jurisdictions:
 1. Add materials to collection programs (funded by the PRO).
 2. Receive an exemption from CalRecycle (reviewed by the PRO).
 1. Exemptions = 2-5 years, not permanent.

“SB 54 is SB 1383 for Producers”

What is the PPMF?

- **Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund**

- Interagency collaboration: CalEPA, Ca Natural Resources (CNRA), Strategic Growth Council (CSG), CA Department of Justice (DOJ)
- \$5 Billion over 10 years, \$500mil / year
 - 60% of total spent to address historical community environmental/public health impacts
 - 40% of total spent to directly restore the natural environment
- Paid by producers, separate from producer product fees
 - Collected by CAA, transferred to State PPMF Fund Account

How to benefit from the PPMF?

- **Funding eligibility:**
 - CA Tribal Gov's, **Local Jurisdictions**, NGOs / community organizations, Disadvantaged or low-income communities, rural areas, Land Trusts
- **Funding principles:**
 - Meaningful engagement with & benefits to communities / Tribes
 - Prioritizing community-led initiatives
 - Deliver environmental, public health, and economic benefits
- **Funding categories (DRAFT)**
 - Education & Outreach
 - Community-led pollution prevention
- **Anticipated program guidelines – Winter '26 / Spring '27**
- **Anticipated funding – Summer/Fall 2027**

What are reimbursable costs? (PRO)

- **CA Public Resources Code: 42051.1(j)(1)(B)**
- **Costs related to:**
 - Consumer and ratepayer outreach & education.
 - Transportation of covered materials.
 - Cleaning, sorting, and transferring covered materials.
 - Waste audits and associated reports.
 - System improvements: collection, sorting, contamination reduction, manufacturing, related infrastructure.
- **All reimbursements require a contract with CAA.**

SB 54 Recyclable? Compostable?

- **Recyclable – SB 343**
 - “Recyclable” = >60% of CA has collection access to recycle material and >60% of sorting facilities properly sort for recycling.
- **Compostable – AB 1201**
 - Meet ASTM standards and biodegrade >90% in 180 days.
 - No PFAS.
 - Clearly distinguishable from non-compostables & look-a-likes.
 - Beginning 1/2027, be acceptable in manufacturing organic compost products (soil amendments).
- **Why so much alphabet soup?**
 - Great question.



What ZWM has done so far:

- **Attend regional planning meetings with other local JPAs and CAA**
 - Work directly with CAA, including preliminary surveys.
- **Created a Marin-specific CMC List.**
- **Created a jurisdictional responsibilities matrix.**
- **Drafted reimbursable cost scenarios.**
- **Convened a Technical Advisory Council of ZWM & Jurisdiction staff.**
- **Drafted exemption documentation & processes.**

2026 Legislative Update

2026 Legislative Session (Jan – Sept)

- **January – determined 31 bills were relevant to ZWM**
 - 12 of 31 – HHW
 - 19 of 31 – solid waste, recycling, organics, edible food recovery
- **January – August**
 - ZWM track bills for text changes
 - Support and/or oppose
 - Participate in industry meetings / Advocacy events
- **September**
 - Bills that have been passed by the Legislature are signed or vetoed by the Governor

2026 Legislative Session (Jan – Sept)

- **Signed coalition letters:**
 - **AB 762**
 - 1/2027 ban of import or manufacture of disposable vapes; 1/2028 ban of sale/distribution of disposable vapes (tobacco only).
 - **AB 1604**
 - 1/2028 – ban of receipts with BPA; 1/2029 ban of receipts with any BPs.
 - **AB 2667**
 - Until 2030, DTSC must evaluate opportunities for schools to manage / dispose of disposable vape pens confiscated from students; authorize HHW facilities to disassemble vapes; prohibit advertising/selling vapes that imitate other products or include video games on the same device.
 - **SB 501**
 - Expand the Battery Recycling Act to include larger and more batteries.
 - **SB 936**
 - Prohibit N2O containers >8g or that smell or taste like food and that are used for inhalation.
 - Support of additional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund monies allocated by the Legislature to support edible food recovery and ongoing SB 1383 efforts

ZERØ
WASTE
MARIN



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CUPCYCLE PRESENTATION – ITEM 4

TO Local Task Force
FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner
SUBJECT CupCycle Presentation
DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

In spring of 2026 ZWM staff were invited by Equator Coffee to learn about their reusable cup pilot program in partnership with CupCycle. Equator and CupCycle piloted a reusable cup system at the café in the LinkedIn building in San Francisco. ZWM staff visited to learn about how the system was working.

Staff continued conversations with CupCycle to hear what they had learned during the course of their pilot with Equator. CupCycle indicated that they were interested in testing at another Equator café, this time in Marin. There was interest in the \$0.25 charge for a disposable cup per the Reusable Foodware Ordinance.

CupCycle founder Nik Kaestner will provide an overview of the CupCycle program and the proposed expansion of their pilot at the downtown Mill Valley Equator Coffee location.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Pilot Overview: CupCycle

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only. Receive and file.

Scaling Reuse via Public-Private Collaboration

Summary

1. Reuse is starting to take off at events and institutional settings, where high usage and a captive audience bring unit costs down.
2. Open systems (e.g. cafes) are much harder to scale because per diem usage is relatively modest, limiting the budget for centralized dishwashing, public return bins, and community engagement campaigns.
3. A collaboration between the public and private sector, backed by funding from SB54, could achieve the decisive breakthrough in the fight to stem disposable to-go containers.

The Trouble with Open Systems

Reuse is fairly common at large events and institutional settings (e.g. r.World, Vytal, Bold Reuse, Reusables) because these closed systems make it relatively easy to communicate with customers about reuse, collect cups effectively when guests leave, and **drive the cost per use below that of disposables**.

Open systems are much less widespread because it's time intensive to recruit cafes, easier for cups to "walk off", and difficult to spread operational costs over a relatively small number of daily transactions. Most reuse system providers either charge a one-time fee to stock participating businesses with cups, making them dependent on an ever-expanding network of cafes to stay in business, or a subscription fee, which need to be relatively high to cover ongoing costs. As a result, **reusable cup schemes currently work with early adopters** rather than the mass market, limiting the creation of a dense reuse network where cups travel between participating cafes within the same neighborhood or town.

Current Reuse Options

While no two reuse systems are alike and features can be combined in a number of different ways, existing reusable cup schemes can generally be divided into two basic types:

1. The vast majority of reusable cup programs in North America (e.g. Okapi, ForeverWare, Recircable, Muuse, CupZero, Shareware, Good to Go) rely on **apps and/or membership** to ensure cups are returned after use. QR codes are used to assign cups to users and to check them in when they are returned, and fees are charged if the cups do not come back. One downside of this system is the friction it

adds at the point of sale and when cups are returned, as each cup must be scanned individually. What's worse, customers are less likely to participate if they are required to download an app, limiting the scalability of this type of system. On the flip side, more expensive metal tumblers can be used since users can be charged if they are lost. Unfortunately, solid metal cups are heavier than plastic alternatives and their environmental break-even point occurs well after they are likely to be lost (even an exceptional return rate of 95% means that a cup only lasts twenty uses on average)

2. Internationally, **deposit schemes** are also common, while Retrocycle seems to be the only US provider using this method. Users pay a deposit to the café when ordering their drink and get that deposit back when they return the cup. The need to return to a cashier, and possibly wait in line, to receive the refund, along with the lack of familiarity with deposits in general, probably dampens enthusiasm for this approach in the US. Without an app involved, there is also no way to track cups during their journey from café to customer and back. Since high deposits could discourage participation, providers using this type of system often opt for plastic cups, which are less expensive to replace.

The CupCycle Difference

CupCycle is the newest entrant to the US market and uses Tap & Reuse™ technology to minimize the points of friction associated with other reusable systems:

1. **No scanning at check-out:** Café employees place a reusable cup on the counter, where its unique RFID chip is automatically read by a nearby antenna.
2. **No app needed:** Cups are associated with a user via the tap of their credit card, either via a separate point-of-sale system or via integration with the one a café already uses.
3. **No deposit required:** Customers are only charged if they fail to return the cup within a week. If they return on time, the temporary hold on their credit card expires.
4. **Complete privacy:** Credit card information is stored securely by Stripe, the world's largest credit card processor, and no personal information is shared with CupCycle.
5. **No scanning upon return:** Customers simply place the cup in a return bin, where café employees scan their RFID chips in a matter of second at the end of the day.

CupCycle's hardware was chosen after a thorough review of best-in-class options from around the world. The bins have separate slots for liquids/ice, cups, and lids to minimize the need for cleaning while color-coded signage facilitates audience comprehension. The cups were developed and piloted over three years to meet the operational needs of cafes while reducing impacts on the environment:

1. The cups provide an **ergonomic drinking** experience and a **high-quality feel** that is not perceived as a downgrade from paper cups and makes their reusability crystal clear.
2. **Heat-diffusing ribs** protect user hands from heat and condensation.
3. Thanks to built-in spacers, the cups **dry quickly** and stack **without sticking**.
4. CupCycle is available in **three sizes** (8/12/16 oz.) although interior **fill markings** make the largest cup suitable for any sized drink.
5. **Hot cups** come in slate/orange while translucent cups are available for **iced drinks**.
6. The cups are made from **food-grade polypropylene** (like yogurt containers), designed for **hundreds of uses**, and free of BPA or melamine.
7. The cups are **carbon positive** vis-à-vis paper cups after just **three uses**.

Lessons from CupCycle

In April 2026, CupCycle began piloting its cup at the Equator Coffees store in downtown San Francisco with the goal of testing the technology in realistic field conditions. Over the course of four months, we were able to use two different PoS units, test a variety of customer engagement approaches, and collect data on return rates and costs. Our main lessons:

1. **The system generally works well, but dishwashing is a pain point.**
 1. We had no tech-related downtime & the hardware allows for a speedy check-out.
 2. The cup's design was praised by customers, who didn't mind the plastic content, but the lids do not dry as well as the cups.
 3. The collection bin was not intuitive, which led to significant contamination.
 4. The café did not have a dishwasher, but the high price of outsourcing led us to wash dishes by hand.

While we've already identified solutions to the lid and collection bin concerns, dishwashing does not lend itself to quick fixes. Cafes that don't own a dishwasher could lease one, assuming they have space. But this makes the economics of reuse more challenging. A central wash hub addresses space constraints but comes at an even greater premium. One quote we received would have raised our price per cup to twice that of a disposable. The best solution is probably to **find spare capacity in each community** that can be leveraged for relatively cost-effective dishwashing services. This underscores the fact that the roll-out of reuse systems is NOT as simple as providing the "perfect" technology and expecting cafes to adopt it en masse. Reuse is a system that requires careful coordination and a customized approach.

2. Behavior change is difficult

1. Signage does not motivate customers to participate.
2. Introductory offers do not lead to lasting behavior change.
3. Customer engagement at the point of sale is key to high adoption.
4. RFID technology motivates high return rates (85-90%).

We tried several different strategies to motivate participation, but only direct encouragement had any significant impact. Talking to customers *before* they get to the counter was most effective, with more time to explain our reuse initiative and the mechanics of checking out a cup. A friendly prompt at the counter was less effective, presumably because it did not give people enough time to ask questions or develop trust in the system. This is an important lesson, because it means that **costly advertising or promotions can be skipped in favor of thorough staff training**. Having said that, it's less than ideal for the success of reuse to be contingent on motivated employees. That's why we encourage cafes to adopt an opt-out approach to CupCycle, where reusable cups are the norm and customers can opt out if they have issues returning the cup on time. Thanks to Tap-to-Reuse technology and our \$5 lost-cup charge, we can expect a high number of cups to be returned.

3. Scaling is essential to driving down costs

1. CupCycle strives to charge a per-use cup fee that matches the cost of disposable.
2. In order to stay in business, CupCycle needs cafes to move roughly 50 cups/day
3. This number was only achieved during special promotions or when customers were actively engaged at or before the point-of-sale.
4. Equator was unwilling to try an opt-out scheme for fear of losing business.

Scaling reuse is hard; making money while doing so is even harder. That's because reuse requires dishwashing and more labor than disposables, and this adds to the cost. This is not a deal-killer when a café already has a dishwasher and staff time to clean the cups, but many cafes don't have the space for a dishwasher or the time to wash cups by hand. Furthermore, the latter discourages staff from recommending reusables to customers.

Reuse *can* be cost-effective where a café owns the cups and runs its own reuse system, thereby limiting costs to the up-front purchase price of reusables, but this option is only available to cafes with dishwashers, limiting applicability. Without any

tech, return rates will also be lower. But the biggest drawback is the fact that customers are also less likely to choose a reusable cup if the only place to return it is the café where they were borrowed. In other words, **café-run reuse systems are best for classic sit-down restaurants**, not to-go operations.

Overcoming the Cost Barrier

So how does one encourage the necessary participation to make centralized reuse systems (like CupCycle) financially viable? Some ideas from around the world:

1. Provide discounts for customers who choose reusables (or a fee for those who don't)
2. Create a rewards program that incentivizes reuse
3. Serve all beverages in reusables unless a customer opts out
4. Use tiered pricing to reduce the cost to businesses the more cups they use
5. Charge businesses a minimum monthly subscription fee that covers provider costs
6. Apply a community-wide “cup charge” to purchases in disposable containers
7. Launch a community reuse program that includes all local cafes to eliminate the fear of being a first-mover in this space

While early adopters will be happy to consider the first three suggestions, the mass market is unlikely to take any action that is perceived to affect sales. Whenever this is the case, active **government intervention is needed to transform the market**. This is especially true for reuse, where scaling is essential to financial viability, and handholding and creativity are needed to solve the challenges in each community. Communities can play a critical role by investing in public collection bins, running community engagement campaigns, and passing cup charges to tip the financial scales in favor of reuse.

Lessons from the “Purple Cup”

The Petaluma Reusable Cup Project showed us that people are ready for reuse, a community approach pays dividends in terms of visibility and participation, and cities have an important role to play in making reuse viable. Instead of attempting to scale reuse one café at a time, as many reuse providers are trying to do around the US, Petaluma showed us the **benefits of rolling out a complete system all at once**.

On the back end, however, the Reusable Cup Project was missing some important components:

1. The cup did not exude a high-quality feel and only Starbucks offered a clear cup for iced beverages, as preferred by coffee chains.

2. Tracking systems were relatively barebones, leading to lower return rates and less data about each cup's journey.
3. Out-of-community wash hubs increased the project's environmental footprint.
4. Because the entire effort was grant funded, there was no need to develop a financially viable model.

Despite these drawbacks, the Purple Cup will go down in history as the spark that launched community reuse systems in the United States. By combining the lesson from that pilot with CupCycle's laser focus on operational sustainability, we believe it is possible to develop the first **financially and environmentally** sustainable program in the country. Choosing a community that already charges a disposable cup charge and leveraging SB54 funding to develop public campaigns and infrastructure will provide the necessary preconditions for a successful reuse program.

Putting it all Together

1. **Vision:** Development the first financially and environmentally sustainable community reuse system in the US
2. **Roles:**
 - a. **CupCycle:**
 - i. launch demonstration site (e.g. Equator in Mill Valley)
 - ii. identify spare dishwashing capacity w/in city limits
 - iii. provide cups, indoor collection bins, and technology to roll out its reusable cup system in at least five local cafes
 - iv. collaborate with city on design of public collection stations and community engagement campaign
 - v. share all relevant operational/cost data with local government
 - b. **Community:**
 - i. recruit businesses for reuse pilot
 - ii. facilitate connections with local partners as necessary
 - iii. submit application for SB54 funding
 - iv. procure public collection stations
 - v. launch community engagement campaign
3. **Funding:**
 - a. **CupCycle:** activities funded entirely by per-cup charge with goal not to exceed cost of disposable cups with sufficient volume
 - b. **Community:** combination of zero waste & SB54 funding
4. **Timeline:**
 - a. **October 2026:** develop detailed plan for community-wide implementation
 - b. **November 2026:** launch demonstration site
 - c. **December 2026:** recruit cafes and identify spare dishwashing capacity
 - d. **Jan 2027:** submit application for SB54 funding
 - e. **Winter 2027:** procure collection stations & develop engagement campaign
 - f. **Spring 2027:** launch public engagement campaign



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ZWM ANNUAL REPORT: 2025/26 FY – ITEM 5

TO Local Task Force

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT ZWM Annual Report: 2025/26 FY

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

The Annual Report highlights Zero Waste Marin's main accomplishments and programs from the 2025/26 Fiscal Year (FY). Some of the main developments from this FY include:

- ✓ Staff completed 90 on-site technical assistance visits to help businesses achieve compliance with SB 1383
- ✓ ZWM hosted its first-ever public meeting to solicit feedback on the results of the waste characterization study
- ✓ In partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, 437 vapes were collected from school sites for safe disposal and

The Annual Report compiles updates from ZWM's three main program areas: Regulatory Compliance, Household Hazardous Waste, and Zero Waste Programs. ZWM continued to offer popular programs valued by the community, such as the Zero Waste Schools Program, Repair Fairs, and marine flare collection events. Staff also focused on increasing compliance with California's SB 1383 by building out an in-person inspection process complemented by enforcement notifications.

This year also introduced an updated Work Plan, which organizes all program efforts into clear quarterly goals and measurable outcomes. The Work Plan provides a consistent structure for tracking progress, assessing efforts, and guiding future activities. It is intended to strengthen overall program delivery and improve transparency around results.

For full details, please refer to the attached Annual Report.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ZWM Annual Report for FY 25/26

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only. Receive and file.



Zero Waste Marin Joint Powers Authority: Annual Report for FY 25/26



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Letter from the Executive Director

Fiscal Year 2025–2026 was a year of significant progress for Zero Waste Marin. Building on the systems, data, partnerships, and pilot programs established over the past several years, we moved further from program development into implementation, measurement, and expansion.

As California’s solid waste and recycling requirements continue to evolve, so does Zero Waste Marin’s role. Our work increasingly requires us to balance regulatory compliance with direct community service, regional coordination, public education, data management, and long-term planning. This year, our team continued to strengthen that work while preparing for the next major transition in California waste policy: implementation of SB 54 and extended producer responsibility for packaging.

FY 2025–2026 Accomplishments

Strengthened SB 1383 Compliance

- ✓ Expanded from education into proactive technical assistance, inspections, and enforcement.
- ✓ Completed 90 business technical assistance visits and 56 edible food generator inspections.
- ✓ Successfully secured a 49% reduction in Marin’s ROWP procurement target using data from the County-wide Waste Characterization Study.

Household Hazardous Waste Programs

- ✓ Expanded the battery collection network to 44 locations and improved HHW education, online resources, and outreach.
- ✓ Collected 1,678 expired marine flares and expanded convenient HHW disposal through West Marin Toxic Away Days.
- ✓ Collected 437 vape devices from Marin schools and continued research to inform the upcoming Vape Pen Study.

Expanded and Improved Community Engagement

- ✓ Participated in 31 community events throughout Marin.
- ✓ Launched the bilingual Give Old Food New Life countywide campaign across transit, streaming audio, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and other digital channels, generating millions of impressions.
- ✓ Increased Instagram followers from 580 to 982 and transitioned from quarterly to monthly newsletters.

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- ✓ Conducted English- and Spanish-language focus groups to better understand community knowledge, barriers, and effective messaging related to composting and HHW.
- ✓ Began using focus group findings to refine ZWM's website, outreach campaigns, and audience-specific messaging, with additional research planned for FY 2026/27.

Looking Ahead

The coming year represents another important transition for Zero Waste Marin. SB 1383 will remain a significant operational responsibility as inspections, technical assistance, enforcement, recordkeeping, and reporting continue to increase. At the same time, California's implementation of SB 54, the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, will begin reshaping how packaging is funded, collected, recycled, and managed throughout the state.

Zero Waste Marin will work closely with our member agencies, CalRecycle, Circular Action Alliance California, neighboring jurisdictions, haulers, and other partners to develop a coordinated regional approach to SB 54 implementation and ensure that Marin is positioned to take advantage of the resources and opportunities created by extended producer responsibility.

The work ahead is substantial, but the foundation we have built is strong. Over the past several years, Zero Waste Marin has invested in better data, stronger systems, expanded partnerships, and programs that directly serve our communities. Our next challenge is to use that foundation to deliver measurable results while adapting to a rapidly changing regulatory and materials-management landscape.

I am grateful to our staff, Board, member agencies, haulers, community partners, and residents for their continued collaboration and commitment. Together, we are building a more coordinated, effective, and sustainable approach to managing Marin's resources and reducing waste.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Scheibly
Executive Director

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Zero Waste Marin: Who We Are

The Zero Waste Marin Joint Powers Authority is a governmental agency that represents all 11 cities and towns in Marin and the unincorporated areas of the County of Marin. Our mission is to protect our natural resources by promoting source reduction of waste through reuse, repair, and more mindful purchasing. To make responsible waste sorting easy, we offer a variety of programs including: the Household Hazardous Waste program, the Zero Waste Schools Program, and public outreach and education programs. These programs align with County-wide goals to act on climate change and promote healthy, safe, and sustainable communities.

The Zero Waste Marin Joint Powers Authority Board is comprised of the city and town managers of Belvedere, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Larkspur, Mill Valley, Novato, Ross, San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito and Tiburon and the County of Marin. Zero Waste Marin ensures Marin's compliance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act and its waste reduction mandates, among other State-wide waste laws.

Zero Waste Marin staff

The Zero Waste Marin team is made up of seven staff members who each manage and implement different aspects of Zero Waste Marin programs. Zero Waste Marin staff are employed by the County of Marin and have an agreement with the Joint Powers Authority to provide staffing to run Zero Waste Marin programs.

Our team members include:

Kimberly Scheibly
Executive Director

Amy Kolnes
Senior Planner,
Administrative Programs

Casey Fritz
Senior Planner, Zero
Waste Programs

Kathy Rico
Senior Planner, HHW
Programs

Jessica Ruiz
Senior Program
Coordinator

Meilin Tsao
Waste Management
Specialist

Ellie Vendegna
Program Coordinator

Zero Waste Marin Board Members

The Zero Waste Marin Joint Powers Authority Board is made up of the eleven City and Town Managers of Marin's cities and towns and the County Executive for Marin County. There are also alternates for nearly all jurisdictions who attend the Board meetings and are authorized to vote on behalf of their jurisdiction.

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There are three Committees on the Board: the Executive Committee (E), the Budget Committee (B), and the Programs Committee (P). These committees meet in addition to the full Joint Powers Authority Board.

Todd Cusimano serves as Board Chair and Christa Johnson serves as Vice Chair.

Robert Zadnik
City Manager
City of Belvedere

Dan Schwarz (B)
City Manager
City of Larkspur (Alt)

David Donery
Town Manager
Town of San Anselmo

Antony Boyd
Public Works Director
City of Belvedere (Alt)

Shannon O'Hare
Asst. City Manager
City of Larkspur

Bridget Wipfler
Climate Action Coordinator
Town of San Anselmo (Alt)

Adam Wolff (P)
Town Manager
Town of Corte Madera

Todd Cusimano (E)(B)
City Manager
City of Mill Valley

Angela Robinson Pinon (E)
Asst City Manager
City of San Rafael

Phoebe Goulden
Climate Action &
Adaptation Coordinator
Town of Corte Madera (Alt)

Grace Ledwith (P)
Climate Action &
Sustainability Coordinator
City of Mill Valley (Alt)

Cory Bytof (P)
Sustainability Manager
City of San Rafael (Alt)

Derek Johnson
County Executive
County of Marin

Bill Rose (E)
Asst. City Manager
City of Novato

Chris Zapata
City Manager
City of Sausalito

Talia Smith (E)
Deputy County Executive
County of Marin (Alt)

Gretchen Schubeck (P)
Sustainability
Coordinator
City of Novato (Alt)

Catie Thow Garcia
Resilience & Sustainability
Manager (Alt)
City of Sausalito

Heather Abrams
Town Manager
Town of Fairfax

Christa Johnson (E)(B)
Town Manager
Town of Ross

Greg Chanis (B)
Town Manager
Town of Tiburon

Maureen Borthwick
Recreation Manager
Town of Ross (Alt)

David Eshoo
Associate Engineer
Town of Tiburon (Alt)

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Major Program Accomplishments: FY 2025/26



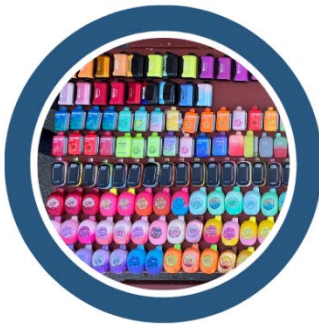
Completed 90 on-site visits to offer proactive technical assistance to businesses.



Offered a cost-share subsidy program for farms, gardens, and residents to purchase compost products from West Marin Compost.



Inspected 56 covered Edible Food Generators for SB 1383 compliance.



Collected 437 vape pens from Marin County schools for safe disposal in partnership with the Marin County Office of Education.



Hosted ZWM's first ever public meeting to solicit feedback on the results of the Waste Characterization Study.



Distributed free signage & color-coded containers to 80 businesses to support compliance.



Continued monthly meetings with city / town Sustainability staff to enhance County-wide collaboration.



Hosted 12 free Repair Fairs with Reuse Alliance to bring free fixing to communities around the County.



Prepared for an improvement and expansion of the battery drop-off program.

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Regulatory Compliance & Reporting

SB 1383 Compliance Efforts

Zero Waste Marin has Letters of Agreement with each of its twelve member agencies to ensure compliance with many of the requirements included in California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act, also known as SB 1383. ZWM leads education and outreach, inspection efforts, procurement of recovered organic waste products, recordkeeping, technical assistance and on-site support, and enforcement up until the point of a citation for non-compliance.

To satisfy the requirement for an annual notification to residents about composting and the law, a postcard was mailed in April 2026 to all residential addresses (97,280 homes or apartment units) in Marin County across all jurisdictions. The postcard focused on the benefits of composting and the negative ramifications of landfilling food scraps. This postcard had all information in English and Spanish.



Sending food scraps to landfills creates methane gas and results in climate impacts such as wildfires.

The average person throws out one pound of food per day. If landfilled, over a year this releases 198 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, the same as driving 229 miles in a gas car.

Cuando los restos de comida llegan a los basureros, generan gas metano y contribuyen al cambio climático.

En promedio, una persona tira a la basura una libra de comida al día. Si se deposita en la basura, esto genera, en un año, 198 libras de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, lo que equivale a conducir 229 millas en un carro de gasolina.

Composting our food scraps returns nutrients to the soil and fights climate change.

If we were to each compost our food scraps instead of landfilling them, we would prevent landfill emissions and create healthy soils for our local farms to grow food, supporting bountiful harvests across Marin.

Compostar nuestros restos de comida devuelve los nutrientes a la tierra y ayuda a combatir el cambio climático.

Si cada uno de nosotros compostara las sobras de comida en lugar de tirarlos en la basura, evitaríamos las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y crearíamos suelos saludables para que las granjas locales cultiven alimentos, lo que contribuiría a cosechas abundantes en Marin.

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ZWM also began proactively offering technical assistance in dense business areas during the 25/26 FY. Staff bring the Business Compliance Checklist and complete short on-site visits to organic waste-generating businesses to offer support in the form of staff training, free infrastructure, and free signage. To date, ZWM staff have completed 90 visits to businesses in the following areas:

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- ✓ Bolinas
- ✓ Stinson Beach
- ✓ Fairfax
- ✓ San Anselmo
- ✓ Bon Air Center
- ✓ Downtown Mill Valley
- ✓ Downtown San Rafael

Staff will continue these technical assistance visits in the 2026/27 Fiscal Year.

In addition to proactive technical assistance, ZWM staff began conducting formal inspections of sites to assess compliance during the 2025/26 FY. ZWM staff completed 56 on-site inspections of edible food generators. During inspections, staff provided employees with the Business Compliance Checklist, available in English and Spanish, and reviewed the SB 1383 requirements that apply to their site, including waste sorting, labeling, and adequate service in addition to the food donation requirements.



Color-coded containers provided during an on-site inspection.

Finally, ZWM also manages compliance with Marin's requirement to procure Recovered Organic Waste Products (ROWP), namely finished compost and mulch. Calendar year 2025 was the first year ZWM was responsible for procuring 100% of the original procurement target assigned to member agencies by the SB 1383 regulations. Using data from the FY2024/25 Waste Characterization Study, in FY2025/26 ZWM submitted a recalculated procurement target to CalRecycle and was successfully granted a reduction of 49% which more accurately reflects disposal of organics in Marin County. To capitalize on ZWM's State-funded Local Assistance Grant, ZWM procured all required ROWP tons for the 2026 calendar year (January 2026 – December 2026) in fiscal year 2025/26 (July 2025 – June 2026) through compost products and agreements with Zero Foodprint and West Marin Compost.

Annual Audit

As part of its responsibilities under the Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Authority Joint Powers Agreement, Zero Waste Marin undergoes an independent annual audit to verify the accuracy of its financial records and ensure continued fiscal transparency.

For the FY 2025–26 audit, Zero Waste Marin maintained its commitment to clear and accurate financial reporting by continuing to refine internal documentation practices, strengthen contract and procurement tracking, and uphold consistent project-level and program-level financial monitoring. These efforts support ZWM's broader goal of

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maintaining reliable, well-organized records that reflect the scope of its countywide programs and services.

The complete FY 2025–26 audit report, including all findings, recommendations, and financial statements is available to the public on the Zero Waste Marin website in the Tuesday, June 2, 2026 board agenda packet.

CalRecycle Electronic Annual Report (EAR)

The Electronic Annual Report (EAR) was submitted to CalRecycle by the August 1, 2025 deadline, maintaining Zero Waste Marin’s record of timely and accurate reporting on behalf of all member agencies. The EAR continues to serve as the State’s central resource for tracking regional progress in waste reduction, organics recovery, and overall SB 1383 compliance throughout Marin County.

The EAR consolidates information across all major SB 1383 reporting categories, including Procurement, Edible Food Recovery, Collection Systems, Education and Outreach, MWELO, C&D/CalGreen, Household Hazardous Waste Programs, Waivers and Exemptions, Contamination Monitoring, Inspections and Complaints, Enforcement and Monitoring, and required Planning Documentation. Data submitted by Bay Cities Refuse, Marin Sanitary Service, Mill Valley Refuse, and Recology—covering both commercial and residential programs—were combined with jurisdictional submittals and staff-prepared narrative explanations. The report presents a comprehensive body of data and narrative summaries detailing program activities, performance, and implementation progress across all reporting areas.

With several years of reporting now complete, staff can rely on a more established baseline to identify trends, refine outreach and inspection strategies, and support continuous improvement across member agencies. Following the timely submission of the August 2025 report, staff have begun preparing the next EAR, due August 3, 2026.

Waste Characterization Study Implementation Plan

In FY24/25 ZWM conducted a Waste Characterization Study that surveyed the contents of materials disposed throughout Marin County. The study included eighty 200-pound samples collected, sorted, and analyzed by hand into 74 material categories at Redwood Landfill in Novato from the residential, commercial, and multi-family sectors. Additionally, 58 samples were visually inspected at the Marin Sanitary Service Transfer Station and sorted into 38 material types from generators who choose to self-haul their material, rather than subscribe to collection services. The residential, commercial, and multi-family portion of the study found that the largest portion of material still going to

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landfill is classified as “organic” defined by SB 1383 and a total of 60% of material going to landfill could easily be recycled or composted through programs already accessible in Marin. The self-haul portion of the study found that that 26.2% of material disposed could easily be recycled or composted in Marin.

To follow up on the information gained from conducting the Study, staff wrote and finalized an implementation plan based on the study’s recommendations. The formation of the plan consisted of an initial draft by staff, followed by review from the JPA’s Programmatic Subcommittee, the Local Task Force, and ZWM’s first-ever public meeting to receive feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders. The finalized plan and an update regarding work that has been conducted will be presented to the Local Task Force for review at their next meeting on Thursday, September 3rd.

Household Hazardous Waste Programs

HHW Enhancement Projects

On August 17, 2025, the JPA board approved additional funds to enhance the existing household hazardous waste (HHW) programs offered by Zero Waste Marin. These enhancement efforts were focused on improving battery disposal infrastructure and diversifying existing outreach and education to help Marin residents understand their options when disposing of HHW.

As part of an effort to make proper disposal easy and convenient for residents across Marin County, Zero Waste Marin staff have worked to increase the number of battery collection sites to 44 locations. Staff purchased durable battery storage containers labeled with clear signage in English and Spanish. These collection containers will be installed in the fall of 2026 at participating fire stations, retailers, organizations and partner agencies. In addition to these public containers, staff purchased corrugated cardboard boxes to give away to Marin County residents to create a safe, easy way to collect and transport household batteries to the San Rafael HHW facility.

In addition to infrastructure enhancements, the materials for HHW education and



A sample of the new battery collection containers that will be available at 44 sites throughout Marin County.

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outreach were also improved as part of this effort. A postcard was mailed to all Marin County residents, excluding Novato, in June 2026 to increase awareness of the types of HHW common to households and options for disposal. New educational materials also include printed resources focused on specific types of HHW such as vape pens and solar panels to offer more specific information to residents. These resources will be handed out during tabling at events and community spaces. To improve digital assets, ZWM staff worked with contractors to produce several educational videos about marine flare disposal and the collection events put on by ZWM. The HHW webpages have also been updated to make information clearer and more accessible for Marin County residents.

A total of six enhancement projects were implemented, costing the agency \$483,547.16 against an approved budget of \$500,000.

Marine Flares Collection Event

On November 9, 2025, Zero Waste Marin hosted its third Marin Flare collection event at the Clipper Yacht Harbor in Sausalito. Marine flares are explosive devices required to be carried on boats over sixteen feet long. These flares provide a similar function to road flares in cases of emergency, but expire every three years and lack convenient disposal options. As a result, this highly anticipated and valued collection event in Marin County is growing in popularity.

ZWM received assistance with contract negotiations for waste collection, transportation, and disposal of the flares from the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), in addition to outreach development and distribution. As part of outreach initiatives, CPSC and the California State Parks and California Coastal Commission distributed flyers to various yacht clubs and their members in Marin County to promote the proper disposal of marine flares.

To decrease transportation costs, ZWM joined a “milk run” collection and transportation strategy with neighboring counties, such as Alameda, West Contra Costa, East Contra Costa, and Del Norte. Clean Harbors was the contractor awarded to accept, transport, and dispose of the



Two people inspect marine flares dropped off at a collection event at Clipper Yacht Harbor in Sausalito.

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marine flares collected during the event. During this event, 78 participants dropped off their flares, and a total of 1,678 marine flares were collected.

During FY 2023-2024, the agency received a \$100,000 grant from CalRecycle to fund two years of expenses associated with collecting and disposing of marine flares generated by recreational boaters in Marin County. In fiscal year 2025-2026, the agency spent \$62,045.04 on CPSC, Clean Harbors, and U.S. Coast Guard-approved electronic visual distress signal devices (eVDSDs).

CPSC partnered with Sirius Signal to purchase the eVDSDs at a wholesale cost of \$35, allowing the agency to use a portion of the grant funds to provide free eVDSDs to Marin residents as a safer alternative to pyrotechnic marine flares.



Sirius Signal electronic flares were distributed during the marine flares collection event.

Temporary Collection Events in West Marin

ZWM hosted two “Toxic Away Day” events during the 25/26 Fiscal Year, one in Bolinas and one in Point Reyes Station. These events are hosted in order to offer easier access to safe, responsible disposal of HHW to residents of West Marin, who are further from the permanent HHW facility in San Rafael. During these events, Zero Waste Marin HHW staff educate residents of Bolinas and Point Reyes about proper ways to store common household hazardous waste used by residents, since waste that is not properly stored creates a risk for the environment and may increase disposal costs.

While the Bolinas event is typically held in the fall, this Fiscal Year it was rescheduled due to weather concerns. It was held instead on April 28, 2026, and collected 6,460 pounds of waste from 70 participants. On May 16, 2026, ZWM held the second “Toxic Away Day” in Point Reyes, where 4,020 pounds of household hazardous waste were collected from 53 participants.

ZWM staff has found that event promotion is most effective through the Point Reyes Light newspaper,



An aerial view of a Toxic Away Day event in West Marin.

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local whiteboards at stores and the post office, Next Door, and word of mouth. West Marin Residents often express their gratitude for these events and note that they look forward each year to the household hazardous waste collection held in the fall and spring.

Solar Panel Pilot

ZWM staff continued collaboration with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) to pilot a solar panel collection program. This program began in the 2023/24 Fiscal Year with the goals of understanding current disposal patterns, as well as opportunities to promote panel reuse and recycling. The first two phases of this program focused on planning and subsequent implementation of a removal and reuse/recycling program, respectively.

During the 2025/26 FY CPSC resumed solar panel collection when residents requested pick-ups. They conducted 13 pick-ups and facilitated 2 drop-offs over the period of August 2025 – June 2026. During this time 446 solar panels were collected, bringing the total number of panels collected over the course of this project to 701. After pick-up, panels are tested to determine if they are eligible for reuse. Panels that are still usable are being repurposed to power chicken coops on farms and pool pumps and filters.

Over the last three years, CPSC collected extensive data, surveyed Marin residents and businesses, and confirmed that a home collection service was the best way to support proper reuse and recycling of solar panels. They helped staff identify CCNB as the best team to manage collection and panel reuse and Recycle 1234 as the best recycler. Together with these partners, ZWM hosted reuse workshops and supported agrivoltaic projects that combine solar energy with agricultural land use. Thank you to the Marin Builders Association, Quattro, Reuse Alliance, and Amy's Roofing for your collaboration.



A chicken coop received repurposed solar panels to electrify the building.

Vape Pen Collection

Vape pens pose a unique and growing waste disposal challenge. In February 2020 the FDA banned the sale of flavored nicotine for *reusable* vape cartridges, but not for *disposable* cartridges. Since that time, sales of disposable vape pens have increased 196.2%, with sales figures at 11.9 million vapes per month. Americans now throw out

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4.5 vape pens every second.¹ When these products are finished, they pose a complicated waste disposal problem for several reasons:

1. These devices contain embedded batteries, which means they are electronic waste. Batteries can cause fires when punctured or damaged.
2. Liquid nicotine is considered an acutely toxic substance.
3. Liquid cannabis is not federally legal and is considered a controlled substance.
4. More than half (53%)² of vape pen sales are of single-use products, which are not designed to be refilled or reused.

During the 2025/26 fiscal year ZWM continued to work with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) to safely collect and dispose of vape pens on school campuses across Marin County. This partnership began in the 2024/25 fiscal year after MCOE approached ZWM to ask about how to safely handle an accumulation of vape pens on school campuses. ZWM worked with MCOE, Marin Sanitary Service, and GAIACA (an authorized vape pen hauler) to develop a plan to collect these vape pens. ZWM acts as the funder for the vape pen collection and also provides information for MCOE to inform their program and strategy. Regulations around the collection and disposal of vape pens continue to evolve.

Pick-ups for school site accumulations were coordinated with GAIACA for the end of the first semester, December 2025, and the end of the second semester, June 2026. In December 2025, 198 vape devices were collected from 19 school campuses. In June 2026, 239 vape devices were collected from 17 school campuses.



Vape pens were collected and categorized in June 2026 to gather data on vape usage in Marin's schools.

¹ "Monitoring E-Cigarette Use Among Youth | CDC Foundation," March 2023 Data Brief, accessed July 27, 2026, <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/programs/monitoring-e-cigarette-use-among-youth>

² "Monitoring E-Cigarette Use Among Youth | CDC Foundation," March 2023 Data Brief, accessed July 27, 2026, <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/programs/monitoring-e-cigarette-use-among-youth>

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Zero Waste Marin staff have participated in cataloging the vape pens collected from Marin County school sites and have also been collecting data about vape pens collected at the permanent HHW Facility in San Rafael. This data will be compiled into a study report on vape pens focused on disposal behaviors in Marin.

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility

The Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility remains one of the most important HHW programs in the region, serving as the primary location for most Marin residents and businesses to conveniently dispose of household hazardous waste. In 2025–26, ZWM continued its partnership with the Marin Recycling and Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA), which manages the facility and oversees the reuse, recycling, and disposal of household hazardous waste on behalf of Zero Waste Marin. ZWM is the generator of record for all the waste collected and shipped by the Marin HHW Facility staff.

Improvements to the HHW Facility included transitioning to a digital check-in and tracking system to improve data accuracy and simplify reporting, as well as quarterly maintenance and cleaning. Consultant to ZWM, Sweetser and Associates, praised the protocols and procedures implemented by the HHW team. Sweetser and Associates is finalizing the maintenance observation report, and Zero Waste Marin will share the findings with the HHW team and review any recommended best practices.



The Marin HHW Facility after its quarterly maintenance and cleaning.

Fiscal Year 2025/26 by the numbers at the Marin HHW Facility:

Pounds of HHW Collected (including paint, aerosols, batteries, e-waste, and more)	1,141,677 pounds
Residential Visitors	31,662 Marin residents
Business Visitors	404 Marin businesses
Pounds of Reusable Materials Recovered	20,875 pounds

The last line of the table above summarizing the usage of the Marin HHW Facility refers to the amount of reusable materials recovered in the 2025/26 FY. These materials are identified by the HHW Facility team and moved to the Reuse It Marin Room, where

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residents can access items such as motor oil, latex paint, and oil-based paint at no cost. Reusing materials from the HHW facility helps reduce disposal costs and provides residents with alternatives to buying new products. The total cost for waste management and disposal was \$1,699,767.42, compared to \$1,862,608.91 in FY 2024–25.

Chris Benitez joined the facility the new Program Manager of the Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility. ZWM extends its appreciation to former Program Manager Joe Suarez and Operations Associate Jorge Guillen for their years of service. Finally, staff want to acknowledge the excellent work of Facility Supervisor Jose Magana and his team—Gustavo Hernandez, George Ramirez, Joe Lucio, Cesar Morales, and Marco Palma—who keep the facility running safely and effectively.

Used Motor Oil Grant Program

For fiscal year 2025/26, CalRecycle awarded the ZWM a Used Oil Payment Program (OPP16) grant in the amount of \$63,629, and Soluna Outreach Solutions managed the grant on behalf of ZWM. These funds were used for grant administration, bilingual outreach promoting proper collection and recycling of used motor oil and oil filters at Marin County events, the radio show *Nuestra Tierra*, and an English as a Second Language (ESL) class called “Family Car.”



Zero Waste Marin Staff at the *Nuestra Tierra* radio show.

Grant funds also supported the purchase of used motor oil and oil filter recycling kits for Marin residents, oil absorbents for Clipper Yacht Harbor and San Rafael Yacht Harbor, and the recycling of used oil and disposal of oil absorbents generated by recreational boaters at Clipper Yacht Harbor.

The amount of used motor oil collected in 2025 increased by approximately 52% compared to 2024. This rise may be attributed to expanded used oil collection at all O'Reilly Auto Parts locations. AutoZone locations also reported increased oil collection, and overall, collections at these Certified Collection Centers (CCCs) remained consistently strong, likely due to vehicle owners who routinely change their motor oil every 3,000 miles. Used oil filter collection increased by approximately 78% compared to last year. This significant increase is likely due to site managers reminding do-it-yourself (DIY) oil changers to recycle their used oil filters when they bring in their used motor oil.

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On July 28, 2026, a Program Advisor/Grant Manager from CalRecycle conducted a site visit to review grant management and program operations. Soluna Outreach Solutions and ZWM staff member Jessica Ruiz led the visit to relevant sites including: the Marin HHW Facility where residents receive free used oil and oil filter kits; O'Reilly Auto Parts at 812 Francisco Blvd W in San Rafael which is one of the certified collection centers for used oil; and Clipper Yacht Harbor, where recreational boaters recycle used oil and used oil absorbents. The Program Advisor/Grant Manager was very pleased with how the agency is using the funds. Their only recommendation was to place a sign at the O'Reilly Auto Parts location indicating that it is a certified collection center.

Zero Waste Programs

The Zero Waste Schools Program

The Zero Waste Schools Program (ZWSP) launched its pilot year with two school campuses in 2015. Over a decade later, the ZWSP has worked with more than 45 public school sites and continues to grow each year. The goal of the Schools Program is to help schools begin or improve recycling and composting programs, become compliant with mandatory California waste laws, reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill, and empower students to make a change at their school and in their community.

During the 2025-26 Fiscal Year, the Schools program focused on supporting new campuses with onboarding into the program and continuing to support the creativity of our continuing schools. Zero Waste Marin staff coordinated with Schools Program consultant Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) to offer flexible support to schools to develop a system that works well for their specific needs. Examples of support offered to all school campuses include:

- ✓ Site assessments
- ✓ Staff and teacher training
- ✓ School-wide assemblies
- ✓ Classroom presentations
- ✓ Infrastructure support
- ✓ Coordination with Green Teams and student clubs

At the end of each spring semester, the Schools Program provides each school campus with the opportunity to become Certified. The Certification includes 9 core “mandatory” requirements, plus additional “advisable” activities that schools may strive for to further their zero waste efforts. The Certification aims to recognize and honor the efforts of schools to reduce their landfill waste and improve recycling and composting on campus. There are four Certification tiers: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. During the 25/26 Fiscal Year, 28 out of our 47 school sites were certified (60%). The following Certification levels were achieved:

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The Schools Program offered feedback and encouragement to all school sites and will help set goals and provide ongoing support for all school sites regardless of Certification status.

Repair Fairs

ZWM began working with non-profit Reuse Alliance during the 24/25 Fiscal Year as a pilot program to bring Repair Fairs to jurisdictions across Marin County. Due to positive community response and strong attendance, the Fairs continued during FY 25/26.

At a Repair Fair, community members can bring common household items (lamps, small appliances, bikes, clothing) for free repair. Attendees sit with a Repair Coach who talks them through the fix of their item to demystify the process. Repair Fairs aim to keep useful items out of the landfill and promote a culture of reuse and repair.

Some Repair Fairs also include a “swap” component depending on space; at swaps, attendees can drop off clothes, books, or games in good condition that they no longer use, and pick up something “new” to them for free. People do not need to drop off items in order to take something home and are encouraged to take whatever items they will use. Any leftover clothing in usable condition is subsequently donated to a thrift store, and books are donated to Phoenix Used Books, now open as a brick-and-mortar in Larkspur.



A Repair Coach works on fixing an item with an attendee at a Repair Fair.

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Program Results from FY 25/26:

Fair Date	Fair Location	Attendees	Items Repaired	Weight of Items Repaired (lbs)	Weight of Clothes Donated (lbs)	CO ₂ e Avoided (kg)
8/16/25	Marin City Library Lab	100	42	387	316	2,043
9/13/25	San Anselmo	95	49	384	30	2,094
10/4/25	South Novato Library	75	48	340	-	1,406
12/14/25	Novato City Hall	80	55	373	361	2,330
1/10/26	San Rafael Community Center	125	59	375	350	2,271
1/31/26	Sausalito City Hall	120	63	475	473	2,436
3/14/26	San Geronimo Community Center	65	37	410.0	245	2,010
5/2/26	Mill Valley Public Library	75	54	364	58	1,827
5/30/26	San Anselmo Library	80	58	447.5	-	1,763
6/6/26	Corte Madera Community Center	75	55	402	320	2,269
Totals:		890 people	520 items	3,956 lbs	2,152 lbs	20,449 kg CO₂e

Community Focus Groups

Through the marketing and communications contract with Most Likely To, ZWM worked with Think Tank Research to implement English- and Spanish-language focus groups to better understand community attitudes and barriers related to composting and household hazardous waste. The research identified meaningful differences between audiences. English-speaking participants were generally familiar with HHW disposal options but reported lower participation in food scrap composting, while Spanish-speaking participants reported more composting but less awareness and use of proper HHW disposal options.

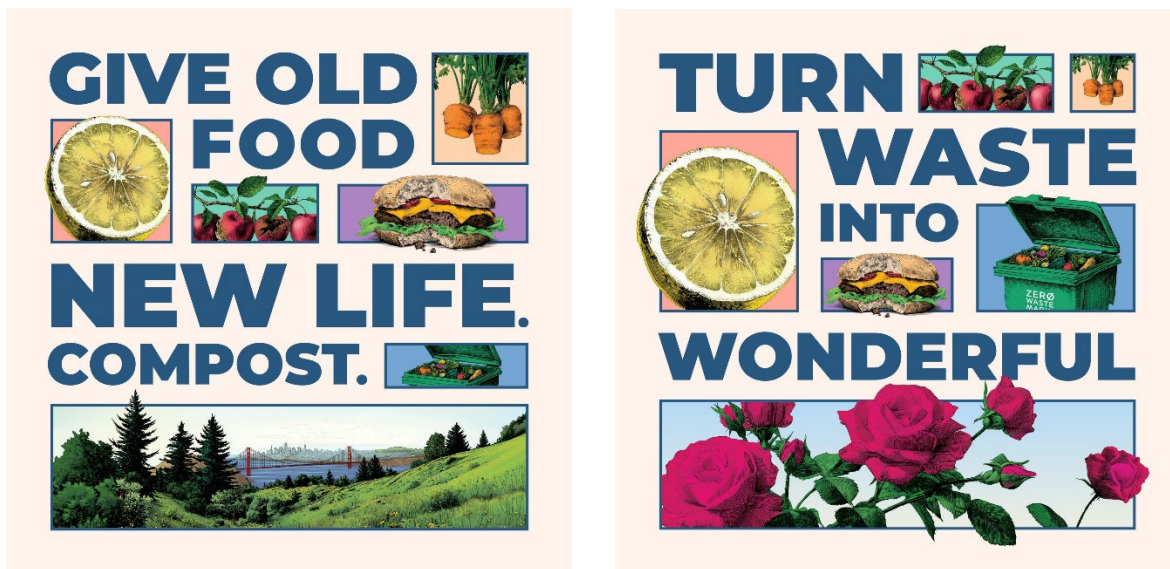
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The groups also provided valuable insight into effective messaging. English-speaking participants preferred practical, non-judgmental messages, while Spanish-speaking participants responded more strongly to messages that clearly communicated consequences. Across both groups, learning that organic waste separation is required by State law was surprising and particularly attention-grabbing.

Participants also recommended that ZWM's website place greater emphasis on our programs, services, and community impact. These findings will help inform future outreach campaigns, website improvements, and more targeted English- and Spanish-language messaging. These findings also informed how we messaged the County-wide call-to-action campaign.

County-Wide Call-To-Action Campaign

During the 25/26 FY Zero Waste Marin continued to work with Most Likely To, a Bay Area-based marketing firm focused on sustainability. Last year's theme focused on encouraging people to compost their food scraps via the message "Be a Composting Rock Star". Most Likely To proposed that ZWM's County-wide campaign continue to focus on food scraps, this time focused on the positive benefits of composting.



The theme for the campaign was "Give Old Food New Life". The bus ads, webpage graphics, and social media stills focused on colorful, eye-catching graphics. These graphics were accompanied by five "User-Generated Content" (UGC) videos on social media. UGC videos are in the style of influencer content, featuring a less formal tone and following the format of popular social media videos. The content was focused on helpful tips to clarify confusing aspects of composting. All videos were created in both English and Spanish.

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The campaign ran from May 25th, 2026 – July 27, 2026 and the results of the campaign's tactics are listed below:

Platform	Metrics
Bus Tail Ads	10 buses with ads
Bus Shelter Ads	12 shelters with ads
SMART Train Platforms	6 platforms with ads
Audio Streaming Ads (English & Spanish)	2,335,725 impressions
YouTube (English & Spanish)	468,821 impressions and 205,901 views
Facebook & Instagram (Spanish videos and static)	1,085,096 impressions and 46,318 video views
Facebook & Instagram (English videos and static)	1,351,505 impressions and 90,172 video views

Events & In-Person Outreach

Zero Waste Marin staff attended a total of 31 community events across the Marin during the 2025/26 Fiscal Year, not including the grocery store tabling efforts. These events included large public events like the Slide Ranch Spring Fling, speaking engagements for community groups, and Earth Day Fairs for students and staff at schools.

Staff developed new ways to engage with event attendees while tabling during the Fiscal Year, including a zero waste lotería game. Lotería is a popular game in Mexico, similar in style to bingo. This offered a new opportunity to engage with community members in a way that was familiar to some and new to others.



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Finally, ZWM continued to loan out ClearStream sorting stations to events to facilitate the proper separation of recyclables, compostables, and landfill materials.

Social Media & Newsletter

Zero Waste Marin continued to post to its Instagram account (@zerowastemarin) and Facebook account (Zero Waste Marin). Instagram was utilized for more fun and informational posts, while Facebook was utilized to share webpages and events. As of the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30, the Zero Waste Marin Instagram had 982 followers (up from 580 followers at the end of last FY). The top locations for followers were San Rafael (12.5%) and Novato (8.9%). The age ranges of followers vary, but the top categories of followers are 35-44 years old (29.1%) and 45-54 years old (23.7%). 78.3% of followers identify as women, while 21.7% identify as men. Instagram continues to be a valuable platform for sharing content and connecting with community members.

ZWM staff also continued to compile monthly newsletter blurbs and social media images with captions to provide to all jurisdictions. The goal of this template content is to make it easy for jurisdictions to integrate zero waste content into their regular communications, and to increase the cohesion of zero waste messaging across the County. ZWM staff send out this template content to 75 recipients, including waste haulers, Local Task Force members, jurisdiction sustainability staff, JPA Board members, city and town clerks or the staffer responsible for the newsletter, and local sustainability groups.

Finally, ZWM transitioned from a quarterly newsletter to a monthly newsletter in order to share helpful messages and content on a more regular basis. A monthly format will also enable ZWM to provide more timely updates on upcoming events. With the transition to monthly newsletters, staff also began to use the Constant Contact platform, moving away from the GovDelivery newsletter platform.

Looking Ahead: Goals for FY 2026/27

Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year include:

- ✓ Completing the Vape Pen Study and using the findings to inform future HHW strategies.
- ✓ Expanding staffing capacity to meet increasing SB 1383 compliance, inspection, enforcement, technical assistance, and reporting responsibilities and to implement SB54, the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Law.
- ✓ Work with other Joint Powers Authorities on a regional approach to complying with SB54.

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- ✓ Work with the JPA Board on a better model for operating as an independent agency via the staffing and services agreement with the County of Marin.
- ✓ Expanding the Zero Waste Schools Program to include our first two high schools.
- ✓ Pursuing grant funding and other resources to expand services while reducing impacts on local funding.
- ✓ Implementing diversion strategies informed by the County-wide Waste Characterization Study.
- ✓ Working with CalRecycle to explore a longer-term approach to recovered organic waste product procurement that reduces costs and administrative workload.
- ✓ Continuing to improve access to safe and convenient disposal options for household hazardous and emerging waste streams.



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Belvedere Corte Madera County of Marin Fairfax Larkspur Mill Valley
Novato Ross San Anselmo San Rafael Sausalito Tiburon

STUDIES UPDATE – ITEM 6

TO Local Task Force

FROM Meilin Tsao, Waste Management Specialist

SUBJECT Studies Update

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

In the Fall and Winter of 2024 and 2025 ZWM contracted SCS Engineers to conduct the first ever County-wide Waste Characterization Study in Marin. A WCS is a comprehensive study of all materials sent to landfill. Over two week-long sampling periods, eighty 200-lbs samples were hand-sorted at Redwood Landfill in Novato into 74 material categories that included various plastics, papers & fibers, organics, metals, textiles, HHW, and more. The hand sort samples were proportionally distributed among Marin's 5 haulers and 12 jurisdictions to represent residential single-family homes, residential multi-family dwellings, and commercial businesses. The overall results from this portion of the study highlighted that 36.5% of material sent to landfill is still SB 1383-defined organic material that should be diverted from landfill, and an overall total of 60% of material could easily be diverted and recycled through programs already available in Marin.

Another portion of the study was conducted at the Marin Sanitary Service-owned Marin Resource Recovery Center (MRRC) to capture visual samples from individuals and businesses that choose to self-haul their material, rather than subscribe to service from one of the 5 haulers. The visual samples were sorted into 38 material categories and 58 samples were analyzed. The overall results highlighted that 15% is SB 1383-defined organic material and approximately 45% of total material is divertible.

ZWM received a final report from SCS Engineers in June 2025 which was presented to the LTF and the JPA Board. The JPA Board instructed staff to create a plan to implement SCS' study recommendations which staff developed over the course of FY26, including internal establishment, presentations to and revisions from the LTF and JPA Programmatic Subcommittee, and hosting our first ever ZWM public meeting in April 2026. The WCS Implementation Plan being presented today is a combination of voices from the abovementioned groups and ZWM's feasible capabilities.

Additionally, in FY26 ZWM completed an Organic Waste Recycling Capacity Study to comply with 14 CCR 18992.1 through 2039. The study found that if all jurisdictions meet the SB 1383 goals of 100% of organics diverted from landfill, Marin County generators will need approximately 14,600 tons of additional organic waste recycling capacity beyond what is currently available or projected to be expanded. The full study report is available on Zero



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Waste Marin's website. Staff have created a compliance plan and will work with impacted jurisdictions in the coming years to ensure organic waste recycling capacity is beyond organic waste recycling needs by 2039.

Simultaneous to ZWM's studies, the Marin Biomass Project conducted a study and published a 300+ page report of biomass flows in Marin County. Within the study's scope, biomass encompasses wildfire reduction materials and waste, biosolids, residential and commercial food and yard waste, and other forms of wood waste beyond what ZWM focuses on. The study found that more than half of Marin's total biomass material is landfilled or exported out of the county and concluded with six key recommendations. Four of those recommendations include pathways to recycle the material into renewable energy, compost products, biochar products, and local wood products (through milling). The other two recommendations were administrative, highlighting that regulatory and financial incentive structures should be addressed among a wide variety of stakeholders in the forms of working groups to streamline the integration of the four recommendations mentioned above. ZWM staff participated in a Composting Roundtable Working Group Session that opened discussions around compostable material collection, transportation, processing, markets, and distribution. The full Biomass Report can be found on the Marin Resource Conservation District's website.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Item 5a: WCS Implementation Workplan
2. Item 5b: ZWM Organics Capacity Study

RECOMMENDATION

Action. Create a subcommittee to support ZWM staff with the implementation of recommendations in the Waste Characterization Study.

Program / Project Category	Program or Project?	Program / Project Name	Audience	Budget Source	Brief Program Overview	Justification / Mandate	Measures	Schedule
Collection & Sorting	Program	Business Compliance	Commercial	Staff	Create signage for BOH and provide TA support, including custom signage.	14 CCR 18984.9 - Commercial generators must provide collection containers for organics and recyclables next to all landfill containers with mandated colors and labels.	# of participating businesses # of infrastructure/signage distributed # change in collection services	Continuously
Collection & Sorting	Project	Zero Waste Event Programming	Commercial	Staff	Ensure Event Facilities in Marin have ZWM Event Guide and provide TA as necessary.	14 CCR 18984.9 - Commercial generators must subscribe to organic waste services and provide collection containers for organics and recyclables. Marin County Code 7.25 - RFO (adopted by all Cities & Towns)	Changes in collection services # of infrastructure/signage distributed # of events support	One-time then as needed
Collection & Sorting	Program	Zero Waste Event Programming	Events	Both	Increase sorting and resource recovery at events (public and community-organization focused) in Marin, including infrastructure, contracted staff, and custom collateral.	14 CCR 18984.9 - Commercial generators must subscribe to organic waste services and provide collection containers for organics and recyclables. Marin County Code 7.25 - RFO (adopted by all Cities & Towns)	Changes in collection services # of infrastructure/signage distributed # of events support	One-time then as needed
Edible Food	Project	Edible Food Outreach	All	Staff	Create collateral and advertise how/where to donate edible food in Marin.	14 CCR 18985.1.(6) Jurisdictions must provide information regarding donatable food.	# Collateral distributed / engaged with online	One-time then as needed
Education & Outreach	Program	Business Compliance	Commercial	Staff	Highlight success stories in outreach/media with emphasis on businesses and overall community benefit. Create decal for businesses to showcase to customers. Explore feasibility of instituting waste grading system.	14 CCR 18985.1. Organic Waste Recovery Education and Outreach 14 CCR 18984.9 Organic Waste Generator Requirements	# of posts # of interested businesses # of participating businesses	Continuously
Education & Outreach	Project	Food Facility Compliance	Commercial	Staff	Create a model restaurant and work with restaurant association(s) for sorting and waste reduction. Explore cost/benefit analysis of recognition programs and incentive program.	14 CCR 18985.1. Organic Waste Recovery Education and Outreach 14 CCR 18984.9 Organic Waste Generator Requirements	# of participating businesses # of infrastructure/signage distributed # change in collection services	Continuously
Education & Outreach	Program	Property Management Resources	Multi-family	Both	Host property-manager compliance workshops and trainings and create educational resources.	14 CCR 18985.1. Organic Waste Recovery Education and Outreach 14 CCR 18984.9 Organic Waste Generator Requirements	# of workshops # of infrastructure/signage distributed # change in collection services	Quarterly
Education & Outreach	Program	Property Management Resources	Multi-family	Staff	Explore the feasibility of purchasing and distributing waste sorting containers for apartments and multi-family residents.	14 CCR 18985.1. Organic Waste Recovery Education and Outreach 14 CCR 18984.9 Organic Waste Generator Requirements	Cost/benefit analysis	One time
Education & Outreach	Program	Public Workshops	Multi-family	Both	Increase public workshops and surveys, including apartment-specific resident workshops.	14 CCR 18985.1. Organic Waste Recovery Education and Outreach 14 CCR 18984.9 Organic Waste Generator Requirements	# of workshops \$\$\$/workshop Service or community changes after workshops	Quarterly
Education & Outreach	Program	Targeted Collateral	RES/MFD	Staff	Emphasize GHGs/landfill methane from organics, energy/resources in compost production/sequestration potentials, individual actions matter, compostable plastics.	14 CCR 18985.1.(3) E&O regarding methane reduction benefits of reducing organics in landfill.		Quarterly
Education & Outreach	Program	Mailers	RES/MFD	Staff	Increase quantity of educational mailers and emphasize waste reduction and sorting tips.	14 CCR 18985.1. Organic Waste Recovery Education and Outreach	# of mailers # increase in e-newsletter subscriptions	Semi-annual
Education & Outreach	Program	Self-Haul Program	Self-haul	Staff	Update and increase educational resources specific to self-haulers, highlight resource preservation and reuse, and create relationships with the Building Counters in Marin. Include tree-trimmer, landscaper, and gardener specific information.	14 CCR 18985.1.(7) E&O regarding self-haul requirements 14 CCR 18998.3. self-haul requirements for separating organic waste	# of Building Counters engaged with # collateral distributed	Annually
Education & Outreach	Project	Self-Haul Program	Self-haul	Staff	Explore feasibility of co-hosting a self-haul workshop including loadchecks at MRRC.	14 CCR 18985.1.(7) E&O regarding self-haul requirements 14 CCR 18998.3. self-haul requirements for separating organic waste	Cost/benefit analysis	Semi-annual
Enforcement		SB1383 Enforcement	Commercial	Staff	Increase inspections and enforcement. (Add. PC)	14 CCR 18995.1. Jurisdiction Inspection Requirements of Tier 1 & 2 Edible Food Generators, complaint investigations, and violations	# of inspections / enforcement # changes in compliance	Monthly
Infrastructure & Capacity	Project	Infrastructure and AB 939 Requirements	All	Contract	Conduct organics capacity study and collaborate with organizations to implement results.	14 CCR 18992.1. Organic Waste Recycling Capacity Planning & Reporting	Results and implementation plan	One-time, due 6/2026
Infrastructure & Capacity	Project	Infrastructure and AB 939 Requirements	All	Contract	Conduct a Materials Flow study to gain holistic mapping of all waste material in Marin.	14 CCR 18992.1. Organic Waste Recycling Capacity Planning & Reporting PRC 42060.5. All local jurisdictions must collect all SB 54 covered material and transfer to viable responsible end markets.	Results and implementation plan	One-time, due 6/2027
SB 707	Program	Responsible Textiles	All	Staff	Creation and dissemination of education and outreach on textile waste, reduction, recovery, reuse, and recycling.	PRC 42984.0-27 - SB 707, Newman. Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024, no requirements of local jurisdictions but preliminary program implementation, education, and outreach from the PRO and CalRecycle has already begun.	# of collateral distributed	Continuously
SB 707		Responsible Textiles	All	Both	Create textile waste, recovery, repair, and reuse workshops.	PRC 42984.0-27 - SB 707, Newman. Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024, no requirements of local jurisdictions but preliminary program implementation, education, and outreach from the PRO and CalRecycle has already begun.	# of workshops	Quarterly



FINAL REPORT

Zero Waste Marin

Organics Recycling Capacity Study

Zero Waste Marin
1600 Los Gatos, Suite 210
San Rafael, CA 94903

SCS ENGINEERS

01225053.00 | June 24, 2026

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Zero Waste Marin (ZWM), Zero Waste Marin is the informal operating name of the Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority. ZWM represents Marin County's 11 incorporated cities and towns, as well as the unincorporated areas of the County of Marin, on matters related to waste reduction and materials management. The Board is composed of representatives from the cities and towns of Belvedere, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Larkspur, Mill Valley, Novato, Ross, San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito, Tiburon, and the County of Marin.

ZWM retained SCS Engineers (SCS) to complete an Organics Recycling Capacity Study (Study). The goal of the Study was to provide current, accurate data to evaluate available resources to meet jurisdictional requirements related to Section 18992.1 of SB 1383. The study also aims to update and further support ZWM's 2024 Organics Capacity data submission, which was prepared using the CalRecycle Capacity Planning Calculator Tool.

The Study includes an assessment of the gaps between existing organics generation and recycling capacity, and projected organics material generation and processing capacity. The Study also identifies quantities of organics being collected and recycled, as well as additional quantities of material that would need to be processed to comply with state and local organics diversion program requirements in place at the time. In addition, the Study includes recommendations regarding potential solutions for additional capacity development and expansion of local infrastructure to achieve state-mandated recycling goals for jurisdictions within the county.

The findings from the Study are to be included in the CalRecycle Electronic Annual Report (EAR) due August 1, 2026, and will include the county's current and projected organics recycling capacity for the period from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2039.

1.1 KEY FINDINGS

The key findings from this Study are included below:

1. An estimated total of **117,040 tons of organic waste were generated** in Marin County in 2024. Of the 117,040 tons of organic waste, 67,730 tons (57.8 %) were diverted by some method of organics recycling, and **49,310 tons (42.1%) were disposed of in landfills.**
2. The total **projected capacity needed by 2039 for the county is 113,980 tons per year (TPY)**, which is 3,059 TPY less than the 117,040 estimated tons of organic material generated in the county in 2024 due to an estimated decrease in population by 6,659 (3%).
3. The **additional projected capacity needed by 2039 for the county is 46,250 TPY** beyond current processing capacity, assuming that all organic material is diverted from landfill disposal in line with SB 1383 requirements.
4. **Six Marin County facilities and seven out-of-county facilities were interviewed** for this project. The County's five waste haulers and 12 jurisdictions were also interviewed to confirm information and provide additional insight.

5. Overall, **there is an estimated 253,095 TPY of future available capacity** for use by the county for organics processing, which includes 71,500 TPY of additional permitted capacity expansion by 2039.
6. Four facilities are planning to increase their capacity totaling an estimated additional 71,500 TPY of capacity. Three facilities confirmed their ability to accept material from Marin County generators: West Marin Compost (WMC), Pacific Organics Solutions (POS) (Ukiah), and Napa Materials Diversion Facility (NMDF). **A total of 51,500 TPY of capacity may be available at out-of-county facilities and 20,000 at in-county facilities.** All facilities anticipate completing their expansion plans by 2029.
7. Overall, the projected amount of organic waste generation by 2039 exceeds the amount of reported organics processing capacity through current processors. However, **neighboring facilities reported having available capacity and interest in receiving this material from Marin County generators.**

1.2 INFORMATION FOR SUBMISSION TO CALRECYCLE

Senate Bill 1383 requires ZWM to submit organics data to CalRecycle in the Electronic Annual Report. The results for the 2025 EAR (due August 1, 2026) using year 2024 disposal information are presented in **Tables 1 - 4**:

Table 1. 2025 EAR Organic Waste Capacity Summary

Estimated organic waste for landfill disposal (tons)	Organic waste recycling capacity (tons)*	Needed organic waste recycling capacity (tons)
49,310	67,730	0
*Contracts were not provided upon request by facilities receiving Marin County organic waste and therefore cannot be classified as “verifiably available”.		

Table 2. Proposed Facility Expansions for Organic Waste Processing

Have the county, including cities, special districts, and Regional Agencies within the county, identified any proposed new or expanded recycling facilities that could be used to process the jurisdictions’ generated organic waste?	Identify the locations for new or expanded facilities that may be used to process the generated organic waste from the county, including cities, special districts, and Regional Agencies within the county.
Yes	Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR) 16520 Davis Street, Clearlake, CA 95422 West Marin Compost (WMC) 6290 Nicasio Valley Rd. Nicasio, CA 94946 Pacific Organics Solutions (POS) 3200 Taylor Dr. Ukiah, CA 95482 Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO) 6426 Hay Rd, Vacaville, CA 95687 Northern Recycling, LLC (NR) 44692 County Road 28H, Woodland, CA, 95776 Future Sonoma County (SC) Compost Facility; Sonoma County, CA

Table 3. Jurisdiction Capacity Reporting Status

Identify each jurisdiction within the county that is required to submit an implementation schedule due to insufficient organic waste recycling capacity.	Identify each jurisdiction that did not provide any information regarding organic waste recycling capacity to the county within the required 120-day timeframe.
None	All jurisdictions provided the requested information within the required timeframe.

Table 4. LEA & Local Task Force Consultation Summary

Consult with the Enforcement Agency and the local task force created pursuant to Section 40950 of the Public Resources Code on the status of locations for new or expanded solid waste facilities including the potential capacity increase each facility may provide if approved.
Zero Waste Marin meets regularly with the Local Enforcement Agency and Redwood Landfill & Recycling Center on the status of an expansion plan for WM Earthcare of Marin (21-AA-0068) mixed composting facility. Zero Waste Marin meets bi-monthly with the local task force regarding the expansion plan for WM Earthcare of Marin (21-AA-0068) and Main's overall capacity needs. SCS contacted all LEAs for the surveyed facilities and has verified information from Sonoma, Solano, Yolo, and Marin Counties. Solano County's organic processing facility, Jepson Prairie Organics, and Yolo County's facility, Northern Recycling, LLC, have no planned expansions. Additionally, there are no new organics processing facilities currently proposed, permitted, or under development in these jurisdictions. The Marin County LEA has verified that West Marin Compost has not submitted an expansion proposal and that WM Earthcare of Marin, a separate facility, has been in conversation with them regarding an expansion proposal for submission, which will initiate the EIR process. As of publication of this report, SCS was awaiting responses from LEAs in Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, and Contra Costa Counties.

Based on the data collected for this report, Marin County has adequate organics processing capacity to manage the quantity of organics generation currently being diverted. To guarantee verifiable capacity, additional contracts will need to be established with the facilities interested in receiving material from Marin County generators to process the projected quantity of organics materials generated in 2039.

SCS' key recommendations are:

- **ZWM** to support jurisdictions and haulers in establishing agreements with multiple processing partners to diversify outlets and improve capacity reliability.
 - Jurisdictions require written documentation of available organics processing capacity in hauler contracts.
- **ZWM** to communicate with the five franchised haulers about the neighboring facilities willing to accept Marin County organics. The haulers servicing the

unincorporated county areas and the City of San Rafael should prioritize securing capacity at additional organic waste recycling facilities before 2039.

- Creating a higher demand for compost products within the county may help these surveyed facilities accept larger quantities of organic waste.
 - **ZWM and jurisdictions** to provide public education and outreach that encourages compost use in municipal landscaping, public works projects, erosion control, and local agricultural applications.
 - **ZWM and jurisdictions** to continue to offer and promote a Subsidized Compost Program and consider including other composting facilities as a provider of finished compost in this program.
 - **Jurisdictions** to coordinate with their internal departments to integrate compost procurement into existing maintenance programs and contracts and capital improvement projects, creating more consistent end-market demand.
- Encourage **jurisdictions and haulers** to partner with other processing facilities as their quantity of diverted organic waste increases.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Zero Waste Marin (ZWM) is required to estimate the organics processing capacity needed to divert all organic waste currently sent to landfill from Marin County. “Organic Waste” defined in SB 1383 includes but is not limited to food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organics textiles and carpets, lumber, biosolids, digestate, and sludges, so long as the solid waste contains material originating from living organisms and their metabolic waste products. Additionally, ZWM is required to estimate the organics processing capacity that will be available prior to January 1, 2039. If the available organics processing capacity is less than the estimated amount of organics in the landfill stream, ZWM will be responsible for notifying the jurisdiction(s) that they must submit an implementation plan detailing how they will secure adequate processing capacity.

In compliance with Article 11 of SB 1383, ZWM coordinated with jurisdictions, haulers, facilities, and regional special districts within the county to complete an organic waste recycling capacity study. The Study includes: an estimate of the tons of organic waste that will be disposed by the county and jurisdictions within the county; the existing organic waste recycling capacity (in and out of the county) that is available to the jurisdictions within the county; and an estimate of the new or expanded capacity, in addition to existing capacity identified, that is needed to process additional organic waste. If SCS determines additional capacity is necessary, ZWM shall also notify the applicable jurisdictions.

A county can demonstrate the capacity is verifiably available to the county or its jurisdictions through a contract, franchise, or other documentation of existing, new, or expanded capacity at a facility, activity, operation or property that recovers organic waste that will be available to the county or its jurisdiction prior to the end of the reporting period. (SB 1383 Regulations, 14 CCR § 18992.1). For the purposes of calculating the estimates required by this section, a county may subtract the waste generated in an area subject to a waiver granted by the Department pursuant to Section 18984.12. A county is not required to obtain information from a jurisdiction that is waived from all of the organic waste collection requirements of the cited chapter.

SB 1383 Regulations, 14 CCR § 18984.12 outlines the guidelines for waivers and exemptions granted by the Department. The following cities and special districts have been granted low population waivers that shall be in effect until December 1, 2028. These cities and special districts represent approximately 6.4% of Marin County’s total population.

- Almonte Sanitary District
- Alto Sanitary District
- City of Belvedere
- Bolinas Community Public Utility District
- Homestead Valley Sanitary District
- Marin City Community Services District
- Strawberry Recreation District

3.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

Data collection consisted of three parts: 1) Conducting research of existing facilities within a 100-mile radius of Marin County; 2) Surveying jurisdictions, haulers, and organic material processing facilities; and 3) Modeling and projecting disposed and recovered organic waste compositions. After data was collected, SCS compared the projected organic capacity needs to existing facility capacity to estimate how much, if any, additional capacity was necessary.

3.1 JURISDICTION, HAULER, AND FACILITY SURVEYS

Surveys were conducted to identify existing organics recycling facilities receiving Marin County organic waste. The surveys were also used to verify the types and quantities of organic waste being processed, to estimate the current processing capacity at facilities within the county, and to calculate local and regional recycling capacity.

Three surveys were performed: one of organic materials processing facilities within the county and within 100 miles of the county, one of jurisdictions within the county, and one of haulers operating within the county. The surveyed out of county facilities were restricted to a 100-mile radius to maintain an appropriate service and transportation distance within which haulers can operationally and economically transport materials to processing facilities. The jurisdiction and hauler surveys served to aid in understanding material flow and validate facility agreements.

Research was performed to identify and collect data on active facilities in Marin County and within 100-mile radius, using CalRecycle's Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) [\[1\]](#), the Recycling & Disposal Reporting System (RDRS), and existing knowledge of facilities. SCS identified the facilities from the CalRecycle website, including the permitted volumes, annual throughput capacity, and actual incoming volumes of material. Information detailing the type and quantity of facilities is included in **Table 5** and a map of facility locations is shown in **Exhibit 8** and **Exhibit 9**.

After initial data collection, surveys were sent to the facilities to verify the types and quantities of organic waste they currently process, plans for facility modifications, and other related information. Surveys were also sent to jurisdictions and haulers. In advance of the surveys, a phone call and/or an email notice was sent by Zero Waste Marin to explain the purpose and objectives of the study and request participation in the surveys. The questions asked in the surveys distributed to facilities, jurisdictions, and haulers are included in **Appendices A - C**, respectively. All jurisdictions and waste haulers contacted responded to the surveys.

The surveyed waste haulers included:

1. Bay Cities Refuse Service
2. Marin Sanitary Service
3. Mill Valley Refuse Service
4. Recology Sonoma Marin
5. Tamalpais Community Services District

The jurisdictions surveyed included:

1. Belvedere
2. Corte Madera
3. Fairfax
4. Larkspur
5. Mill Valley
6. Novato Sanitary District
7. Ross
8. San Anselmo
9. San Rafael
10. Sausalito
11. Tiburon
12. Unincorporated Marin County

A total of 26 facilities were contacted, and 12 responded. One facility that did not respond was included because SCS was able to identify additional capacity available by 2039. Sanitary districts or agencies were also included in the list because they provide wastewater treatment services. These entities process biosolids, digestate, and sludge, including materials in the SB 1383 definition of organic waste.

The six in-county facilities included:

1. Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project (BSRRP)
2. Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)
3. Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)
4. Redwood Landfill / WM Earthcare (RL)
5. West Marin Compost (WMC)
6. Novato Sanitary District (NSD)

The seven out-of-county facilities included:

1. Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO)
2. Napa Materials Diversion Facility (NMDF)
3. Northern Recycling, LLC (NR)
4. Pacific Organics Solutions (POS)
5. Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR)
6. West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility
7. Future Sonoma County (SC) Compost Facility

Information detailing the type and quantity of facilities is included below in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Facility Type and Number by County

County	Compost Facility	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Transfer/ Processor Facility	Total
Contra Costa	1	0	0	1
Lake	1	0	0	1
Marin	3	2	1	6
Mendocino	1	0	0	1
Napa	1	0	0	1
Solano	1	0	0	1
Sonoma	1	0	0	1
Yolo	1	0	0	1
Total	10	2	1	13

3.2 ORGANIC WASTE TONNAGE MODELING & PROJECTIONS

To identify the types and quantities of organic waste that are disposed, the organic composition from ZWM's FY2025 Waste Characterization Study, performed by SCS Engineers, was used to calculate the total amount of organics bound for landfill disposal. To estimate the organics processing capacity required to manage organic waste currently disposed from Marin County generators, including future impacts associated with population fluctuation and continued improvement of organics diversion, SCS developed a forecasting model. The methodology outlined below describes how the model estimates organic material generation from both the residential and commercial sectors and incorporates quantities of organic material that are presently being processed.

Step 1. Model Disposed Organic Waste

A modeling exercise was performed to estimate the quantity of organic material in the waste stream for the ZWM service area. SCS used the annual tons of waste disposed reported for each jurisdiction collected through hauler survey responses and applied the FY2025 Waste Characterization Study data to estimate the quantity of organic waste in the disposed waste stream. Residential and commercial waste compositions were utilized to derive quantities of organics generated in each sector. The modeled composition was performed for six material types: yard waste; food; compostable paper; clean wood; mixed compostables; and potentially compostable material (such as pallets and crates, cork items, sawdust, animal bedding, etc.).

Step 2. Model Baseline 2024 Organic Waste Generation

Hauler-reported tonnage data for waste and organic material collected from incorporated jurisdictions and unincorporated areas of Marin County were used to estimate total organic material generation, both disposed and diverted, in 2024 for the residential and commercial sectors. Reported diverted organic tons were derived from hauler data provided through survey responses. The quantity of organic waste in the disposed waste stream calculated in Step 1 was combined with the hauler report diversion tons to estimate total organic waste

generation in the county. Results from the composition modeling are presented in the following sections.

Step 3: Estimated Organics Material Generation Rates and Developing Future Projections

As the population changes in the jurisdictions within Marin County, so will the quantity of waste generation. To project the change in organic waste generated, SCS utilized the population projection data from the State of California Department of Finance¹. An annual population fluctuation rate was calculated based on the projected population and applied to the estimated tons of organic waste generated. The model next takes into consideration the impact of SB 1383 and the jurisdictions' continued efforts towards diverting organic waste from landfill. SB 1383 intends to divert all organics waste from landfill. To this extent, the model calculates how much capacity would be needed if all jurisdictions reach 100% diversion of organic waste from landfill by 2039.

The quantities of organic waste accepted and processed by existing facilities were next analyzed to recognize potential gaps in processing capacity in the future.

3.3 ORGANICS CAPACITY

SCS evaluated available organics processing capacity on a facility-by-facility basis using information obtained through facility surveys for both in-county and out-of-county organics processors. Survey responses were reviewed to identify each facility's permitted processing capacity (potentials), reported throughput (actuals), material types accepted, number of operating days, and any planned capacity expansions. Reported throughput values were compared to permitted capacities to estimate existing available processing capacity under current operating conditions. Facility-reported plans for current or future capacity expansions were also reviewed and incorporated, where applicable, into the capacity assessment.

To assess capacity availability without assuming changes to existing hauling arrangements, SCS used hauler survey responses to identify the facilities to which each jurisdiction's organic waste is currently delivered. In addition, SCS contacted jurisdictions and facilities to confirm whether agreements or contracts were in place for the acceptance of organic waste from specific jurisdictions. Any contracts or agreements provided to SCS were reviewed for provisions related to capacity availability or acceptance limits.

For jurisdictions where insufficient capacity was identified under existing facility assignments, SCS evaluated unused capacity at other surveyed facilities to identify potential alternative processing pathways for organic waste. This approach allowed SCS to assess both current and potential future organics processing capacity available to manage organic waste generated in Marin County.

4.0 SURVEY RESPONSES

As part of this Study, SCS conducted coordinated surveys of waste haulers, jurisdictions, and organic waste processing facilities to support the organic waste material flow analysis and to

¹ California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. (2025). Report P-2A: Total population projections, 2020–2070: California counties (2024 baseline population projections, Vintage 2025 release). California Department of Finance. [California Department of Finance – Demographic Projections](#)

validate existing and planned processing capacity. Three distinct questionnaires were developed and distributed by SCS on behalf of ZWM: a hauler survey; a jurisdiction survey; and a facility survey. The surveys were designed to supplement publicly available data sources and confirm current operational practices, service coverage, and material destinations.

In advance of the survey distribution, Zero Waste Marin notified participants of the purpose and regulatory relevance of the study, including its role in supporting compliance with CCR Title 14 § 18992.1. All jurisdictions and waste haulers contacted submitted responses, and a subset of facilities provided completed surveys. A matrix summarizing all entities contacted and those that responded is provided in **Appendix A**.

4.1 HAULER SURVEY

Five waste haulers operating within Marin County responded to the hauler survey. The hauler survey collected information on collection tonnages, generator types served, and the destinations of collected organic waste. Responses were used to confirm which facilities are currently receiving organics collected within Marin County and to help validate material flow assumptions used in the capacity analysis.

The primary findings identified through the hauler survey responses included:

- Annual reported disposal and diversion tons
- Material flow within the county

4.2 JURISDICTION SURVEY

The jurisdiction survey gathered information on local solid waste and organics programs, service arrangements with haulers, and known processing agreements for organic waste. Survey responses were received from all 12 jurisdictions represented by Zero Waste Marin, including the county unincorporated areas.

Jurisdiction responses were primarily used to confirm existing collection programs and to provide a planning-level understanding of how organic waste generated within each jurisdiction is managed. These responses also served as a cross-check against hauler and facility survey data to confirm that reported material flows and processing pathways were aligned.

Primary findings identified through the jurisdiction survey responses included:

- Organic waste collected within each jurisdiction
- Existing documents for verifying organics capacity
- List of facilities organic waste is processed

4.3 FACILITY SURVEY

Facility surveys requested information on permitted capacities, inbound tonnages, types of organic waste accepted, and any planned or potential facility modifications or expansions. A total of 26 organic waste processing facilities located within Marin County and within approximately 100 miles of the county were identified and contacted as part of this Study. Of these, 12 facilities submitted completed surveys. The responding facilities include both in-county and out-of-county facilities that currently accept, or may reasonably accept, organic

waste generated in Marin County. One facility included in the Study did not submit a survey; however, SCS was able to determine future additional capacity.

Survey responses were used to verify and supplement facility data obtained from CalRecycle's Solid Waste Information System (SWIS), the Recycling and Disposal Reporting System (RDRS), and other publicly available sources.

The facility survey results form the basis of the existing organics processing capacity assessment presented in Section 7, including the differentiation between in-county and out-of-county facilities and the evaluation of available and potential future capacity.

Primary findings identified through the facility survey responses included:

- Permitted Capacity
- Permitted Throughputs
- Actual Throughputs
- Unused Capacity
- Accepted Feedstocks
- Potential Expansions
- Current processing support needs

Table 6 identifies the accepted materials for each facility that responded to the survey.

Table 6. Organic Materials Accepted at Surveyed Facilities

Facility	County	Agricultural	Biosolids/ Sludge	Food Scraps	Green Waste	Manure	Mixed MSW	Wood / Lumber	Digestate
Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project (BSRRP)	Marin	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	Marin	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO)	Solano	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)	Marin	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Napa Materials Diversion Facility (NMDF)	Napa	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Northern Recycling, LLC (NR)	Yolo	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Novato Sanitary District (NSD)	Marin	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pacific Organics Solutions (POS)	Mendocino	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR)	Lake	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Redwood Landfill/ WM Earthcare (RL)	Marin	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Future Sonoma County (SC) Compost Facility	Sonoma	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility	Contra Costa	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
West Marin Compost (WMC)	Marin	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

4.4 VISUALIZED FLOW OF MATERIALS

Using survey responses, SCS visualized the flow of materials within the County from each jurisdiction. The following **Exhibits 1, 2, and 3** show the destination of the organics, recycling, and landfill streams, respectively.

Exhibit 1. Organics Material Flow Map

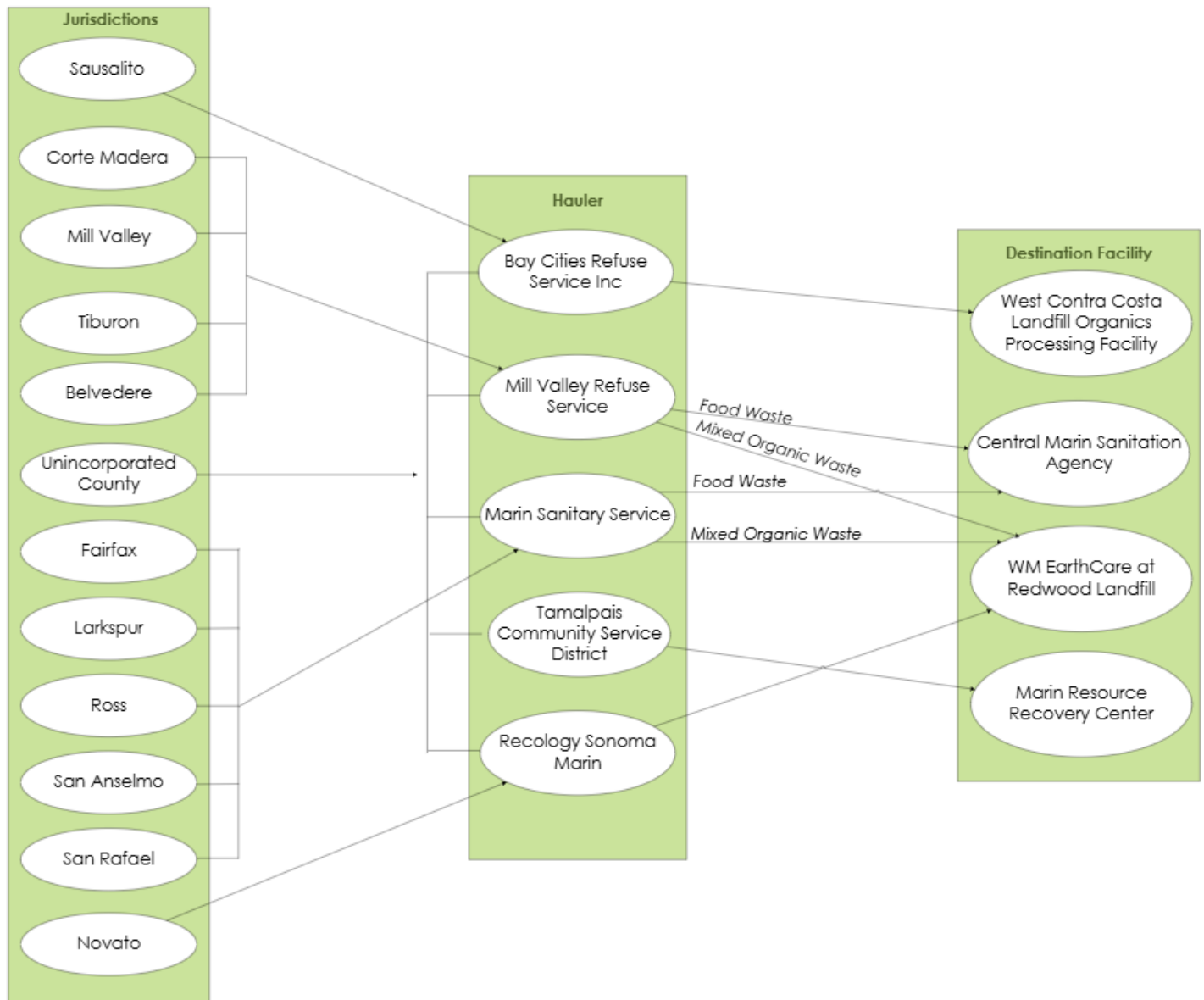


Exhibit 2. Recycling Material Flow Map

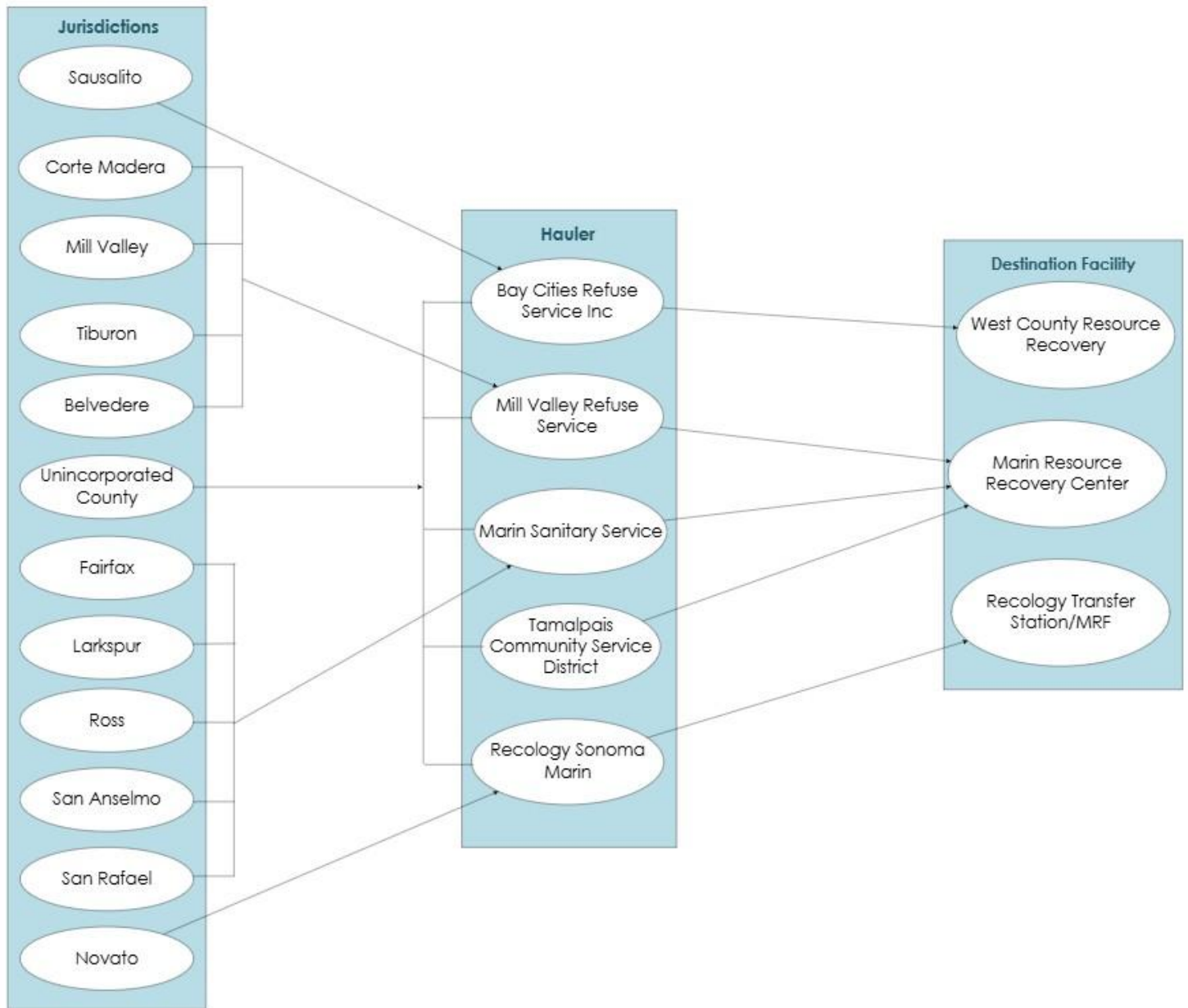
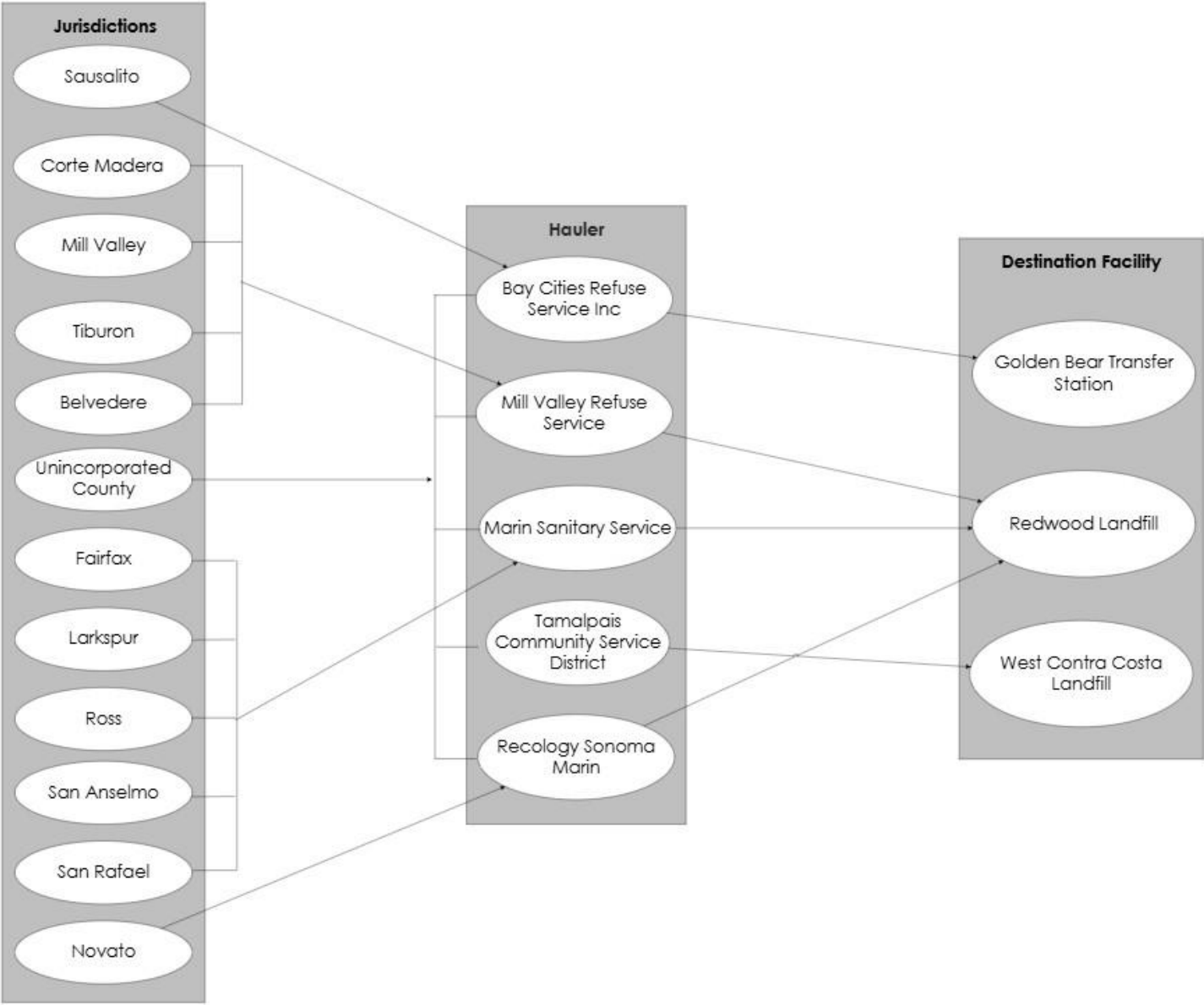


Exhibit 3. Landfill Material Flow Map



5.0 CURRENT ORGANIC WASTE GENERATION

Current organics generation was estimated by integrating hauler-reported annual disposal and diversion tons with the organic material composition from the FY 2025 Waste Characterization Study. Reported disposal tons were multiplied by the organic composition percentages to estimate the quantity of organic material remaining in the disposed waste stream. Hauler-reported organics diversion tons represent materials currently being processed at composting and other organics facilities. These disposed and diverted organic tons were then combined to calculate the total amount of organics generated within the Zero Waste Marin service area, forming the basis for the results presented in this section.

Exhibit 4 provides a visual comparison between organic material currently disposed and diverted in the residential and commercial sectors.

Exhibit 4. Disposed and Diverted Organic Materials - Residential and Commercial Sectors

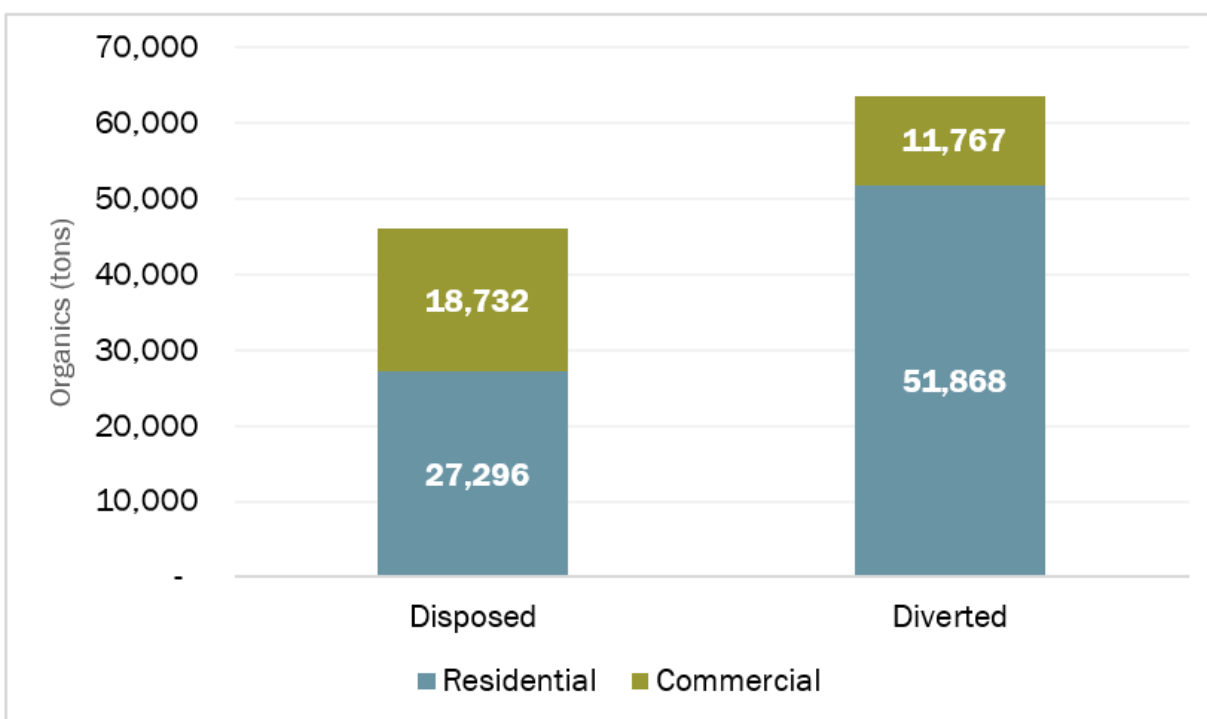
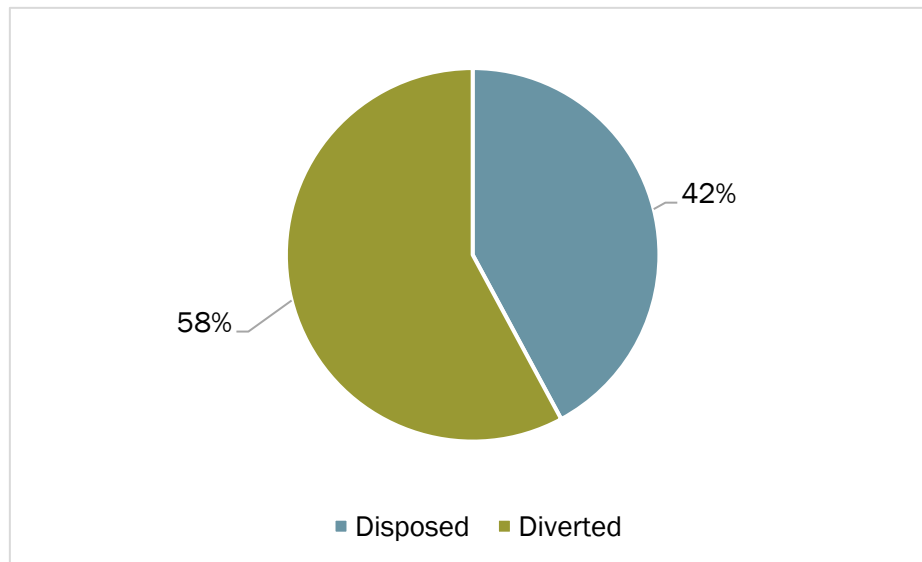


Exhibit 5 displays a comparison of organic material disposed and diverted across all sectors.

Exhibit 5. Disposed and Diverted Organic Materials

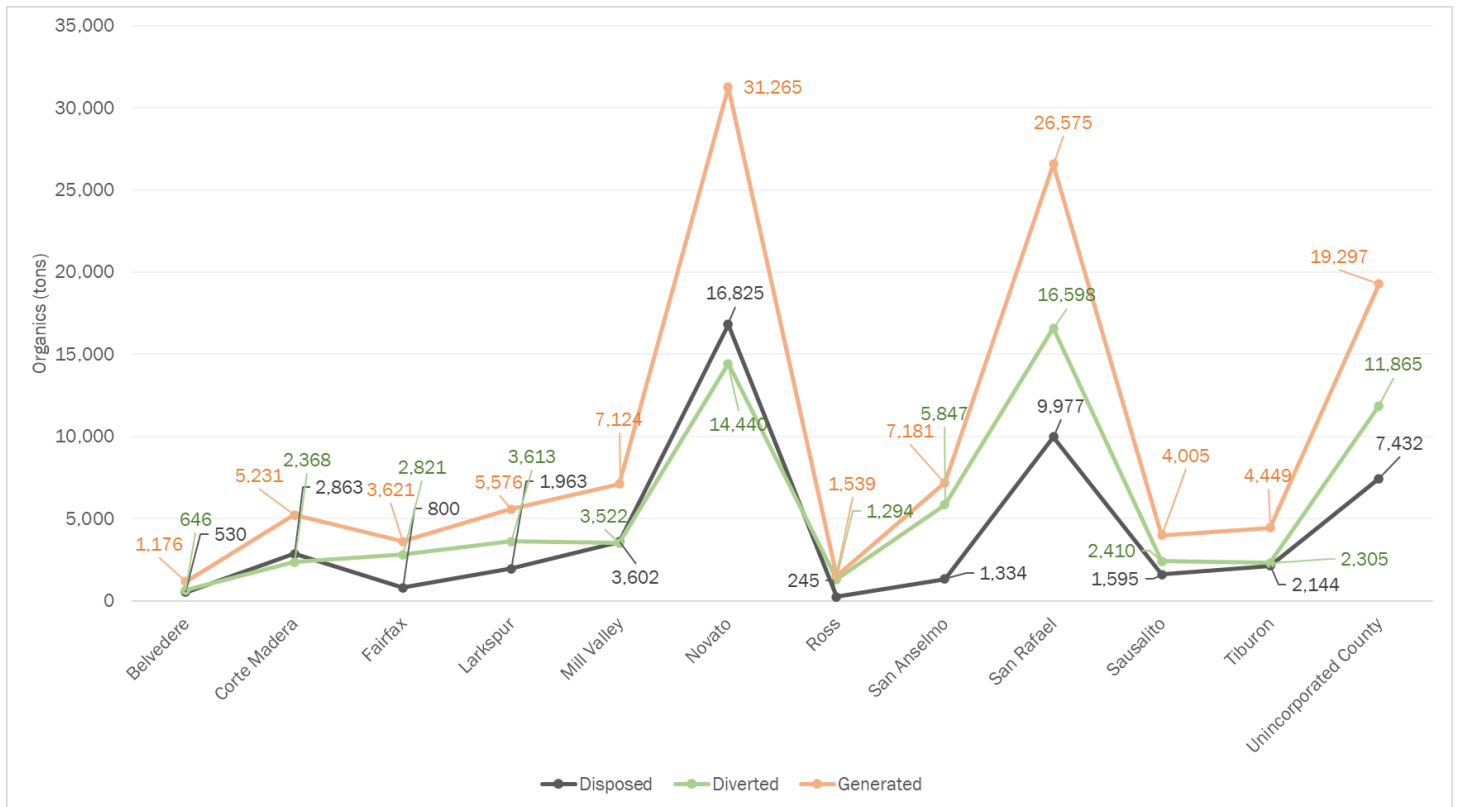


Data was provided to SCS by each jurisdiction for diverted organics tons, and total waste disposal tons for the residential and commercial sectors. Disposed organic material was determined for each jurisdiction using the waste characterization method described in **Section 3.2**, Steps 1 and 2. Each jurisdiction has different organics diversion programs and hauler agreements. The overall diversion rate for the county in 2024 was 62%. **Table 7 and Exhibit 6** display the organics generation for each jurisdiction in the county.

Table 7. 2024 Organic Waste Generation (tons)

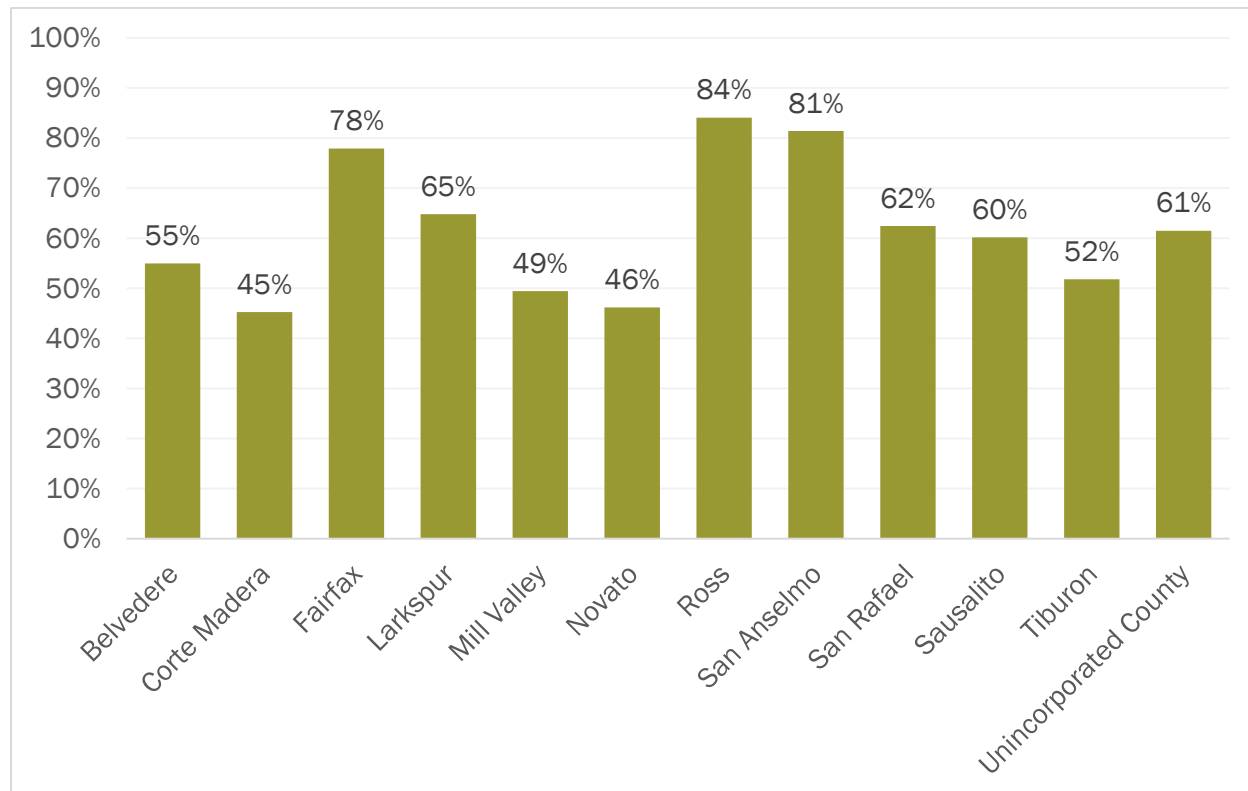
Jurisdiction	Disposed (tons)	Diverted (tons)	Total (tons)	Organics Diversion Rate
Belvedere	530	646	1,176	55%
Corte Madera	2,863	2,368	5,231	45%
Fairfax	800	2,821	3,621	78%
Larkspur	1,963	3,613	5,576	65%
Mill Valley	3,602	3,522	7,124	49%
Novato	16,825	14,440	31,265	46%
Ross	245	1,294	1,539	84%
San Anselmo	1,334	5,847	7,181	81%
San Rafael	9,977	16,598	26,575	62%
Sausalito	1,595	2,410	4,005	60%
Tiburon	2,144	2,305	4,449	52%
Unincorporated County	7,432	11,865	19,297	61%
Total	49,310	67,730	117,040	-
Average	-	-	-	62%

Exhibit 6. Disposed vs. Diverted Organics for Each Jurisdiction



The total organics diversion rate is an average of the success of the residential organics collection program and the commercial organics collection program in all of the jurisdictions. **Exhibit 7** displays a visual comparison of 2024 organics diversion rates per jurisdiction in Marin County.

Exhibit 7. Organics Diversion Rate per Jurisdiction 2024



5.1.1 Residential Sector Modeling

Waste characterization data was used to model the organic waste generation from the residential sector. The composition data was applied to county-supplied residential waste disposal quantities to estimate the quantities of organic waste generated in each jurisdiction. The model was developed to understand the breakdown of organic waste found in the residential waste stream. The residential sector generates approximately 79,164 tons of organic waste per year (diverted and sent to landfills).

Table 8 shows the breakdown of residential organic waste generation in each jurisdiction.

Table 8. Residential Organic Waste Generation

Jurisdiction	Tons Disposed	% of Countywide Disposal	Tons Diverted	% of Countywide Diversion	Tons Generated	% of Countywide Generation
Belvedere	464	1%	618	1%	1,082	1%
Corte Madera	1,420	3%	1,938	3%	3,359	3%
Fairfax	420	1%	2,126	3%	2,546	2%
Larkspur	1,032	2%	2,723	4%	3,755	3%
Mill Valley	2,254	5%	3,079	5%	5,333	5%
Novato	10,513	21%	13,021	19%	23,534	20%
Ross	129	0%	975	1%	1,104	1%
San Anselmo	701	1%	4,407	7%	5,108	4%
San Rafael	5,245	11%	12,511	18%	17,756	15%
Sausalito*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tiburon	1,487	3%	2,038	3%	3,525	3%
Unincorporated County*	3,630	7%	8,432	12%	12,062	10%
Total	27,296	55%	51,868	77%	79,164	68%

*Sausalito and a portion of the Unincorporated Marin County disposal and diversion data is not tracked separately by residential and commercial waste sectors.

5.1.2 Commercial Sector Modeling

Waste characterization data was used to model organic waste generation from the commercial sector. The composition data was applied to county-supplied commercial waste disposal quantities to estimate the quantities of organic waste generated in Marin County. The model was developed to understand the breakdown of organic waste found in the commercial sector. The commercial sector generates approximately 30,498 tons of organic waste per year.

Table 9 shows the breakdown of commercial organic waste generation in each jurisdiction.

Table 9. Commercial Organic Waste Generation

Jurisdiction	Tons Disposed	% of Countywide Disposal	Tons Diverted	% of Countywide Diversion	Tons Generated	% of Countywide Generation
Belvedere	66	0%	28	0%	94	0%
Corte Madera	1,443	3%	430	1%	1,872	2%
Fairfax	379	1%	695	1%	1,074	1%
Larkspur	931	2%	890	1%	1,821	2%
Mill Valley	1,348	3%	443	1%	1,791	2%
Novato	6,312	13%	1,419	2%	7,731	7%
Ross	116	0%	319	0%	435	0%
San Anselmo	632	1%	1,440	2%	2,072	2%
San Rafael	4,732	10%	4,087	6%	8,819	8%
Sausalito	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tiburon	657	1%	268	0%	925	1%
Unincorporated County	2,115	4%	1,748	3%	3,862	3%
Total	18,732	38%	11,767	17%	30,498	26%

*Sausalito and a portion of the Unincorporated Marin County disposal and diversion data is not tracked separately by residential and commercial waste sectors.

6.0 PROJECTED ORGANIC WASTE GENERATION

Using the total quantities of organic waste generated by sector (residential and commercial) from **Section 5.0**, future generation was estimated using projected population change and organics diversion growth in alignment with SB 1383's goal of diverting all organic waste from landfill. This also considers that the overall goal for each jurisdiction should be 100% organics diversion. The projections are based on achieving this goal by 2039.

Using the population projection data and the year-over-year projected population change, SCS was able to determine that Marin County will experience an approximate population decline of three percent from 2024 to 2039.

Table 10 presents the estimated change in organics generation based on population projections. Projections in diverted organics are included based on the diversion growth. The projections are calculated utilizing the reported disposal and diversion tons from each jurisdiction within the county.

Table 10. Projected Organics Generation and Diversion

Year	Population *	Organics Disposed (tons)	Organics Diverted (tons)	Organics Generated (tons)	Required growth in diversion to hit targets**	Est. Organics Diversion
2024	254,743	49,310	67,730	117,040	N/A	55.04%
2025	253,339	49,038	67,357	116,395	3.00%	58.04%
2026	252,309	19,031	96,891	115,922	3.00%	61.03%
2027	251,399	17,503	98,000	115,504	3.00%	64.03%
2028	250,434	15,983	99,077	115,060	3.00%	67.03%
2029	249,570	14,480	100,183	114,663	3.00%	70.03%
2030	248,924	12,998	101,368	114,366	3.00%	73.02%
2031	248,453	11,532	102,618	114,150	3.00%	76.02%
2032	248,187	10,080	103,948	114,027	3.00%	79.02%
2033	248,111	8,637	105,356	113,993	3.00%	82.02%
2034	248,048	7,196	106,768	113,964	3.00%	85.01%
2035	247,985	5,755	108,180	113,935	3.00%	88.01%
2036	248,001	4,317	109,625	113,942	3.00%	91.01%
2037	248,023	2,878	111,074	113,952	3.00%	94.01%
2038	248,053	1,439	112,527	113,966	3.00%	97.00%
2039	248,084	-	113,980	113,980	3.00%	100.00%

* Population fluctuation estimates from State of California Department of Finance

** California yearly waste diversion target 75% by 2025, and overall goal of 100% by 2039

7.0 EXISTING CAPACITY SUMMARY

The processing capacity for Marin County generators was verified through agreements or other forms of documentation. Available capacity was identified for four of the in-county facilities and five of the out-of-county facilities. Of the in- and out-of-county facilities, nine had limited available capacity and four had no available capacity. **Table 11** shows the estimated available and additional annual capacity.

The following definitions are provided for reference in **Table 11**:

- **Known/estimated:** Current processing throughput has been quantified. Estimated to have remaining capacity.
- **No capacity:** Assigned to sites that were estimated to have 0 tons/year of available capacity for standard residential/commercial organic waste. This was estimated based on information reported by the facility and associated reports.
- **Unknown:** Assigned to sites where their current throughput was not quantified and there was not enough available information to make any estimate about their remaining capacity.
- **Unknown but limited:** Assigned to sites where their current throughput was not quantified, but they have low permit capacity, accept green waste and/or food waste, and available information about the site implied they have little available capacity (especially for standard residential/commercial organic waste).

Table 11 shows the estimated available and additional annual capacity.

Table 11. Available and Future Capacity by Facility (Tons)

Facility	County	Capacity Status	Permitted Capacity	Current Processing	Available Capacity	Capacity Expansion
West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility	Contra Costa	Known/estimated	130,000	120,000	10,000	0
Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR)	Lake	Known/estimated	60,000	25,000	35,000	0
Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project (MSRRP)	Marin	No capacity	2,500	2,500	0	0
Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	Marin	Known/estimated	73,267	72,263	1,004	0
Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)	Marin	Known/estimated	934,560	869,778	64,782	0
Novato Sanitary District (NSD)	Marin	Unknown	0	0	0	0
Redwood Landfill/WM Earthcare (RL)	Marin	Known/estimated	156,000	126,000	30,000	0
West Marin Compost (WMC)	Marin	Known/estimated	40,000	35,000	5,000	20,000
Pacific Organics Solutions (POS)	Mendocino	Known/estimated	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Napa Materials Diversion Facility (NMDF)	Napa	No capacity	180,000	180,000	0	26,500
Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO)	Solano	Known/estimated	218,400	131,805	86,595	0
Northern Recycling, LLC (NR)	Yolo	Known/estimated	260,000	230,000	30,000	0
Future Sonoma County (SC) Compost Facility	Sonoma	No Capacity	0	0	0	70,000

SCS evaluated whether organics processing capacity was verifiably available to each jurisdiction through a review of contracts, agreements, and franchise materials. It should be noted that Redwood Landfill chose not to provide contracts or service agreements for their material received from jurisdictions within Marin County. All jurisdictions except for Sausalito reported hauling their material to Redwood Landfill for processing. This was a barrier for SCS to verify capacity for these jurisdictions. For jurisdictions where contracts were not provided, SCS reviewed available franchise agreements to identify provisions related to the handling and processing of organic waste.

7.1 LEA COORDINATION

Pursuant to Section 18992.1 of SB 1383, LEAs were consulted to verify information regarding facilities that may be planned, permitted, or under review. LEAs from Marin, Solano, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, and Contra Costa Counties were contacted. LEA contact information was obtained from the LEA Directory provided by CalRecycle, which provides the location and contact information for each LEA across the state. Outreach was conducted via email and telephone to verify any proposed, permitted, or under-development organics processing facilities, including potential expansions, within each jurisdiction. A summary of LEA coordination is provided below:

- **Contra Costa:** The LEA was contacted by phone however, no response was received.
- **Lake County:** The LEA was contacted by phone but was unable to verify information and forwarded the inquiry to two supervisors. SCS is pending response from these contacts.
- **Marin County:** The LEA was contacted and confirmed that the West Marin Compost facility has not submitted an expansion proposal. WM Earthcare is currently in discussions with the LEA and is finalizing a proposal for submission.
- **Mendocino County:** The LEA was contacted via phone and email, but was unable to verify information regarding the Pacific Organics Solutions facility.
- **Napa County:** The LEA was contacted via phone and email; no response was received.
- **Solano County:** The LEA was contacted by phone and verified that there are no new organics processing facilities proposed or under development, and that the Jepson Prairie Organics facility has no planned expansions.
- **Sonoma County:** The LEA was contacted by phone and indicated that the Sonoma County Compost Facility has been informally discussed; however, no permit applications have been submitted or reviewed by the LEA to date.
- **Yolo County:** The LEA was contacted by phone and confirmed that there are no new organics processing facilities proposed or under development, and that the Northern Recycling, LLC facility has no planned expansions.

At the time of publishing, additional information was pending from Mendocino, Lake, Napa, and Contra Costa Counties.

7.2 IN-COUNTY FACILITIES: MATERIALS & PROCESSING CAPACITY

A total of eight organic materials processing facilities located in Marin County were identified as part of the study. From this list, four were identified as having available processing capacity for Marin County generators. **Table 12** identifies the estimated quantity of available capacity along with the reported feedstocks accepted at each facility.

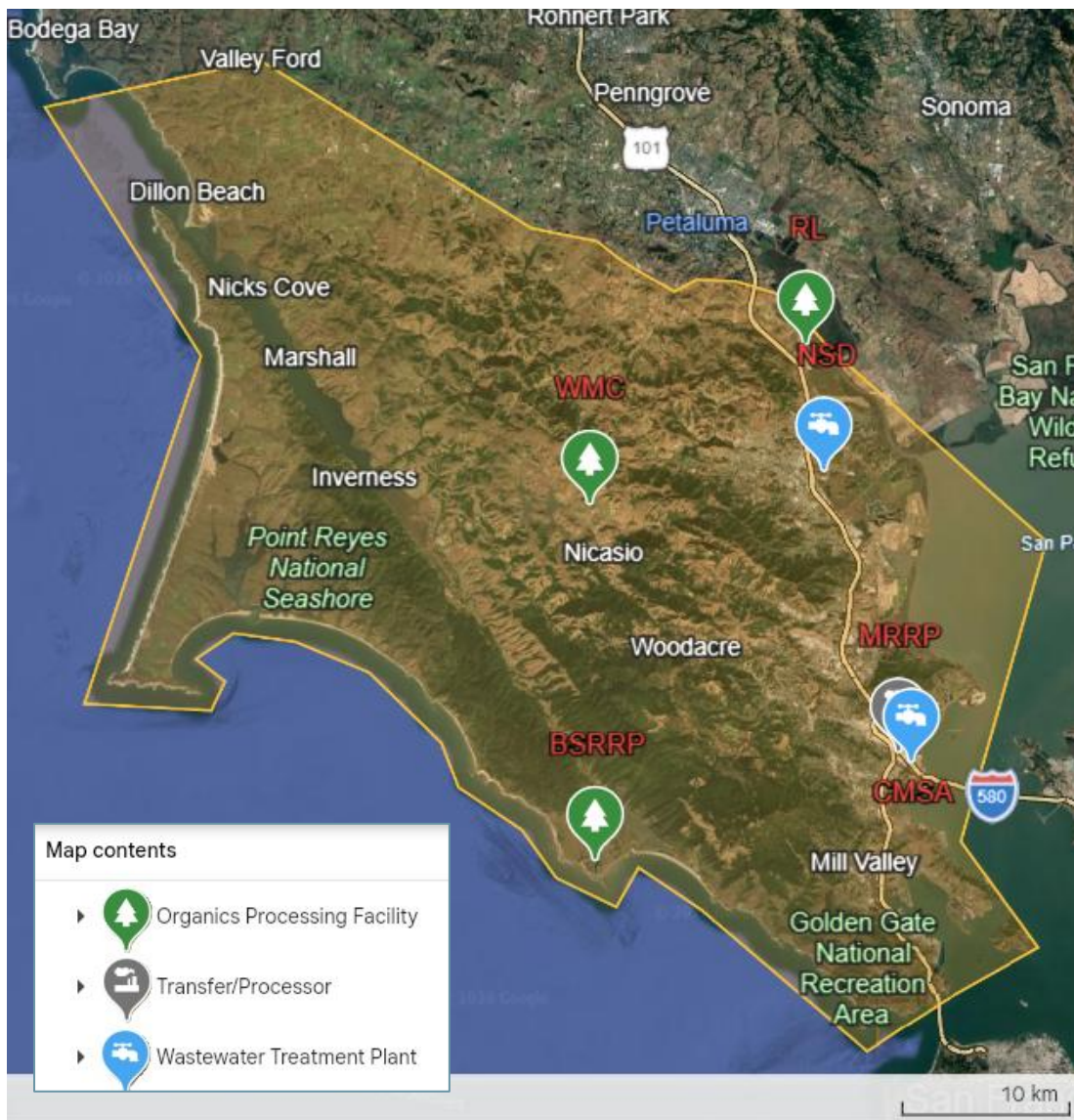
Table 12. In-County Facilities with Available Capacity

Facility	Available Capacity (tons)	Agricultural	Biosolids/ Sludge	Food Scraps	Green Waste	Digestate
West Marin Compost (WMC)	5,000	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	1,004	No	No	Yes	No	No
Redwood Landfill/ WM Earthcare (RL)	30,000	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)	64,782	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

Exhibit 8 displays the location of all In-County facilities listed below:

- Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project (BSRRP)
- Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)
- Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)
- Redwood Landfill / WM Earthcare (RL)
- West Marin Compost (WMC)
- Novato Sanitary District (NSD)

Exhibit 8. In-County Facility Location Map



7.3 OUT-OF-COUNTY FACILITIES: MATERIALS & PROCESSING CAPACITY

A total of 18 organics material processing facilities located outside of Marin County were identified as part of the Study. From this list, five responded with interest in accepting material from Marin County generators. **Table 13** identifies the estimated quantity of available capacity along with the reported feedstocks accepted at each facility.

Table 13. Out-of-County Facilities with Available Capacity

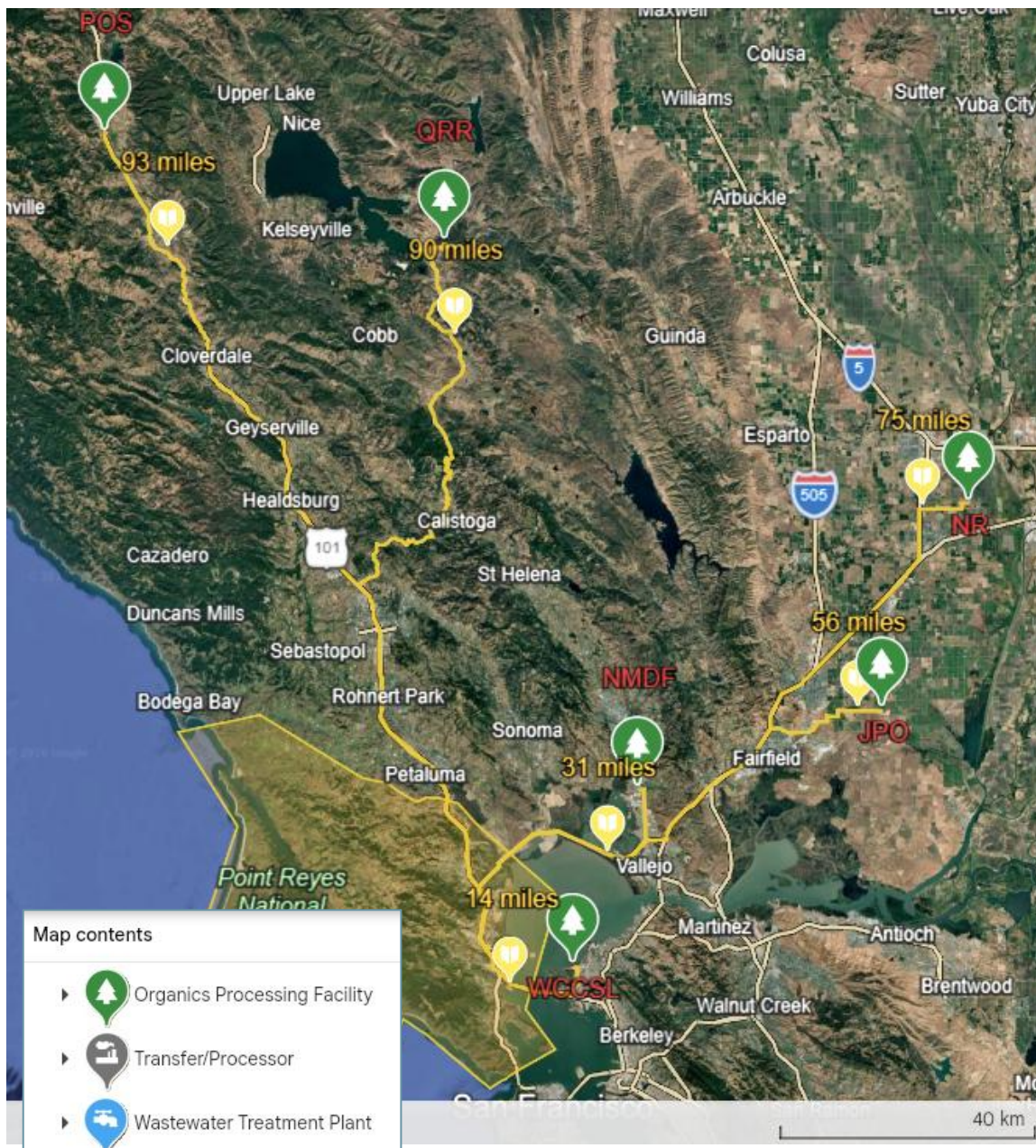
Facility	County	Available Capacity (tons)	Agricultural	Biosolids/ Sludge	Food Scraps	Green Waste	Digestate
West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility	Contra Costa	10,000	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR)	Lake	35,000	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Pacific Organics Solutions (POS)	Mendocino	25,000	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO)	Solano	86,595	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Recycling, LLC (NR)	Yolo	30,000	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exhibit 9 displays the location of each facility along with the relative distance from Marin County.

Out-of-County Facilities included in **Exhibit 9**:

- Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO)
- Napa Materials Diversion Facility (NMDF)
- Northern Recycling, LLC (NR)
- Pacific Organics Solutions (POS)
- Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR)
- West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility
- Future Sonoma County (SC) Compost Facility (Not pictured)

Exhibit 9. Out-of-County Facility Location Map



7.4 CURRENT CAPACITY & EXPANSION CAPABILITIES

Existing organic waste processors in Marin County and within a 100-mile radius were surveyed to determine the current and future potential capacity for organics processing.

Several processors are working on expansions to their organics processing operations, including West Marin Compost (WMC), Pacific Organics Solutions, Napa Materials Diversion Facility, and a future compost facility in Sonoma County. Processors have reported that barriers to expanding their organics operations stem from a lack of funding for new equipment, expansion permitting challenges, and administration and operational logistics.

Our findings show that many facilities within Marin County have available capacity at this time and can process the organics generated in the county. **Table 14** presents estimates of current and future processing quantities and permitted capacities as obtained from surveys with organics material processing facilities.

If any planned capacity expansion projects are currently not being acted upon (ex: no permits, plans, or construction), they were deducted from the capacity expansion estimates. All biosolids data were incorporated based on wet tons provided by facility managers. Processors that are expanding organics operations were not certain of their permitted capacity, and therefore the numbers provided are an estimate.

Table 14. Current and Projected Facility Capacity Estimates (Tons/Year)

Facility	County	Permitted Capacity	Capacity Expansion
West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility	Contra Costa	130,000	0
Quackenbush Resource Recovery (QRR)	Lake	60,000	0
Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project (BSRRP)	Marin	2,500	0
Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	Marin	73,267	0
Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)	Marin	934,560	0
Redwood Landfill / WM Earthcare (RL)	Marin	156,000	0
West Marin Compost (WMC)	Marin	40,000	20,000
Novato Sanitary District (NSD)	Marin	-	-
Pacific Organics Solutions (POS)	Mendocino	50,000	25,000
Napa Materials Diversion Facility (NMDF)	Napa	180,000	26,500
Jepson Prairie Organics (JPO)	Solano	218,400	0
Northern Recycling, LLC (NR)	Yolo	260,000	0
Future Sonoma County (SC) Compost Facility	Sonoma	-	70,000
Total		2,104,727	141,500

Overall, there is an estimated **253,095 TPY of additional available capacity for organics processing**, which includes 71,500 TPY of additional permitted capacity expansion from the West Marin Compost (WMC), Pacific Organics Solutions (POS), and Napa Materials Diversion Facilities (NMDF). These values take into consideration facilities capable of accepting material from Marin County, the estimated quantity of unused capacity for each facility, and the estimated expansion capacity.

The Future Sonoma County (SC) compost facility is expected to be dedicated to Sonoma County generators only, and is not considered as available capacity for Marin County. The facility was included as part of the study to showcase local facilities and their capacity.

8.0 PROJECTED ORGANIC GENERATION VS. PROJECTED CAPACITY

To determine whether each jurisdiction has sufficient organics processing capacity through 2039, projected organic material generation for that year was compared against the total processing capacity available at identified facilities.

Table 15 shows the projected organics capacity needs of each jurisdiction. The data includes the estimated organics currently being disposed, the total organics diverted, and the projected capacity needed by 2039 (estimated organics currently disposed plus the projected increase in generation). Of the 12 jurisdictions, 10 have capacity confirmed with their organics processors for their capacity needs, while the remaining two jurisdictions will be able to achieve processing capacity through partnerships with other processing facilities within and outside Marin County.

The quantities of organic waste accepted and processed by existing facilities were next analyzed to recognize potential gaps in processing capacity in the future. This was done through comparison of projected organic waste tonnage and existing facility capacities. Our findings show that many facilities within Marin County have available capacity at this time and can process the organics generated in the county.

Processing capacity was first identified for jurisdictions that deliver organic waste to a single processing facility. Once those jurisdictions were accounted for, remaining available capacity was allocated to jurisdictions that utilize multiple facilities, with assignments continuing until processing capacity was identified for all jurisdictions included in the analysis.

Table 15 shows the projected organics capacity needs of each jurisdiction.

Table 15. Projected Organics Capacity Needs by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Current Diversion (tons)	Projected Organics Diverted by 2039 (tons)	Enough Capacity for 2039?	Additional Capacity Needed by 2039 (tons)
Belvedere	646	1,145	Yes	499
Corte Madera	2,368	5,094	Yes	2,726
Fairfax	1,328	3,526	Yes*	705
Larkspur	357	5,431	Yes*	1,818
Mill Valley	3,910	6,938	Yes	3,415
Novato	6,270	30,448	Yes	16,008
Ross	2,821	1,499	Yes*	205
San Anselmo	3,613	6,993	Yes*	1,146
San Rafael	3,522	25,881	No	9,283
Sausalito	14,440	3,901	Yes	1,491
Tiburon	1,294	4,333	Yes	2,028
Unincorporated County	11,865	18,792	No	6,927

*Remaining capacity from Redwood Landfill/WM Earthcare and CMSA were allotted across these jurisdictions.

9.0 POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL CAPACITY

This section evaluates whether projected organics diversion needs through 2039 can be met using available processing capacity and identifies where additional capacity may be needed by jurisdiction. Building on the jurisdiction-level capacity needs summarized in **Table 15**, SCS compared each jurisdiction's projected additional tons requiring processing to the unused and planned capacity reported by facilities currently receiving Marin County organics, as well as other surveyed in- and out-of-county processors. The results quantify remaining capacity gaps, highlight jurisdictions with the greatest unmet needs, and provide the basis for identifying potential facility pathways and implementation actions.

Table 16 identifies the capacity available for each of the facilities receiving material from Marin County jurisdictions and compares it to the additional capacity needs projected out to 2039.

Table 16. Additional Capacity Needs by 2039

Facility Accepting Materials	Unused + Expansion Capacity (Tons)	Jurisdictions Served	Additional Capacity Needed by 2039 (Tons)
Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	1,004	• Unincorporated County • Fairfax • Larkspur • Ross • San Anselmo • San Rafael	_*
Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)	64,782	• Unincorporated Marin County	1,348
Redwood Landfill/ WM Earthcare (RL)	30,000	• Belvedere • Corte Madera • Unincorporated County • Fairfax • Larkspur • Mill Valley • Novato • Ross • San Anselmo • San Rafael • Tiburon	43,161*
West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility	10,000	• Unincorporated County • Sausalito	1,742

*Jurisdictions reported combined diversion tons across CMSA and Redwood Landfill/WM Earthcare. The reported TPY is reflected under Redwood Landfill /WM Earthcare.

Jurisdictions that reported hauling organic waste to a single processing facility were assigned capacity first, accounting for a total of 27,766 tons of diverted material managed through sole facility partnerships. Remaining available capacity was then distributed to jurisdictions with comparatively small capacity needs (less than 2,000 tons) to address an additional 18,484 tons of projected demand as shown in **Table 17**. Capacity was allocated in a manner intended to maximize the number of jurisdictions meeting their projected needs. Following this allocation, two jurisdictions, Unincorporated Marin County and the City of San Rafael, were identified as having remaining capacity needs not fully met through their current facility partnerships. **Together, these jurisdictions are projected to require an additional 14,611 tons of processing capacity by 2039 (Tables 18 & 19).**

Table 17. Unused Capacity for Current Processors of Marin County Organics

Facility Accepting Materials	Unused Capacity + Expansion Capacity (Tons)	Additional Capacity Needed by 2039 - only singular facility/jurisdiction partnership	Additional Capacity Needed by 2039 - Jurisdiction Hauling to Multiple Facilities
Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	1,004	0	-
Marin Resource Recovery Park (MRRP)	64,782	1,348	-
Redwood Landfill/ WM Earthcare (RL)	30,000	24,676	18,484
West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) Compost Facility	10,000	1,742	-

Table 18. Redwood Landfill & CMSA Remaining Capacity

Remaining Capacity for All Other Jurisdictions Hauling to Redwood Landfill and CMSA	Combined Capacity Needs Across Jurisdictions Hauling to both Redwood Landfill and CMSA
6,328	3,874

Remaining Capacity Calculations

- $30,000 \text{ tons} - 24,676 \text{ tons} = 5,324 \text{ tons}$ (1)
- $5,324 \text{ Redwood Landfill tons} + 1,004 \text{ CMSA tons} = 6,328 \text{ combined tons}$ (2)
- $705 \text{ tons} + 1,818 \text{ tons} + 205 \text{ tons} + 1,146 \text{ tons} = 3,874 \text{ tons}$ (3)
- $18,484 \text{ tons} - 3,874 \text{ tons} = 14,611 \text{ tons of additional capacity needed}$ (4)

Table 19. Additional Capacity Needed by 2039

Jurisdiction	Facility Accepting Materials	Additional Capacity Needed by 2039 (Tons)
Unincorporated County	• Redwood Landfill/ WM Earthcare • Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	5,329
San Rafael	• Redwood Landfill/ WM Earthcare • Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)	9,283
Total		14,611

9.1 TIMELINES AND KEY MILESTONES FOR IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS

San Rafael and Unincorporated Marin County are projected to achieve sufficient organics processing capacity through the addition of processing partners to their currently utilized facilities (expansion), rather than through the development of new stand-alone infrastructure. The Study indicates that existing facilities serving these jurisdictions have identified expansion plans or partnership opportunities that, once implemented, will provide adequate capacity to meet projected organic material generation through 2039.

Implementation timelines for these jurisdictions are driven by the point at which projected organic generation begins to approach existing available processing capacity. Based on projected organics generation and anticipated growth, **San Rafael and Unincorporated Marin County should plan to have new or amended processing agreements in place by 2027** to ensure that sufficient capacity is available ahead of future demand and to avoid potential capacity constraints. This timing allows for contractual execution, operational coordination, and regulatory certainty in advance of the projected increase in organic material requiring processing. It should be noted that the projections developed by SCS assume that these jurisdictions will continue to improve their organics diversion in alignment with SB 1383. The projections anticipate that the City of San Rafael and Unincorporated Marin County will see an annual increase in organics diversion of 2.6 and 2.5 percent respectively.

Milestones for San Rafael and the Unincorporated Marin County include:

- **Near-term (2025–2026):** Continued use of existing processing facilities while monitoring annual organics generation relative to available capacity.
- **Mid-term milestone (by 2027):** Execution of new or expanded agreements with additional processing partners or activation of permitted expansion capacity to accommodate projected increases in organics generation.
- **Long-term (through 2039):** Maintenance of sufficient organics processing capacity to manage total projected organics generation, including growth-related increases, through fully implemented partnerships and available facility capacity.

Capacity analysis indicates that these pathways can be implemented within the planning horizon of the Study, provided that partnership agreements or expansion activations are finalized before projected generation surpasses currently available processing capacity. This phased approach allows San Rafael and the Unincorporated Marin County to maintain flexibility while ensuring that adequate organics processing capacity is available to support long term compliance and system resilience.

9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING CAPACITY NEEDS

To support long-term compliance with CCR Title 14 § 18992.1 and address projected organics processing capacity needs, SCS recommends that jurisdictions consider strategies that not only secure access to processing capacity but also support the operational viability of existing facilities. Several facilities reported that, while they are permitted to process higher tonnages, they are unable to consistently reach daily throughput limits due to constraints associated with onsite material staging and downstream demand for finished compost products. Addressing these demand-side limitations can help unlock capacity that is already permitted but not fully utilized. Jurisdictions can play a key role in supporting facilities' ability to operate at higher throughputs by promoting greater demand for finished compost products within the county and region.

Additional recommended strategies for future compliance with CCR Title 14 § 18992.1. include:

- **Jurisdictions** requiring written documentation of available organics processing capacity in hauler contracts, including identification of authorized facilities, and require that an updated copy be available upon request. This will allow capacity to be clearly defined as verifiably available.
 - **ZWM** to support jurisdictions and haulers, particularly those serving the unincorporated county areas and the City of San Rafael, in establishing agreements with multiple processing partners to diversify outlets and improve capacity reliability.
- **ZWM** to communicate with the five franchised haulers about the neighboring facilities willing to accept Marin County organics. The **haulers** servicing the unincorporated county areas and the City of San Rafael should prioritize securing capacity at additional organic waste recycling facilities before 2039.
- Many facilities expressed that they are unable to reach their permitted throughputs due to the staging of material reaching their permitted capacity allowed onsite at any given time. Coordination efforts between **ZWM**, **jurisdictions**, and receiving **facilities** to help create a higher demand for compost products within the county may help these facilities accept larger quantities of organic waste.
 - **ZWM and jurisdictions** to provide public education and outreach that encourages compost use in municipal landscaping, public works projects, erosion control, and local agricultural applications.
 - **ZWM and jurisdictions** to continue to promote a Subsidized Compost Program and consider including other composting facilities as a provider of finished compost in this program.
 - **ZWM and jurisdictions** to coordinate with jurisdictions to integrate compost procurement into existing maintenance programs and capital improvement projects, creating more consistent end-market demand.
- Redwood Landfill/WM Earthcare receives material from 11 of the 12 jurisdictions within the county. Encourage **jurisdictions and haulers** to partner with other processing facilities as their quantity of diverted organic waste increases.
- Evaluate opportunities for **ZWM** to support existing facilities in their expansion efforts, where feasible, prior to relying on new or more distant facilities.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Facility Survey

2025-2026 Marin County Organics Capacity Study Facility Survey

Survey Response Needed by Friday, February 20th

This survey is being conducted on behalf of Zero Waste Marin as part of Marin County's SB 1383 organic waste recycling capacity study. Jurisdictional input will help assess current and future capacity needs and support state compliance and planning.

Estimated Survey Completion Time: 25-30 Minutes

Contact Information:

1. Facility Name:
2. Point of Contact Name:
3. Email:
4. Phone Number:

Questions:

Definition(s):

Per 14 CCR 18992.1.(f) “For the purposes of this section (organic waste recycling capacity) only the following type of organic waste shall be included in estimates: food, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, digestate and biosolids”.

Capacity:

5. What type of facility do you operate?
6. What recovered organic waste product(s) does your facility produce?
7. Permitted capacity (tons):
8. Maximum permitted throughput (tons/day):
9. What is your facility's unused organics capacity (tons)?
10. What was your total inbound quantity of organics received in 2024 (tons/year)?
11. How many tons of your capacity is confirmed through capacity agreements with Marin County generators/haulers/cities, etc.?
12. On an annual average, what percent of your inbound tons are from Marin County generators?
13. Do you have a contract, franchise agreement, or other verifiably available documentation identifying the amount of existing capacity at your facility? If yes, would you be able to provide a copy of the agreements if needed?

Feedstocks:

14. What are your permitted feedstocks?

- a. yard waste,
- b. food waste,
- c. compostable paper,
- d. agricultural,
- e. digestate,
- f. biosolids,
- g. other

15. From which sectors do you receive materials?

- a. residential,
- b. commercial,
- c. industrial,
- d. institutional

16. Do you use organics for ADC? If yes, what types of organic material and quantity (tons) are used for ADC?

17. If applicable, please report each jurisdiction's total Organic Material ADC/AIC Disposal in TPY (2024).

18. Are there scenarios when material is turned away due to daily limits, non-contracted sources, etc.?

19. Does your facility currently accept any of the following organic waste types? Select all that apply.

- a. animal waste,
- b. animal manure,
- c. compostable diapers,
- d. agricultural waste and plastics
- e. compostable plastics
- f. lined-fiber food serviceware
- g. unlined-fiber food serviceware

- h. “compostable” paper such as newspaper, napkins, paper towels, food-soiled paper, etc.
 - i. farm waste
 - j. N/A
 - k. other
20. Do you plan to accept any of the following organic waste types in the future? Select all that apply.
- a. animal waste,
 - b. animal manure,
 - c. compostable diapers,
 - d. agricultural waste and plastics
 - e. compostable plastics
 - f. lined-fiber food serviceware
 - g. unlined-fiber food serviceware
 - h. “compostable” paper such as newspaper, napkins, paper towels, food-soiled paper, etc.
 - i. farm waste
 - j. N/A
 - k. other
21. Does your facility accept biosolids and/or digestate? If yes, please report each jurisdiction’s total Biosolids and/or Digestate Disposal in tons per year (TPY) (2024). Are these materials currently being sent to an organics processor or land applied?
22. Do you accept self-hauled organic material? Self-hauled material is any material outside of material received from Franchised haulers. If yes, what quantity (tons) of your organic waste processing is from self-haulers?
23. Does your facility process compostable plastics into a finished compost product?
24. Does your facility accept and remove synthetic plastic bags when it recovers source-separated organics?
25. Is your facility having problems with contamination of organic material? If yes, please list the top 5 contaminants and how they are processed.
26. If you answered yes to Question 24, what quantity (tons) of inbound loads are turned away due to contamination?

27. If you are a composter, is your finished compost product certified organic?
28. If you are a composter, do you sell both certified organic and non-organic compost?
29. Do you have a market for both certified organic and non-organic compost?
30. What quantity (tons) of your market demand is for certified organic compost and non-organic compost?

Future Capacity by 2039

31. Do you anticipate needing additional capacity in the next 12 years?
32. Do you have any plans to expand capacity or commodities? If yes, please include the status of the expansion.
33. Is your facility looking into installing any new technologies? If yes, what technology?
34. If you currently have organics processing capacity available, are you interested in accepting material from other contract haulers or self-haulers in Marin County?
35. What are the **public facing** tipping fees or tipping fee ranges associated with organic materials (price/ton)?
36. What are the tipping fees or tipping fee ranges associated with organic materials (price/ton) **for governmental agencies/jurisdictions?**
37. What are the tipping fees or tipping fee ranges associated with organic materials (price/ton) **for private haulers/companies?**
38. Do you have any expectations for future changes in your market for organics?
39. What are your perceived barriers in expanding organic waste diversion?
40. Are you aware of any plans for new or expanded organics processing sites in a 50mi radius of Marin County? Any site closures?
41. Do you have any questions, comments, or other related information you would like to share?

Appendix B – Jurisdiction Survey

2025-2026 Marin County Organics Capacity Study Jurisdiction Survey

Survey Response Needed by Friday, February 20th

This survey is being conducted on behalf of Zero Waste Marin as part of Marin County's SB 1383 organic waste recycling capacity study. Jurisdictional input will help assess current and future capacity needs and support state compliance and planning.
Estimated Survey Completion Time: 8-10 Minutes

Contact Information:

1. Jurisdiction: [drop down menu]
2. Point of Contact Name:
3. Department:
4. Email:
5. Phone Number:

Questions:

Definition(s):

Organic waste, as defined by SB 1383: Chapter 12: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, means “solid wastes containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products including, but not limited to, food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.”

6. Is your jurisdictions' existing organic waste recycling capacity clearly defined in one of the following documents? (check all that apply):
 - a. Franchise Agreement
 - b. Agreement between the hauler and the organic waste processing facility
 - c. No
 - d. Other
7. Does your hauler take the following organic materials to a facility (or facilities) for processing? Please check all that apply. (In Question 8, please list the name of the facility, the address, and corresponding organic material type(s) they process.)
 - a. Co-mingled yard waste, food waste, food-soiled fibers
 - b. Source-separated food waste
 - c. Mixed recyclables (office paper, cardboard, etc.)
 - d. Source-separated Yard Waste
 - e. Other:

8. Which facility (or facilities) does your hauler take the organic materials identified in Question 7 to? Please list the name of the facility (or facilities), the address(es), and corresponding organic material type(s).
9. Do these facilities have a contract with your hauler that guarantees processing of the following organic material types? Please select all applicable material types.
 - a. Co-mingled yard waste, food waste, food soiled fibers
 - b. Source-separated food waste
 - c. Mixed recyclables (office paper, cardboard, etc.)
 - d. Source-separated Yard Waste
 - e. Other:
10. Are you aware of any plans for new or expanded organics processing sites in a 50 mi radius?
Any site closures?
11. What is your jurisdiction's projected population in 2025? Alternatively, what is your projected annual growth rate for 2039?
12. Do you have any questions, comments, or other related information you would like to share?

Appendix C – Hauler Survey

2025-2026 Marin County Organics Capacity Study Hauler Survey

Survey Response Needed by Friday, February 20th

This survey is being conducted on behalf of Zero Waste Marin as part of Marin County's SB 1383 organic waste recycling capacity study. Jurisdictional input will help assess current and future capacity needs and support state compliance and planning.
Estimated Survey Completion Time: 15-20 Minutes

Contact Information:

1. Name of Hauler:
2. Point of Contact Name:
3. Email:
4. Phone Number:

Questions:

Please complete a survey for each jurisdiction you collect from within Marin County.

Definition(s):

Per 14 CCR 18992.1.(f) “For the purposes of this section (organic waste recycling capacity) only the following type of organic waste shall be included in estimates: food, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, digestate and biosolids”.

Please complete a survey for each jurisdiction you collect from within Marin County.

5. Which jurisdiction do you currently collect waste from? (Drop box)
6. What facilities do you deliver **landfill** waste to?
7. What facilities do you deliver **recycle** waste to?
8. What facilities do you deliver **organic** waste to?
9. What is the jurisdiction’s total **residential** tonnage **disposal** (2024)? (includes recycling and organic residuals).
10. What is the jurisdiction’s total **commercial** tonnage **disposal** (2024)? (includes recycling and organic residuals).
11. What is the jurisdiction’s total **residential** organic tonnage **diversion** (2024)?
12. What is the jurisdiction’s total **commercial** organic tonnage **diversion** (2024)?
13. What facility (or facilities) is the jurisdiction’s **organic material** processed? Please include the facility name(s), address(es), and tonnage of material brought to each facility.
14. Are you aware of any upcoming new organics processing facilities within a 50 mi radius? Any site closures?

15. Do you have any questions, comments, or other related information you would like to share?



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Belvedere Cortes Madera County of Marin Fairfax Larkspur Mill Valley
Novato Ross San Anselmo San Rafael Sausalito Tiburon

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES – ITEM 7

TO Local Task Force

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT Subcommittee Updates

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

Subcommittees were established in the November 2023 Local Task Force meeting with a goal of facilitating more focused discussion and recommendations. The Subcommittees formed included:

- Infrastructure & End Markets
- Outreach & Education
- Construction & Demolition

At each meeting, Subcommittees will report on their recent activities and any upcoming recommendations or projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only. Receive and file.



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Belvedere Cortes Madera County of Marin Fairfax Larkspur Mill Valley
Novato Ross San Anselmo San Rafael Sausalito Tiburon

SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS – ITEM 8

TO Local Task Force

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT Suggested Agenda Items

DATE Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

Local Task Force members can suggest agenda items for the next meeting during this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only. Receive and file.