



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

AGENDA: TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

TIME 9:00 – 10:00am

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Race to Zero Waste Support Update – 5 Minutes
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
3. Update on Most Likely To contracts – 10 Minutes
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
4. Review Draft SB 54 CMC Exemption Justifications – 30 Minutes
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
5. Scheduling of Future TAC Meetings – 10 Minutes
 - a. Action Item
6. Suggested Agenda Items - 2 Minutes.
 - a. Recommendation: Information Only
7. Adjournment

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



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OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEM 1

TO Technical Advisory Council
FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner
SUBJECT Open Time for Public Comment
DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

The public is welcome to address the Technical Advisory Council 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 Technical Advisory Council 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.



RACE TO ZERO WASTE SUPPORT UPDATE – ITEM 2

TO Technical Advisory Council
FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner
SUBJECT Race to Zero Waste Support Update
DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

In the 2025/26 Fiscal Year Zero Waste Marin entered into contract with Race to Zero Waste (RTZW) with the goal of supporting member agencies at one event of their choosing. Through contract with Zero Waste Marin, RTZW provided physical waste management services at approximately one event per jurisdiction, including waste station monitoring, education, and ensuring materials are collected in the correct hauler bins at the end of the event.

Last year the events supported included:

Jurisdiction	Event Name	Event Date
San Anselmo	Breakfast with Santa	12/13/2025
Fairfax	Fairfax Soup Walk	2/28/26
San Rafael	May Madness Classic Car Parade	5/9/2026
Mill Valley	Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast	5/25/2026
Sausalito	Jazz Festival	6/5/26
County of Marin	Western Weekend	6/6/2026
Tiburon	Classic Car Show	6/20/2026
Novato	Hot Amphitheater Nights	6/27/2026

Zero Waste Marin has entered into contract with RTZW for the 2026/27 Fiscal Year. Jurisdictions have the opportunity to receive support at an event, pending budget and availability of RTZW staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only. Receive and file.



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UPDATE ON MOST LIKELY TO CONTRACTS – ITEM 3

TO Technical Advisory Council

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT Update on Most Likely To Contracts

DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

Zero Waste Marin staff member Casey Fritz has managed the contract with Most Likely To for FY 2024/25 and FY 2025/26. The contracts during the two previous fiscal years were to support ZWM with County-wide marketing, communications, and the annual spring campaign.

Staff Fritz has completed the new contract with Most Likely To for County-wide communications for FY 2026/27 at the direction of the JPA Board. In discussions with Most Likely To, Staff Fritz has determined that the spring 2027 campaign will continue to focus on composting food scraps, and will include an in-person direct outreach component. Pursuant to this goal, Staff Fritz has contacted the five waste haulers operating in Marin County to determine residential areas or apartment buildings that have low compost participation or high rates of contamination to perform on-site outreach in coordination with the spring campaign.

An additional contract with Most Likely To has also recently been executed by Staff Fritz based on the approved ZWM budget. This contract will focus specifically on conducting English and Spanish focus groups and surveys to gain additional understanding of barriers to composting, perceived benefits to composting, and any other relevant information about attitudes towards or knowledge of waste. This contract will build upon the initial market data gathered during the FY 2025/26 contract with Most Likely To.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only. Receive and file.



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REVIEW DRAFT SB54 CMC EXEMPTION JUSTIFICATIONS – ITEM 4

TO Technical Advisory Council
FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner
SUBJECT Review Draft SB 54 CMC Exemption Justifications
DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

SB 54, the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, establishes an extended producer responsibility framework for single-use packaging and plastic food service ware in California. As implementation moves forward, local jurisdictions will have responsibilities related to the collection and recycling of covered materials identified through the statewide program.

Zero Waste Marin (ZWM) is coordinating with its 12 member agencies, local haulers, and processors to evaluate the Covered Material Categories (CMCs) and prepare for implementation. A key focus of this work is determining which materials are currently accepted within Marin County's collection and processing systems and identifying materials for which an exemption may be appropriate.

Staff developed a countywide review of the CMC list to document ZWM's current understanding of material acceptance across all 12 member jurisdictions. Staff then convened the ZWM Technical Advisory Council (TAC) on September 23, 2026, to review selected CMCs and discuss whether materials should be added to local collection programs, considered for exemption, or evaluated further.

Following the TAC discussion, staff held a separate meeting with Marin County haulers and processors on October 5, 2026. The two discussions were consolidated to identify areas of agreement as well as categories requiring additional evaluation.

The review identified several recurring considerations, including compatibility with existing processing systems, contamination concerns, availability of end markets, consistency of collection programs across jurisdictions, and the ability to clearly communicate recycling requirements to the public. In some cases, additional analysis remains necessary.

Staff have developed draft exemption justifications for the CMCs preliminarily identified for exemption. These have been sent to TAC members, haulers, and processors for review to support a coordinated countywide approach.



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Staff would like to discuss this preliminary draft with the TAC to hear feedback, comments, and/or suggested considerations.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft CMC Exemption Justifications

RECOMMENDATION

Information only. Make comments or suggested edits on the drafted exemption justifications.

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Summary of CMC Exemption Requests

Compiled By: The Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority (dba Zero Waste Marin)

Compiled on Behalf Of:

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

Exemption Request Date:

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25_PF1P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Kraft Paper
Form	All Forms w/ a plastic component
Common Items	Packaging paper, pouches, butcher paper, filler paper, floral arrangement paper, shipping tubes/envelopes/boxes. Takeout boxes with plastic component.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for either recycling or composting for all of the common items included in this category.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling or compost when no viable end market exists for either stream would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

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Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF14P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Molded Fiber
Form	All Forms w/ a plastic component
Common Items	Takeout containers/bowls, molded egg cartons, shipping trays, packaging inserts.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for composting for all of the common items included in this category. Additionally, this material violates statute's own definition of compostability by including items with petrochemical plastic linings.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in compost when no composter wants this material force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or "compostable" plastics. Additionally, petrochemical

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plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance

(https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF17P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Multi-Material Laminate
Form	Paperboard with a Plastic Coating/Lining
Common Items	Ice cream pints / tubs, frozen meal trays.

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Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for composting for all of the common items included in this category. Additionally, this material violates statute's own definition of compostability by including items with petrochemical plastic linings.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in compost when no composter wants this material force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or "compostable" plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and "compostable" plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

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If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF7P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Multi-Material Laminate
Form	Other forms with a plastic component
Common Items	Double-sided poly-coated paper, food containers, dog food bags, snack pouches, plastic butcher paper, kraft paper dunnage bags (paper air bags).

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for composting for all of the common items included in this category. Additionally, this material violates statute's own definition of compostability by including items with petrochemical plastic linings.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in compost when no composter wants this material force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or "compostable" plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and "compostable" plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance

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(https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF8N

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	OCC
Form	Waxed cardboard w/o plastic component
Common Items	Produce box made with natural wax.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no practicable way of confirming whether a box is made with a truly natural wax product versus a plastic lining. Additionally, when staff attempted to determine whether a truly natural wax produce box was available on the market, they were unable to find a product meeting the specifications. Adding this product to compost collection programs would lead to confusion and contamination of the compost stream.

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Program Efficacy Justification

It is not feasible for haulers or compost facilities to determine which produce boxes utilize a truly natural wax coating, versus which produce boxes have a petrochemical plastic coating. Jurisdiction or hauler staff would need to confirm on a business-by-business basis whether they source produce boxes with truly natural wax linings, which is not a feasible solution.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. Adding this CMC increases the likelihood that products lined with petrochemical plastic end up in the compost stream.

Local Legal Conditions

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

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25_Pf9P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	OCC
Form	Waxed cardboard w/ plastic component
Common Items	Boxes, corrugated wrap/trays, box dividers with plastic component.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no practicable way of confirming whether a box is made with a truly natural wax product versus a plastic lining. Additionally, when staff attempted to determine whether a truly natural wax produce box was available on the market, they were unable to find a product meeting the specifications. Adding this product to compost collection programs would lead to confusion and contamination of the compost stream.

Program Efficacy Justification

It is not feasible for haulers or compost facilities to determine which produce boxes utilize a truly natural wax coating, versus which produce boxes have a petrochemical plastic coating. Jurisdiction or hauler staff would need to confirm on a business-by-business basis whether they source produce boxes with truly natural wax linings, which is not a feasible solution.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. Adding this CMC increases the likelihood that products lined with petrochemical plastic end up in the compost stream.

Local Legal Conditions

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they

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were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF10P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Paperboard
Form	All forms w/ plastic component
Common Items	Single-side poly-coated items such as coffee cups, cereal, pasta, frozen food boxes, bakery box, packaging insert, jewelry box.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for either recycling or composting for all of the common items included in this category.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling or compost when no viable end market exists for either stream would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are

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placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance

(https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF11P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	White paper
Form	All forms w/ plastic component
Common Items	Single-side poly-coated shipping envelopes.

Necessity & Justification Summary

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There is no viable end market for either recycling or composting for all of the common items included in this category. Envelopes with a clear plastic window are currently accepted for recycling, but fully-lined or poly-coated mailers do not have a viable end market.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling or compost when no viable end market exists for either stream would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

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Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

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Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF12P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Other/mixed paper
Form	All forms w/ plastic component
Common Items	Single-side poly-coated paper bags, meat absorbent pads, butter wrappers.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for either recycling or composting for all of the common items included in this category. Paper recyclers would not accept these materials due to the nature of the product: they will always be contaminated with food, grease, and/or liquid. Composters would not accept these products due to the presence of petrochemical plastic linings.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling or compost when no viable end market exists for either stream would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

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Local Legal Conditions

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Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_PF16P

Material Class	Paper and Fiber
Material Type	Paper and fiber
Form	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component
Common Items	<2in small papers, sugar packets, other food packaging with plastic component.

Necessity & Justification Summary

ZERØWASTEMARIN

There is no viable end market for either recycling or composting for all of the common items included in this category. Paper recyclers would not accept these materials due to the nature of the product: they will always be contaminated with food, grease, and/or liquid. Composters would not accept these products due to the presence of petrochemical plastic linings.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling or compost when no viable end market exists for either stream would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_P38P

Material Class	Plastic
Material Type	PET #1
Form	Other Rigid Containers, Cups, Lids, Plates, Trays, Tubs
Common Items	Takeout containers clear clamshells for berries or salads, plastic egg cartons, bakery domes, takeout containers, foamed meat trays single-use cups, and matching lids.

Necessity & Justification Summary

Reliable end markets have not yet been identified for all forms of polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Accepting them in recycling programs would result in increased effort and decreased efficiency to collect a product without a reliable end market.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling when no viable end market exists would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

No reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category. Additionally, the inclusion of nursery pots in this category is of particular concern because they are usually made of black plastic. Black plastic poses a technological challenge for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) because they are the same color as the machinery belts, and are not easily identified by optical sorting technology.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance

(https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HES)

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[A CH7.25REFOOR](#)). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the recycling would potentially lead to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from trucks needing to increase routes to collect more plastic. This potential increase in GHGs would likely not be offset by positive environmental benefits of recycling, because the material is unlikely to be truly recycled – CalRecycle’s own identified rate of recycling for PET is 4%.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_P39P

Material Class	Plastic
Material Type	PET #1
Form	Other rigid items
Common Items	Non-container PET packaging. Includes toy packaging, blister packs (encasing electronics or hardware), molded clear plastic inserts, etc.

Necessity & Justification Summary

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Reliable end markets have not yet been identified for all forms of polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Accepting them in recycling programs would result in increased effort and decreased efficiency to collect a product without a reliable end market.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling when no viable end market exists would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

No reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category. Additionally, the inclusion of nursery pots in this category is of particular concern because they are usually made of black plastic. Black plastic poses a technological challenge for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) because they are the same color as the machinery belts, and are not easily identified by optical sorting technology.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the recycling would potentially lead to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from trucks needing to increase routes to collect more plastic. This potential increase in GHGs would likely not be offset by positive environmental benefits of recycling, because the material is unlikely to be truly recycled – CalRecycle’s own identified rate of recycling for PET is 4%.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

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If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_P40P

Material Class	Plastic
Material Type	HDPE #2
Form	Other rigid items
Common Items	Not bottles, jugs, jars, pails or buckets but items such as boxes or tubs for food (crates/storage totes), frozen juice, nursery pots, other household items.

Necessity & Justification Summary

Reliable end markets have not yet been identified for all forms of high-density polyethylene (HDPE). Accepting them in recycling programs would result in increased effort and decreased efficiency to collect a product without a reliable end market.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling when no viable end market exists would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

No reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category. Additionally, the inclusion of nursery pots in this category is of particular concern because they are usually made of black plastic. Black plastic poses a technological challenge for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) because they are the same color as the machinery belts, and are not easily identified by optical sorting technology.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance

(https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic products for

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foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the recycling would potentially lead to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from trucks needing to increase routes to collect more plastic. This potential increase in GHGs would likely not be offset by positive environmental benefits of recycling, because the material is unlikely to be truly recycled – CalRecycle’s own identified rate of recycling for HDPE is 23%.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

Some HDPE rigid containers may contain household hazardous waste; in particular, it is common for motor oil to be sold in HDPE rigid containers. It will be difficult for recycling service providers to verify that these containers have been fully and properly emptied of motor oil, leading to potential creation of household hazardous waste in MRFs.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_P20P

Material Class	Plastic
Material Type	PP #5
Form	Other rigid items
Common Items	Corrugated pads.

Necessity & Justification Summary

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There is no viable end market for recycling for plastic corrugated pads. Accepting them in recycling programs would result in increased effort and decreased efficiency to collect a product without a reliable end market.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in the recycling when no viable end market exists would force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

No reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the recycling would potentially lead to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from trucks needing to increase routes to collect more plastic. This potential increase in GHGs would likely not be offset by positive environmental benefits of recycling, because the material is unlikely to be truly recycled – CalRecycle's own identified rate of recycling for polypropylene is 2%.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

ZERØWASTEMARIN

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_P44P

Material Class	Plastic
Material Type	Plastics and Polymers Designed for Compostability
Form	Rigid items
Common Items	Compostable plastic food or garden containers

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for composting the common items included in this category. Additionally, this material violates statute's own definition of compostability by including items that are not accepted in OMRI-certified organic compost products.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in compost when no composter wants this material force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or "compostable" plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and "compostable" plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

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Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China's National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world's trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.

25_P45P

Material Class	Plastic
Material Type	Plastics and Polymers Designed for Compostability
Form	Flexible and film items
Common Items	Compostable bags for takeout, produce, garden, etc.

Necessity & Justification Summary

There is no viable end market for composting the common items included in this category. Additionally, this material violates statute's own definition of compostability by including items that are not accepted in OMRI-certified organic compost products.

Program Efficacy Justification

Accepting these materials in compost when no composter wants this material force recycling service providers to collect a material for which there is no reliable outlet. This would in turn lead to increased efforts required for decontamination, all to sort out a material that will need to be landfilled under current conditions.

Technological & Economic Limitations

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Four of the five waste haulers/recycling service providers that operate in Marin County haul to WM Earthcare at Redwood Landfill, a compost facility that produces OMRI-certified compost. Due to this certification, the facility will not accept any products that contain petrochemical plastics or “compostable” plastics. Additionally, petrochemical plastics and “compostable” plastics do not break down in the timeframe used by commercial composters, and are currently skimmed out for landfilling when they are placed in compost. For recycling, no reliable end market has been identified for all of the common items included in this category.

Local Legal Conditions

In 2022, the County of Marin and many of the cities and towns in Marin passed the Reusable Foodware Ordinance (https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT7HESA_CH7.25REFOOR). The Ordinance specifically prohibits the use of plastic-lined paper products for foodware. Accepting this material would be in direct contradiction to the purpose of the Ordinance, which is to promote the use of truly recyclable or compostable foodware options.

Local Environmental Effects

Accepting these materials in the compost would lead to a proliferation of microplastics in the soils of Marin County. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Environmental Justice Justification

Accepting a material that we know has no reliable end market for recycling places undue burden on the communities being sent materials. This undue burden was clearly illustrated after the passage of China’s National Sword Policy, after China declared they were being inundated with the world’s trash. Until a reliable end market is identified and vetted, we risk placing undue burden on communities as we scramble to find an outlet for unrecyclable material.

Worker, Public Health, & Safety

If these materials were accepted in the compost, microplastics would become more common in our soils. This would expose more residents to microplastics and have a direct negative impact on public health.

Prevention of Hazardous Waste Generation

No materials in this category are considered to be hazardous waste.

Transportation Safety

There are inherent risks involved transporting materials to end markets, including increased risks of vehicle accidents.



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

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE TAC MEETINGS – ITEM 5

TO Technical Advisory Council
FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner
SUBJECT Scheduling of Future TAC Meetings
DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) will be moving to agendized public meetings now that City and Town Sustainability staff act as JPA Board alternates.

The TAC should discuss what scheduling will work to hold these meetings, and propose a cadence, date, and time.

RECOMMENDATION

Action Item. Determine a cadence and schedule for future TAC meetings.



MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

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SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS – ITEM 6

TO Technical Advisory Council

FROM Casey Fritz, Senior Planner

SUBJECT Suggested Agenda Items

DATE Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

Technical Advisory Council members can suggest agenda items for the next meeting during this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only. Receive and file.