

# Solid Waste Committee

## Action Minutes

---

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Solid Waste Committee was called to order by Chair Caleb Hargis, at 1:01 p.m. on February 15, 2023, on the Zoom platform.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Hargis led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning – Holly Stuart
- City of Corona – William Carrasco
- City of Eastvale – Simone Blackwell
- City of Hemet – Charles Russell\*
- City of Jurupa Valley – Abigail Gomez
- City of Menifee – Kori Jones
- City of Moreno Valley – Mitchell Quinonez
- City of Murrieta – Kristen Crane
- City of Perris – Liset Hernandez
- City of Riverside – Christina Navaratnam\*
- City of San Jacinto – Caleb Hargis (Chair)
- City of Temecula – Rodney Tidwell
- City of Wildomar – Adam Jantz
- County of Riverside – Kathleen Utter

\*Arrived after Roll Call

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR** – (Wildomar / Riverside County) 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 5.A - 5.C were approved.

#### A. Summary Minutes from the November 16, 2022, Solid Waste Committee Meeting

##### Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the November 16, 2022, Solid Waste Committee meeting.

#### B. Used Oil and Filter Recycling Program Activities Update

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**C. EcoHero Shows Activities Update**

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**A. Regional Food Recovery & Local Assistance Program Request for Proposals Update**

Olivia Sanchez, WRCOG Program Manager, reported on a new regional Food Recovery Program similar to the one that was implemented in San Gabriel Valley, that is in compliance with SB 1383. Proposals were required to include a budget and cost breakdown for WRCOG's 18 member jurisdictions, with an equitable distribution of member contributions which would fund this project. Proposals were to be cost competitive for the 18 member jurisdictions, with a contract term of three years, with the option of two, one-year extensions. *(The term of the proposal was later clarified as a one-year proposal and not three years, as was initially provided.)*

The Scope of Work called for seven tasks centered around Tier I & Tier II compliance, food rescue programming, and inspections to satisfy SB 1383 compliance.

Two proposals were received – Proposer A: \$1,031,437 and included a city cost breakdown; Proposer B: \$1,057,768 and did not include a city cost breakdown.

Committee member Kristen Crane asked how Proposer A proportioned the cost between the cities.

Ms. Sanchez explained that Proposer A used population and availability of services (food waste generators & food recovery organizations). The numbers were predicted assuming all 18 member jurisdictions chose to participate.

The selection committee members are still reviewing proposals and interviewing proposers, so any questions will be brought forth to them for clarification.

Committee member Charles Russell asked if this would be an eligible expenditure for the SB 1383 Grant.

Ms. Sanchez replied that yes, it would be eligible.

Chair Hargis asked if CalRecycle was offering an extension on the Local Assistance Grant.

Ms. Sanchez responded that there was some discussion about grants and SB 1383, but she will follow up when there is more concrete information.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **B. Residential and Commercial Rate Survey Regarding Fees and Programs from Local Waste Haulers**

Mei Wu, WRCOG Staff Analyst, presented on the results of the yearly Residential and Commercial Rate Survey for refuse, recycling, and organics collection. Historically, both residential and commercial rates have increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based on U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, or to accommodate an 8.6% increase in disposal rate set by County of Riverside's Waste Management Department. The increase may also be affected by COVID-19 or the Green Sword Policy adopted by China in 2018, which sets strict restrictions on contaminated recyclables.

The rate survey serves as a resource for member agencies to compare and better understand the rates and services provided by waste haulers of neighboring jurisdictions.

Committee member Kristen Crane asked which agencies have implemented single-family residential organics services, noting that the City of Murrieta is preparing to implement one in April.

Ms. Wu indicated that she will add it as a follow-up item.

Committee member Christina Navaratnam stated that the City of Riverside implemented a successful city-wide residential food waste program, and Committee member Simone Blackwell added that the City of Eastvale also implemented residential organic waste recycling in October 2022.

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **C. Recycling Education Outreach Grant Update**

Olivia Sanchez, WRCOG Program Manager, presented on a grant application to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for recycling education and outreach. Recently, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was passed to provide the EPA with \$60B over five years for a wide range of environmental programs.

The grant project proposal is designed to create a comprehensive training program and a user-friendly toolkit to provide residents and businesses with resources that explain the most current consumer recycling information in concise and clear terms, simplifying the recycling process.

The outreach is designed to reach all of WRCOG's 18 participating jurisdictions, including school districts throughout Western Riverside County.

Program goals include outreach material development, outreach booths, toolkits, recycling workshops, recycling ambassador workshops, and outreach programming in schools.

The grant application was due February 15, 2023, and has been submitted.

Committee member William Carrasco asked if the grant is a regional grant for all member jurisdictions, similar to the Used Oil Grant.

Mrs. Sanchez confirmed that it was a regional grant, but the money is allocated differently than the Used Oil Grant, which is a payment program, whereas the Recycling Education and Outreach Grant is a regular competitive grant from the EPA. If approved, a third party would be used for the school outreach presentations similar to the Storm Water and Used Oil education.

In partnership with Flood Control, EcoHero has been contracted for this fiscal year to provide outreach to schools, and staff is currently scheduling at least one school per jurisdiction. A schedule will be sent out to Committee members once one has been established.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**D. Greenleaf Power Presentation: How Biomass Electricity Can Satisfy SB 1383 Requirements**

Mitchell Martin from Greenleaf Power gave a presentation on the Southern California Edible Food Recovery Program that was created in order to meet the requirements of SB 1383 and provided information on options to lower and simplify the cost for compliance.

Jurisdictions may comply with SB 1383 procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products (ROWP) by working with a direct service provider to meet a procurement target. ROWP options include compost, mulch, renewable gas, and biomass-to-electricity, which are tracked and recorded to verify what percentage is SB 1383 compliant. These fuels are converted into power that is put onto California's electric grid. Power usage is then tracked and purchased by jurisdictions through their provider. When a jurisdiction enters into an agreement with Desert View Power (DVP), the jurisdiction provides their power bill to DVP, which then compiles all of the necessary documentation to prove "X" percentage of procurement obligations in order to meet SB 1383 requirements. The only limitation is that jurisdictions may only take credit for as much electricity that it uses.

The DVP facility in Mecca has been around since 1991; it is 100% renewable energy, and powers about two-thirds of the Coachella Valley. It brings in as much of the agricultural material as possible in an effort to reduce the open burning of these materials which would otherwise potentially release pollutants, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

DVP is offering contract terms of five years with extension options. DVP does the work for the compliance attributes and will provide the documents and attestations to meet all or part of jurisdictions' SB 1383 requirements.

Committee member Charles Russell asked if this was eligible for the SB 1383 Grant.

Mrs. Sanchez responded that she would reach out to CalRecycle and provide an answer to the group.

Committee member William Carrasco asked about reactions from city councils after hearing this presentation because to him, it seems that jurisdictions would be paying for electricity that is not necessarily directly benefiting the residents of the city.

Mr. Martin responded that he has had individual conversations with City Council members, and has City Council meetings scheduled soon. Mr. Martin clarified that the limitation is specific to the municipal

usage, and while it is not being used by the rate payer directly, it is used for municipal operations.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

**8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next Solid Waste Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at WRCOG's office located at 3300 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Solid Waste Committee adjourned at 2:02 p.m.