



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Community Development and Infrastructure

**Subject:** Accept Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force Annual Report, Attendance Log, Adopt Resolution, and take related actions

**Meeting Date:** March 11, 2025

**Formal Title:** Accept and file Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force Annual Report and Attendance Log, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Accept and file the Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force Annual Report and Attendance Log; and
2. Adopt resolution confirming the ongoing need for the commission under State law and extending the commission's term.

### **Executive Summary**

This board letter is the required annual report from the Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (Task Force) summarizing Task Force work in 2024. The Task Force is a state required commission charged with overseeing the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and coordinating countywide waste management efforts of regional concern.

This year the Task Force oversaw countywide collaborations on a variety of waste management, organic waste diversion, edible food recovery improvements, organics capacity planning efforts, and tracked state legislative proposals on waste management programs. The Task Force also heard proposals on waste to energy projects, received updates on state law governing Plastic Packaging Recycling mandates, California Redemption Value program changes, and received a visit from CalRecycle staff to discuss preparation for upcoming CalRecycle inspection and enforcement of the State's organic waste management and climate laws.

### **Discussion**

The Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force (Task Force) is an advisory commission to the Board of Supervisors on waste management policy. Established by the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), AB 939 requires countywide collaboration on waste management planning efforts of regional concern.

### **Task Force Composition and Meeting Schedule**

The Task Force was established in 1990 and has met since that time as a nine (9) member commission with representatives from each local jurisdiction within Santa Cruz County. Staff from the Community Development and Infrastructure Department, Recycling and Solid Waste Section serve as staff to the Commission. Representation is roughly proportional to each jurisdiction's population.

- County of Santa Cruz - three (3) representatives, including two members of the Board of Supervisors and one citizen representative designated by the Board,

- City of Santa Cruz - two (2) representatives,
- City of Watsonville - two (2) representatives,
- City of Capitola - one (1) representative, and
- City of Scotts Valley - one (1) representative.

The Task Force meets quarterly, usually on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. However, because of regulatory deadlines related to the March 2024 submission of the Five-Year Integrated Waste Management Plan Review Report to CalRecycle, the Task Force met in February, June, September, and December of 2024.

The Task Force oversees staff monitoring the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, makes recommendations to the Board on solid waste management issues of regional concern, facilitates the development of multi-jurisdictional waste management arrangements, and to the extent feasible, resolves conflicts and inconsistencies between local jurisdictions when implementing statewide waste management laws.

Task Force meetings are hosted by a different member jurisdiction each quarter at a location of their choosing. Meetings during 2024 were held in person with a hybrid option added to increase participation by public and member agency staff. Under California state law AB 2449 remote meeting participation is allowed under narrow circumstances for members and alternates when “just cause” is present. One member utilized the just cause exemption at the commission’s September 6, 2024, meeting to participate from a remote location after approval by a majority of the quorum of members physically present at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, where the in-person meeting was held. Additional Task Force information, including bylaws, membership roster, agendas, and approved meetings minutes are found at:

<https://cdi.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/PublicWorks/RecyclingSolidWaste/Recycling/LocalTaskForce.aspx>

## **Annual Report**

The Task Force considered the following topics and took the actions outlined below:

- Installation of commissioners and election of officers:
  - Task Force elected Justin Cummings as Chair and Felipe Hernandez as Vice-Chair for 2024.
  - New members and alternates were nominated to fill vacancies, added to the roster, and sworn in as commissioners by Santa Cruz County Clerk of the Board.
  - Rodolfo Onchi (Scotts Valley), Sandy Brown (County), Ramon Gomez (County) and Bogart Marquez (County) filled vacant alternate positions for the commission during the 2024 meeting year.
- Reviewed and approved 5-Year Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Review Report (5-Year Review Report)
  - Task Force reviewed and recommended to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to submit the 5-Year Review Report to CalRecycle as required by State statute.
  - Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors accepted Task Force recommendations

and directed staff to submit 5-Year Review Report to CalRecycle in March 2024.

- CalRecycle accepted Santa Cruz County 5-Year Review Report as complete.
- Considered Multi-Jurisdictional Waste Characterization Study
  - Task Force discussed collaborating on a regional waste characterization study.
  - Task Force asked staff to research the pros and cons of carrying out a multi-jurisdictional study.
  - Members have yet to direct staff on a course of action on a multi-jurisdiction waste characterization study.
- Task Force Commissioners received a guest presentation on plastic conversion technology from Clean Oceans International.
  - The presentation included a proposal was to investigate the feasibility using pyrolysis technology locally.
  - The presentation discussed the plastic waste problem and the opportunity to convert certain types of plastic waste into their molecular components using pyrolysis for reuse as fuel additives or plastic waxes for new plastic products.
- Task Force Commissioners received several updates on and are following the rule-making progress of SB 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act intended to shift the costs of recycling single use plastics from municipalities to packaging producers.
  - Commissioners received quarterly updates on the selection of the Producer Responsibility Organization (Circular Action Alliance), appointment of the Advisory Board, Rule-making, and the Needs Assessment process.
  - Staff presented Needs Assessment background, including the steps needed to evaluate the costs to increase recycling/composting of mandated materials.
  - CalRecycle attended the December 2024 Task Force meeting to make a detailed presentation on the Needs Assessment process and answered questions from members.
- SB 1383 Grant and Countywide Edible Food Recovery Collaboration
  - Task Force member agencies reported on the successful collaboration between the jurisdictions to increase edible food recovery compliance and to create and distribute SB1383 bilingual educational materials by funding and awarding a countywide service agreement to Second Harvest Food Bank that supports local jurisdictions with their State regulated reporting requirements.
  - The jurisdictions also collaborated to share capacity planning reporting responsibilities that gathered additional survey data to increase local support for the food insecure.
  - The County successfully submitted the capacity planning information collected on behalf of the local jurisdictions as required by state law.
    - Together, all local jurisdictions combined have adequate edible food recovery capacity and recycled organic waste capacity.
- Commission received updates on California Redemption Value (CRV) so they would

be fully informed about the changes that CalRecycle has made to the program statewide. Staff also provided information on how local redemption programs are changing in response.

- CalRecycle has located four grant funded CRV reverse vending machines at Safeway stores in Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Soquel.
- The County is closing its CRV redemption center at the Ben Lomond recycling center. All other Ben Lomond recycling and waste management services will remain open.
- Commission received legislative updates and provided comments on several waste management issues:
  - Task Force closely followed legislation on textile extended producer responsibility (EPR), hazardous materials EPR, marine flare EPR, and other bills.
    - SB 707 Responsible Textile Recovery Act – Law passed. Regulations expected in 2028.
    - SB 1143 - Haz Mat EPR bill passed as an expanded paint care law, which leaves municipalities to manage the cost of most other household hazardous waste products
    - SB 1066 - Marine Flare EPR bill passed by the legislature and vetoed by the governor.
    - AB 817 – Subsidiary body teleconferencing failed to pass. The bill would have allowed Task Force members to attend all meetings from a remote location so long as a public meeting location is provided and staffed so the public can attend and participate in person.

Complete agendas and minutes of Task Force meetings are available online.

<https://cdi.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/PublicWorks/RecyclingSolidWaste/Recycling/LocalTaskForce.aspx>

### **Financial Impact**

Costs for County to staff the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force are included in the CSA 9C budget. [GL Key 625110/Object P51015]

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Equity Framework - County Facilities & Infrastructure, Leadership, Operations & Services, Community Voices & Partnership

Operational Plan - Sustainable Environment, Operational Excellence

Climate Action - Waste, Government Operations

### **Submitted By:**

Matt Machado

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.