

MEETING MINUTES

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE

Regular Meeting

November 17, 2023

9:00 A.M.

1) WELCOME & ROLL CALL

*Note: This meeting was held as a result of rescheduling the September 29th meeting due to a lack of quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The Chairman, Mr. Michael Geyer, welcomed all members and guest present.

Committee Members Present: Michael Geyer, Joshua Mann, Maxwell Goossen, Orchel Krier, Jacob Panero, Phillip Peters, Ken Weir, and Cathy Prout

Committee Members Not Present: Tim Prado, Leticia Perez, Eric Arias, and David Couch

2) ELECT CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

MOTION: *Nomination of Mr. Panero as Chair and Mr. Mann to continue as Vice-Chair.*

Motioned by Phillip Peters; seconded by Max Goossen.

Committee unanimously approved.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *Approve Minutes for the meeting held on June 16, 2023.*

Motioned by Joshua Mann; seconded by Phillip Peters.

Committee unanimously approved.

4) SHAFTER-WASCO COMPOSTING FACILITY – MR. CHUCK MAGEE

Mr. Magee provided an update on where the Kern County Public Works Department (department) stands with the progress of the Shafter-Wasco Composting Facility. There were issues that occurred with the original bids, making the project not viable as it was listed. The project bid had to be redone and additional bidders were interested in the project. Mr. Magee expects those bids to be received by the department on December 6, 2023. All grant requirements have been completed and CalRecycle will meet on December 19th to announce the awards. Mr. Magee stated it would take approximately 18 months from award to completion, making for an operation start of July 1st, 2025.

5) WastAway Presentation – Mr. Chuck Magee

Mr. Magee presented what the WastAway project is, how it benefits Kern County, the cost to build and operate, and where the department is with the project. He also gave an overview of what the department hopes to accomplish with the processing facility. The WastAway facility would remove plastic, metal and inerts from the waste stream to produce a pathogen free organic “fluff” suitable for compost, fuel, or AD feedstock. This facility has the capability to automatically sort, and process unsorted municipal solid waste, eliminating the need to manually sort through the waste stream and allowing for one-cart collection or self-haul systems. The department plans to use the “fluff” for anaerobic digestion, which is an approved final use under SB 1383 and is legislated as a full diversion credit.

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6) Hauler Rate Setting Update – Ms. Denise Saucedo

Ms. Saucedo provided an update on the progress of compliance with SB 1383, specifically in setting rates for the County franchise haulers for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and creating new Universal Collection Areas (UCAs). At the May 23rd Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, the Board did not approve of the proposed new UCAs groups due to inclusion of non-mandated census tracts and had a diverse large-scale grouping structure. Existing UCAs were approved, but with phased in implementation. The Board's directives were to remove any non-mandated census tracts and create smaller, unique geographical grouping structures. Since then, the department has created 14 proposed UCAs. At the September 12th Board meeting, the 14 UCAs and rates were put forth into a Prop 218 process and if approved, the rates would be implemented on July 1, 2024. Ms. Saucedo gave an overview of the 14 UCAs, their respective rates, the 15 public information meetings that were held and how the updated information was distributed to the public. The public hearing for the establishment of the proposed UCAs will be held on December 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Received document entitled "Kern County SB 1383 Compliance – Harms Rural County Residents and Business" from member of the public, Nancy Ewert. The document was distributed to Committee members and saved to SWMAC files after the meeting.

7) City Issues

None

8) Public Comments

Received documents entitled "Notice/Alert Concerning the Solid Waste Administration Fee (SWAF) as approved on May 23, 2023", "Notice/Alert Concerning the FY 22/23 Bin Fee Increase," Notice/Alert Concerning the FY 22/23 Land Use Fee Increase," and "Notice/Alert Concerning the Transfer Station Fee as approved on January 25, 2022" from member of the public, Nancy Ewert. The documents were distributed with Committee members and saved to SWMAC files after the meeting.

9) Committee Member Comments

Discussion was held regarding no substantive items for the December 8th committee meeting. Committee members were in agreement that the December 8th meeting would be postponed to January. A January date would be decided via email to members along with a tentative schedule for 2024.

10) Adjourning of the November 17, 2023 Meeting

MOTION: *Adjourn meeting.*

Motioned by Joshua Mann; seconded by Max Goossen.
Committee unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

April 12, 2024 | 9:00 A.M. | PSB Public Meeting Room