



A Public Agency

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STAFF REPORT

To: SBWMA Board Members
From: Joe La Mariana, Executive Director
Date: November 21, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Staff and Agency partners are currently operating in a period of extreme action working on critical path projects, programs and facility initiatives since our last Board meeting. Here are highlights:

1. Administration & Finance:

a. Tip Fee Setting

Staff has concluded its annual review of comprehensive system costs and recommends no SBWMA tip fee adjustment in 2020. An executive-level summary is attached in agenda item 9A.

b. Process Improvement:

The agency has entered a 3-5 year period of major capital project implementation and site improvements. As such, we continue to improve our system support to ensure smooth execution of deliverables and mandated compliance on our member agency's behalf, including:

- **Formation of a Facilities & Contracts Team (FCT):**

This team was formed over the summer and meets weekly or every other week to review contractual, procurement and capital project needs, project status, as well as anticipating Board approval points. This committee consists of myself, Hilary Gans, John Mangini (as needed), Grant Ligon, agency attorney Kai Ruess, and capital project management consultant/expert Rob Kalkbrenner. and SBWMA construction management contractor Bill Tanner (CEO, Tanner Pacific) has, as needed, also provided highly-valued additional technical expertise.

- **Use of New Procurement Tools:**

The team is currently evaluating the implementation of proven public procurement tools to allow more efficient purchasing of products and services to support agency goals. These tools include participating in existing governmental purchasing cooperatives and job order contracting services. Staff has engaged DPW staff from the City of San Mateo and the County of San Mateo during our evaluations. Staff will seek board approval prior to any engagement of these services. These action items are anticipated for Board consideration in early 2020.

- **Workload Rebalancing:**

Specific job tasks and responsibilities have been reassigned to balance workload amongst our existing internal staff, including contracts, RFQs/RFPs, grant solicitation, etc.. If approved, additional related duties will be assigned to a proposed new part-time, limited Senior Facilities Projects Engineer (See agenda item 11C).

2. **Committee Updates:**

a. **Finance Committee:** (no meeting held—Next meeting January 14th)

The Finance Committee will meet on January 14 and April 14 and, per Executive Committee direction, there will be two changes in committee composition in 2020. They are:

1. SBWMA Board Member Fran Dehn (West Bay Sanitary District, President) replaces SBWMA Board Member Michael Brownrigg (Burlingame Council Member) due to his Committee resignation.
2. East Palo Alto Finance Director Brenda Olwin has been added to the Finance Committee.

b. **Legislative/Regulatory Committee** (November 5th--Executive Committee Mtg)

Staff continues to work in conjunction with the Agency's lobbyists EEC on Agency co-sponsored AB 1509 (Mullin) with co-sponsors, the State, and other stakeholders on finding common ground on the scope of the bill to ensure passage of the bill at its next committee hearing in the state senate this spring.

The Agency is in strong support of AB 1298 (Mullin), a bond measure that includes proposed funding for recycling and organics waste diversion infrastructure. If approved, this important state funding will mitigate future rate impacts to our local residents and businesses.

A presentation will be given by EEC Principal Reed Addis on the 2019-2020 Legislative Session under Agenda item 9B.

c. **Pub Ed/Outreach Subcommittee** (November 13th)

Staff provided the Subcommittee on outreach and environmental education updates since the last meeting. The Subcommittee also met to review the Battery Outreach RFP response and next steps in support of developing a community-wide battery safety public outreach campaign in 2020.

d. **Technical Advisory Committee** (November 7th - Joint Study Session)

The Joint Board and TAC Study Session was focused on discussions of the SBWMA Long Range Plan update for 2020-2024 and a preliminary SB 1383 Compliance Plan. The proposed SB 1383 Implementation plan included preliminary estimated cost impacts to the Agency. Estimated one-time program start-up costs range from \$3.25M to a high of \$7M, while estimated annual program implementation costs could range from \$4M to a high of \$9.3M depending on compliance approach. Estimated staffing impact to the Agency's entire system is a net addition of between 4 to 14 FTEs. Board and TAC comments and direction were provided to Staff to shape the meaningful implementation of both future projects.

A revised SBWMA Long Range Plan will be brought back for Board consideration on January 30th Board Meeting. An SB 1383 Action Plan is anticipated to be presented for Board Consideration on March 26th, after the CalRecycle final regulations are issued in January.

e. **Zero Waste Committee** (No meeting held)

3. **Collection and Recycling Program Support and Compliance:**

a. **Franchise Agreement "Amendment One" Process**

Amendment One discussions have been continued to spring 2020.

b. SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

CalRecycle released a revised version of SB 1383 regulations on October 2, 2019. SBWMA submitted comments to CalRecycle during the 15-day comment period. Final regulations from CalRecycle are expected in early 2020.

During the Study Session last week, I referenced an article from Bloomberg (Attachment A) that talks about a report published last week in Nature that estimates that 10% of the places releasing methane, including landfills, natural gas facilities, and dairy farms, are responsible for more than half of California's total emissions. This study clearly shows the importance of organics diversion from landfills.

c. Community Outreach and Environmental Education

i. Rethink Recycling Day – *Another successful event!*

Due to extensive construction at Shoreway, this year's event was held at the San Carlos library. We welcomed over 100 people to the event, who enjoyed a Fix-It Clinic, workshops on Food Preservation, a clothing swap, discussions with local community partners, and honored two of our poster contest winners.

ii. In-Schools Program Update

This fall, the Environmental Education Team provided refresher education at six of the nine original schools (one closed and two are middle schools) that were part of last year's pilot program. SBWMA partnered with the County's Office of Sustainability to roll-out new programs at Foster City School and Baywood Elementary (the two largest schools in the San Mateo Foster City School District). Both schools are also increasing their Recology compost services/bin sizes!

iii. Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan

Every five years, the County is required to review the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) to determine whether or not a revision is needed. This summer, I sat on an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting to County staff, elected officials, solid waste companies, and other organizations that was tasked by C/CAG to review the CIWMP. In October, C/CAG, acting as the Local Task Force for San Mateo County, communicated the results, and on November 12 the County of Board of Supervisors approved the CIWMP Plan Review Report and submittal of the report to CalRecycle and C/CAG.

iv. Compost Campaign – *Rethink Compost: Every meal. Every day.*



The end of November will conclude the major components of the "Rethink Compost" campaign that was launched on September 16. In addition to having a website hub at RethinkCompost.org, social media posts (as pictured to the left) and targeted online advertising, along with print advertising were used as methods to target behavior change to increase composting in the residential sector. One action of the campaign was asking residents to order a free replacement compost kitchen pail from Recology. To date, over 160 residents have requested a replacement pail. Full results from the campaign will be available in January.

4. Shoreway Operations and Contract Management

a. Organics Processing Contract (Recology/Blossom Valley Organics)

On September 26, 2019, the SBWMA sent a letter to Recology regarding the Agency's interest in extending the current Agreement for Organic Materials Processing Services between the SBWMA and Recology Grover Environmental Products/Blossom Valley Organics. This contract commenced in January 2015 and expires in December 31st, 2020 and can be extended upon mutual agreement for two 1-year options. It is Staff's intention to bring back options for composting services in early 2020 so that the Board can direct staff on next steps.

b. Shoreway Buyback Center Update

Discussion and options will be presented for Board direction at the January 30th Board meeting.

c. Organics-to-Energy Pilot Project

Equipment installation and site modifications are currently in full throttle. The system is expected to be fully installed by end of January, with full systems testing occurring in February. Full scale production is expected by the end of March. See agenda item 11B for more info.

d. MRF Enhancements Phase I

SBWMA, SBR, and BHS have held three final design review sessions and the General Arrangement drawings have been approved by SBWMA staff. In this final review, additional items were identified that improve the functioning of the system and have been included in this Board packet as change order #2. Notice to Proceed has been approved and system manufacturing has commenced. Important site logistics are being defined in preparation for the shipments of BHS components starting in February 2020.

e. Recommendation for part-time, limited term Senior Facility Projects Engineer (unbudgeted)

Due to an extreme number of capital and facility projects planned and anticipated during the next 3-5 years, Staff recommends the approval of new senior-level technical position to assist with the successful installation of significant new material handling/processing new equipment, major site modifications and mandated environmental compliance projects during this period. This position is recommended to expire no later than November 30, 2024. Multiple Board Members have identified this issue during the 18 months and offered their unsolicited strong support of this temporary action. See agenda item 11D for more info.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe La Mariana
Executive Director

Attachment A – Bloomberg article

Climate Changed

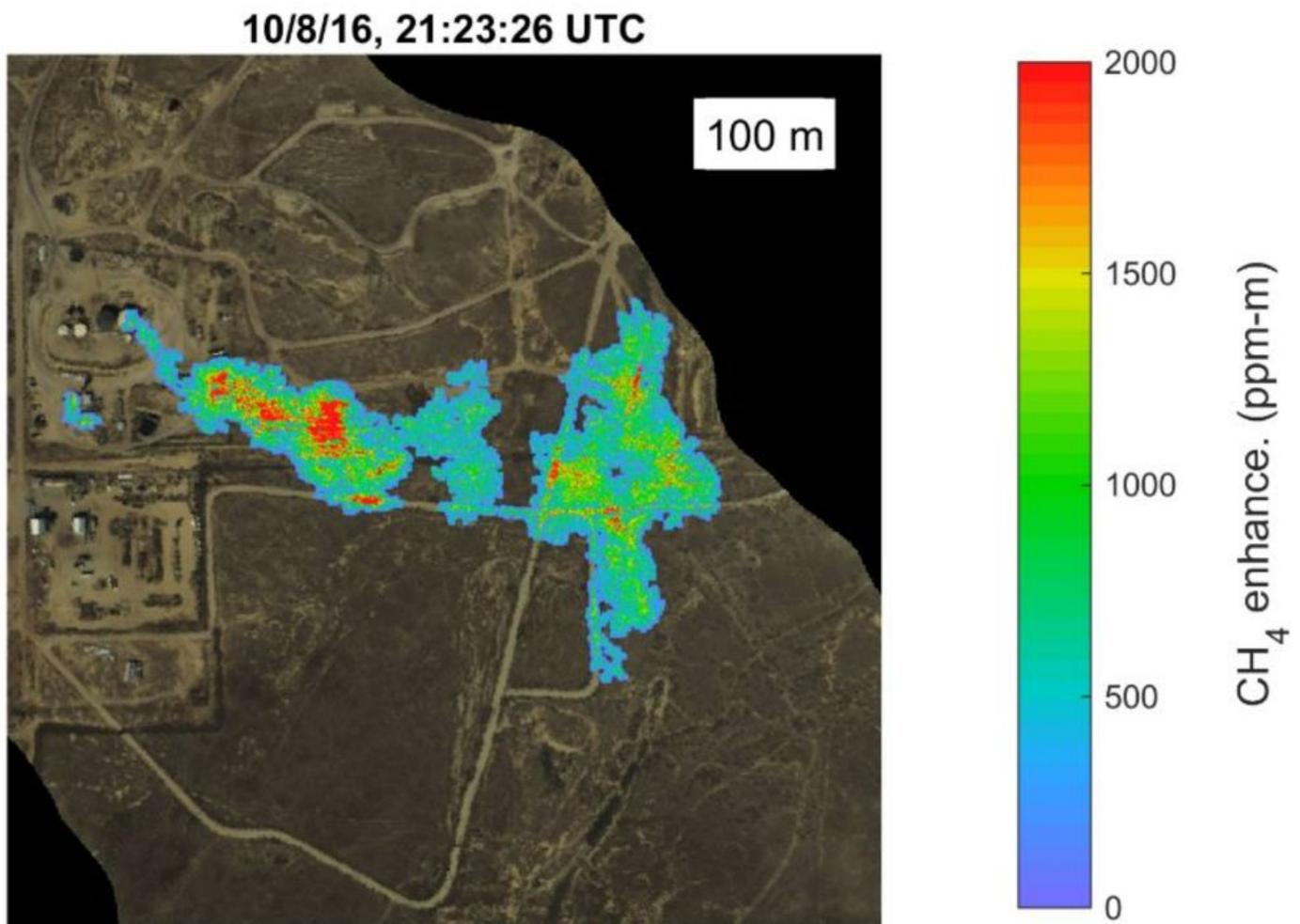
NASA Flew Gas Detectors Above California, Found 'Super Emitters'

By [Lynn Doan](#)

November 6, 2019, 1:33 PM PST

Updated on November 7, 2019, 2:01 AM PST

- ▶ A handful of sites account for most of California's methane
- ▶ Researchers published their survey findings in a Nature report



A methane plume captured at an oil field in California. *Source: California Air Resources Board*

Over the course of three years, [NASA](#) flew a plane carrying gas-imaging equipment above California and made a discovery that surprised even the state's own environmental agencies: A handful of operations are responsible for the vast majority of methane emissions.

In a report published in Nature on Wednesday, scientists estimated that 10% of the places releasing methane -- including landfills, natural gas facilities and dairy farms -- are responsible for more than half of the state's total emissions. And a fraction of the 272,000 sources surveyed -- just 0.2% -- account for as much as 46%.

The report doesn't identify these "super emitters," but notes that landfills give off more methane than any other source in the state. NASA's equipment found that a subset of these landfills were the largest emitters in California and exhibited "persistent anomalous activity."

The study marks the first time anyone has ever carried out a systematic survey across California of methane, a greenhouse gas that's 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat and contributing to global warming. The release of methane has been a continual challenge for California, which has some of the most aggressive goals in the nation for curbing emissions and slowing the impacts of climate change.

NASA's aircraft made dozens of flights across 10,000 square miles from 2016 through 2018. Landfills accounted for 41% of the source emissions it identified, manure management 26% and oil and gas operations 26%.

Researchers cautioned that the survey wasn't foolproof. It was, after all, their first attempt at estimating emissions from individual sources on such a large scale over multiple years. Some of the emissions detected were intermittent, some were too small to measure and others were affected by winds.

The results, however, are already effecting change. The survey revealed four incidents of leaking natural gas distribution lines and one leaking liquefied natural gas storage tank, which operators confirmed and repaired.

– *With assistance by Eric Roston*

In this article

CL1

WTI Crude

57.03 USD/bbl. ▼ -0.09 -0.16%

NG1

Generic 1st 'NG' Future

2.68 USD/MMBtu ▲ +0.08 +3.12%

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