



A Public Agency

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STAFF REPORT

To: SBWMA Board Members
From: Joe La Mariana, Executive Director
Date: February 23, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Staff and Agency partners continue to be hard at work supporting numerous projects, programs, and facility initiatives. Here are the highlights:

1. Contractor Updates:

a. Recology San Mateo County (Recology)

In addition to its standard collection operations, Recology continues to work collaboratively with SBWMA staff to restore its SBWMA-owned administrative offices located at 225 Shoreway after serious flooding and storm damage incurred on New Year's weekend 2023. Staff anticipates providing a full report out to the board on these activities and their associated costs at the April Board meeting when these actual costs are fully understood. These costs will be funded from the agency's Emergency Reserve Fund (\$5.2M) while staff in the meantime will file for FEMA reimbursement for all or a portion of the eligible expenses incurred.

On February 17th, Recology is expected to submit a cost proposal for its proposed expanded collection and related account support services to allow our member agencies to comply with 1383 mandated requirements. More information about this is given below in the SB 1383 update and under agenda item 9B.

b. South Bay Recycling (SBR) Operations

Newly appointed SBR General Manager, Phil Couchee, is busy learning SBR's operations, procedures and, of course, the staff. Phil has also been engaged in the SBWMA's planning to transition to SBI in 2024,

2. Administration & Finance:

a. RethinkWaste wins the Outstanding Policy/Legislative Advancement Award at the 2023 Used Oil/Household Hazardous Waste Training and Symposium hosted by CalRecycle

RethinkWaste, alongside Californians Against Waste and California Product Stewardship Council won the Policy/Legislative Advancement Award for co-sponsoring SB 1215 and AB 2440, two bills aimed at



tackling proper battery disposal. The award was selected by peers in the hazardous waste and toxics reduction field and presented at the annual CalRecycle Used Oil/Household Hazardous Waste conference in Sacramento on February 9.

b. **RethinkWaste hosts two “Get to Know RethinkWaste” orientation sessions for city council, TAC and Member Agency staff members**

On February 2 and 7, staff hosted a total of 13 individuals, including 10 elected council members, one TAC member, one city manager, and staff from seven of our member agencies. These orientation sessions consisted of a presentation that included an overview of the agency and the work we do followed by a tour of the Shoreway Environmental Center. Thank you for those who were able to come out to our facility to learn more about us, our contractors and the work we do on your behalf. If you need an orientation, please reach out to staff to help coordinate one for yourself or staff.

3. **Committee Updates:**

a. **Finance Committee Meeting** (no meeting held)

b. **Legislative Committee** (February 6)

The Legislative Committee met to discuss current legislative and regulatory updates, including CARB's Advanced Fleet regulations and the starting of the SB 54 regulatory process.

c. **Pub Ed/Outreach Committee** (no meeting held)

d. **Technical Advisory Committee** (no meeting held)

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

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

a. **SB 1383 Update**

On February 17th, Recology is expected to submit a cost proposal for the potential expanded scope of collection and account support services for member agency compliance with SB 1383 mandated activities. Staff anticipates a number of staff-level discussions with Recology after our evaluation of this submittal and prior to presenting the proposal to the TAC on March 9th, the Finance Committee on April 11th, and the Board of Directors meeting on April 27th for approval to be incorporated into the annual Contractor's Compensation Application process that commences on June 15th. More details are provided in the "Update on the Status of SB 1383 Implementation and Compliance informational" agenda item 9B.

b. **Electronic Annual Report RFQ**

RethinkWaste posted a Request for Qualifications to hire a consultant to support the state-mandated Electronic Annual Report (EAR). For over 25+ years, RethinkWaste has been coordinating the EAR on behalf of our Member Agencies with the support of technical contractor, Ascent Environmental. CalRecycle expanded the EAR last year to include major SB 1383 reporting requirements. The RFQ will close March 13, 2023. The EAR deadline is August 1st.

c. **Community Outreach and Environmental Education**

i. **Shred and E-Scrap Event Dates**

The 2023 list of shred and e-scrap events in the RethinkWaste service area has been released. You can find the full list of upcoming events on our website at: <https://rethinkwaste.org/communityevents>

ii. **Textiles Webinar**

We hosted an online webinar on February 15 focused on textiles where we had 40 attendees. Three experts in the field shared options for what to do with unwanted textiles, gave updates on textiles recycling and examples of successful repair projects.

iii. **In-Schools Program Update**

The Environmental Education team returned to two schools, conducting assemblies for all students at Baywood Elementary in San Mateo and leading a weeks-worth of lunch bin monitoring support at Baywood and also Heather Elementary in San Carlos. Both campuses were equipped with additional waste infrastructure and assistance with their green team programs. Later in February, the Environmental Education team is scheduled to provide lunch bin monitoring for White Oaks Elementary in San Carlos as well.

iv. **Shoreway Tours**

The tours program had a strong start to the new year! In late January, the team hosted a variety of business and organizational tours for staff from the San Mateo County Office of Education and Recology San Mateo County & San Bruno/Peninsula Services. The team also conducted virtual tours for school groups, including five classes from Laurel Elementary in Menlo Park. More virtual and in-person tours are scheduled for this month and March, leading up to Earth Month!

v. **Postcard on batteries and used oil and filters**

In a joint effort with San Mateo County Environmental Health's Pollution Prevention team, a postcard was mailed to all 153,000+ single-family and multi-family households educating residents about how to properly dispose of used household batteries, used motor oil and used oil filters.



5. **Shoreway Operations and Contract Management**

a. **Shoreway Operations Contractor Transition Planning Update**

Staff continues to hold monthly transition planning meetings with South Bayside Industries (SBI). Staff coordinated with SBI and the current Operator, SBR, on a protocol for on-site visitations and information requests. The delivery of mobile material handling equipment and long haul/fleet vehicles is on schedule to be delivered 2023 Q4. SBI is in the process of taking over the required operating permits (14) from the current Operator. SBI is also engaging with International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 350 - representatives to prepare for negotiations later in the year.

b. **Flooding impacting Shoreway site and operations**

The restoration of the Recology administrative building is proceeding quickly with the goal of returning Recology office staff to their offices as quickly as possible. The removal of the wet flooring and wallboard has been completed and the new wallboard has been installed and it being painted. New flooring and office furniture is being ordered and installed in February and March respectively. Contracts for restoration work are being approved on an emergency basis with a total estimated restoration cost of \$150,000. The full details of the flood restoration work will be presented at the April Board meeting.

San Mateo County was added to the major disaster declaration for California's severe storms and flooding. This means that the SBWMA can apply for disaster assistance funding under the FEMA Public Assistance program. For California, President Biden authorized 100% federal reimbursement for the total eligible costs for 60 days from the Dec. 27, 2022 start of the storms.

c. Underground Storage Tank (UST) testing results

The initial geotechnical and ground water investigation work has been completed for the UST project with test results indicating that no tank leaking has occurred and no hazardous waste clean up work will be needed in the tank removal process.

d. Solar Panel Replacement Project

The SBWMA has over 3,000 PV panels on the roof top of the MRF and transfer station buildings that were installed in 2010 and are managed by a 3rd party contractor under an agreement known as a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The panels are being recalled by the manufacturer (Canadian Solar) due to poor performance as their useful life has expired. SBWMA staff is working with the PPA contractor (Luminaire) to remove and replace all the panels with modern new solar panels utilizing modern technology. This process will be complicated due to 4–6-week duration and the lack of space at the facility to stage the construction activities.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe La Mariana
Executive Director