



A Public Agency

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STAFF REPORT

To: SBWMA Board Members
From: Joe La Mariana, Executive Director
Date: April 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Staff and agency partners continue to be hard at work supporting a variety of projects, programs, and facility initiatives. Here are the highlights:

1. Contractor Updates:

a. Recology San Mateo County (Recology)

After considerable discussion during the past two years, Staff and Recology management has agreed on the proposed renewal of the Site Licensing agreement between the two parties. This proposed language is presented for Board consideration in agenda item 7A.

b. South Bay Recycling (SBR) Operations

During the next few weeks, staff and SBR will conduct a pilot of a large-scale material-loader in the MRF. This equipment is expected to provide a number of environmental, productivity and worker safety benefits compared to the current renewable-diesel powered bulldozers being used. If successful, an electric version of this unit will be purchased and installed for future use in this facility. Staff would like to acknowledge Recology management (Phil Couchee, Evan Boyd, the SBR equipment operators, Recology's Risk Management team, etc.) for their efforts in securing the necessary internal approvals to honor staff's request to conduct this pilot program. A big thanks to all involved!

2. Administration & Finance:

a. Staffing

On April 10, Manpreet Chandok started as a new Public Outreach Fellow with the agency. She will be assisting our Recycling and Compliance Program Manager, Tj Carter, in implementing SB 1383 regulations, along with giving Shoreway tours, amongst her many tasks. On April 29 we will welcome Meghan Pletsch as our newest Environmental Education Fellow. She will work on the In-Schools Program and help with Shoreway tours, amongst other tasks, under direction from our Environmental Education Manager, Emi Hashizume. Welcome Manpreet and Meghan!

3. Committee Updates:

a. Finance Committee Meeting (March 28)

A special Finance Committee meeting was held to discuss property insurance options and Recology's SB 1383 cost proposal.

- b. **Legislative Committee** (April 3)
The Legislative Committee met to discuss current legislation and status and regulatory updates on SB 54 implementation.
- c. **Pub Ed/Outreach Committee** (no meeting held)
- d. **Technical Advisory Committee** (next meeting is May 11)
- e. **Zero Waste Committee** (no meeting held)

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

- a. **SB 1383 Update**
Staff is currently working with Recology and Member Agencies to send nearly 2,000 letters to single-family households that do not currently subscribe to compost services, recycling services or both compost and recycling services. Additionally, there will be another round of SB 1383 compliance letters sent out this spring to commercial customers who still need to subscribe to service.
- b. **Community Outreach and Environmental Education**
 - i. **Earth Day @ Shoreway – April 29!**
For Earth Month, RethinkWaste is hosting its 12th annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 29th in-person at the Shoreway Environmental Center. There will be facility tours, a community swap of clothing, books, and puzzles, and recognition of the 2023 Trash to Art winners. For more information, visit RethinkWaste.org/EarthDay23. Staff will reach out to select Board Members about Trash to Art recognition, but all are welcome to attend the event!
 - ii. **Events Feedback**
RethinkWaste's last event was an online webinar on February 15, 2023 about textiles with three experts in the field. While nearly 50 participants attended the event, we received over 100 registrants leading up to the event, demonstrating high interest in the topic. From a post-event survey, staff received both constructive and positive feedback from attendees on what can be improved and what went well.
 - iii. **2023 Trash to Art Winners Announced!**
On April 17, we announced our annual Trash to Art winners. We had 29 submissions from students and classes from six of our member agencies covering 10 schools, plus one homeschooled student. You can learn more about all our winners on our website here: bit.ly/2023TTAwinners. Congratulations to all our winners and all the submitters – there were so many amazing entries!
 - iv. **In-Schools Program Update**
Since February, the Environmental Education team has focused on providing refresher environmental education to all elementary school students in the San Carlos School District.

Partnering with the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability and Recology San Bruno, the team conducted assemblies for all four elementary schools in San Carlos, concentrating on proper bin sorting, the 4R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot), and wise use of our natural resources. Class presentations are also scheduled for Crystal Springs Middle School in Belmont in mid-April.

To further reinforce educational content, the Environmental Education team has been steadily providing lunch bin monitoring support to White Oaks Elementary, Central Middle School, and Arundel Elementary in San Carlos to help students practice sorting their lunch items. In the coming weeks, the team will visit Mariposa Upper Elementary also in San Carlos.

In late February and early March, the Environmental Education team also tabled at a San Mateo County Office of Education outreach event for educators to promote RethinkWaste's program offerings, sat on a panel for the Office of Sustainability's Youth Climate Ambassadors program and is providing ongoing support for waste-related student projects, and assisted in the coordination and development of training content for food service workers at the San Mateo Community College District campuses.

v. **Shoreway Tours**

The Tours Program has been very active the past few months. The team conducted a series of multiple virtual tours with Laurel Elementary School in Menlo Park in February. There were also several other elementary and middle school virtual and in-person tours. We also conducted in-person tours to Cañada College environmental science students, Stanford GSB LEAD executive program students, and Moldaw Senior Center residents.

Tour slots are fully booked through the end of May – the team will be hosting many school tours both virtually and at Shoreway in the coming weeks!

vi. **Other Outreach**

The agency's electronic newsletter went out in March, sharing the Agency's Trash to Art Contest, spotlighting local reuse champions in Burlingame, and tips on proper composting techniques. The e-newsletter data displayed high engagement in the proper composting techniques among subscribers. In March, Recology and RethinkWaste teamed up to disseminate over 500 doorhangers about proper composting in San Mateo and Foster City. Both locations had recently added compost services to their complexes.

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). The delivery of equipment and vehicles is on schedule to be delivered July through December 2023. In addition, SBI has provided documentation from their bank demonstrating financial ability to fund these purchases. 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. **Solar Panel Replacement Project**

The solar panel replacement project is more than 50% completed – the MRF building is finished and the panel replacement on the Transfer Station building started in April. The solar panel replacement is under warranty by the power purchase agreement (PPA) company that installed the panels 12-years ago and has no cost impact to the SBWMA. The original panels are delaminating due to a manufacturing failure. The replacement will ensure that the panels will continue functioning for the next 20-years and that the power used by the Shoreway Environmental Center is offset by renewable power.

c. Recology admin building

The restoration of the Recology administration building is nearing completion with the completion of the painting in March and flooring in April. New office cubicles are ordered and will be installed in May at which point the customer service personnel will return to work. Staff has filed a FEMA claim for \$182k in reimbursement for the restoration work, which is further detailed in 4B, while 7C describes the emergency expenditures incurred from the flood damage.

d. Contamination Assessment – Quarter 1

A contamination assessment study was completed by Sloan/Vasquez for Q1 2023 and found that the residential and commercial recycling is coming in more contaminated than the limits set in the collection agreement. (Commercial recycling is at 17% contamination on a limit of 10%, residential recycling is at 16% on a limit of 8.5%).

Respectfully submitted,



Joe La Mariana
Executive Director