

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE**

**Thursday, March 6, 2025, 3:00 – 4:12 pm**

**Watsonville Civic Plaza – City Council Chambers**

**275 Main Street Watsonville CA 95076**

**Enter from top floor of building or parking structure**



**Meeting Minutes**

- 1) **Welcome and Quorum Verification:** Quorum present in the room and County alternate Sandy Brown; acting chair called the meeting to order at 3:00. Staff called roll and meeting attendance was noted as follows:
  - Voting Members/Alternates Present: Sandy Brown (County, alternate/acting chair), Felipe Hernandez (County, vice-chair (arrived late) elected 2025 chair), Jacob Guth (County, citizen rep (arrived late), Bob Nelson (Santa Cruz), Leslie O'Malley (Santa Cruz, alternate), Will Smith (Watsonville), Tami Stolzenhaller (Watsonville, alternate).
  - Non-voting Members/Alternates Present: Allan Timms (Scotts Valley, online no "just cause"), Ari Parker (Watsonville, not yet sworn, elected 2025 vice-chair), Erika Senyk (Capitola, not yet sworn), Antonio Banderas (Watsonville, alternate not yet sworn).
  - Members/Alternates Absent: Justin Cummings (County), Ramon Gomez (County, alternate), Scott Newsome (Santa Cruz), Rene Golder (Santa Cruz, alternate), Alexander Pedersen (Capitola, alternate), Rodolfo Onchi (Scotts Valley, alternate).
  - Task Force Staff Present: Beau Hawksford (County), Kasey Kolassa (County), Darcy Pruitt (County)
  - Agency Staff Present: Mary Ann LoBalbo (County), Christina Horvat (County), Bret Williamson (County), Carolyn Burke (County online), Julian Gonzalez (Watsonville).
  - Guests Present: Juan Castillo (GreenWaste Recovery), Laura Chain (CalRecycle online), Claudia Reyes (GreenWaste Recovery online), Claudia Villalta-Mejia (Environmental Innovations online), Jackeline Castorena (Environmental Innovations online).
- 2) **Select 2025 Officers:** Members discussed nomination of officers. A. Parker put forward Felipe Hernandez as Chair for 2025. T. Stolzenhaller put forward A. Parker as Vice-Chair for 2025. S. Brown called for other nominations. No other nominations were forthcoming. S. Brown called for a joint motion to elect Felipe Hernandez Chair and Ari Parker Vice-Chair. T. Stolzenhaller made the motion and S. Brown seconded. S. Brown called for a voice vote confirmed the unanimous election of Felipe Hernandez as Chair and Ari Parker as Vice-Chair for 2025. F. Hernandez, who arrived during the election of officers, took over chair duties from S. Brown.
- 3) **Oral communications – Public:** No public communications were received from meeting participants either in the room or online.
- 4) **Oral communications - Task Force members/alternates:** No communications were received from Task Force members or alternates either in the room or online.
- 5) **Approve Meeting Minutes** – B. Nelson made a motion to approve the December 5, 2024 meeting minutes, T. Stolzenhaller seconded the motion. Chair Hernandez called for a voice vote from members present at the December meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- 6) **Jurisdictional Updates** – County staff provided an update on the Buena Vista Landfill Redevelopment project outlining the need for the project to continue waste handling activities at the

Buena Vista site and the timeline for projected landfill closure, which could be as early as 2028. The County's Environmental Impact Report is in preparation and is expected to be released for review in late summer 2025.

County staff announced the award of two CalRecycle grants to County and partner jurisdictions.

- (1) County, City of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Harbor received a \$100K grant to be managed by California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) to collect and dispose of explosive marine flares. CPSC will also educate boaters and provide incentives to replace single use explosive marine flares with reusable marine electronic distress signals.
- (2) County received a \$158K grant to replace failing hazardous materials storage buildings at the Ben Lomond and Buena Vista Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities owned by the County and shared with the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley.

- 7) **Staff presentation on AB 2346 Organic Waste Reduction Regulations (Attachment B)** – Tami Stolzenhaler, Watsonville Public Works Senior Environmental Projects Analyst provided an overview on the changes that AB 2346 will make to SB1383 procurement compliance. Under SB 1383, only four procurement products were identified to fulfill local procurement targets (mulch, compost, renewable gas, and electricity from biomass conversion). AB 2346 expands the procurement options by allowing procurement credit for five additional reuse methods (mandates for 3<sup>rd</sup> party use of recycled organic waste, on farm/community compost production, on-site mulch production and use (with ordinance), food recovery, investments in compost and mulch infrastructure (through 2035)). AB 2346 also allows jurisdiction to alter their procurement compliance reporting from annual reporting to 5-year reporting. Presentation slides are provided as **Attachment A**.
- 8) **Countywide Waste Characterization Study** – County staff provided a summary on the uses of waste characterization studies and the possibility to use local study results to change edible food and organic waste capacity requirements under SB 1383 and/or procurement targets under AB 2346. Staff outlined CalRecycle study methodology requirements if jurisdictions want to make adjustments under either SB 1383 or AB 2346. County staff also provided some cost and methodology information on the County's 2018 study for perspective, including areas where the required CalRecycle methodology to make capacity planning and procurement adjustments are likely to be more costly than the County's 2018 study. Members asked questions about study timeline. Staff responded that there is no required timeline, but the County's franchise agreement includes cost recovery that would reduce costs for County. Members discussed the potential for countywide collaboration and directed staff to obtain additional information and discuss collaboration on a waste characterization RFP at a staff level. Presentation slides are provided as **Attachment B**.
- 9) **CRV Update** – County staff provided further information on CRV changes related to SB 1013 implementation: including labeling requirements for beverage containers added to the program by SB 1013 (effective date 7/1/2025) and the 60 days beverage dealers have to establish a dealer cooperative or to redeem CRV in store once the store is no longer served by a CRV redemption center (effective 1/1/2025 and the date CRV Redemption center closes). Presentation slides are provided as **Attachment C**.
- 10) **Code Update Discussion** – Implementation of SB 1053 (Blakespear 2024). Staff provided an update on changes after passage of SB 1053 that will affect bag reduction ordinances in the county after State law that will change the definition of a "recycled paper bag" to contain 50% post-consumer recycled materials on 1/1/2028. This replaces the State's current definition of 40% post-consumer recycled content. The law also will eliminate the use of all film plastic bags within California. Presentation slides are provided as **Attachment D**.

- 11) **Legislative Update (Attachment D)** – County staff provided a brief overview of new bills introduced in the 2025/2026 legislative cycle affecting solid waste, recycling, edible food, organic waste, waste diversion, universal waste, hazardous materials management, and related topics. Staff highlighted proposed bills on end-of-life EV Battery management as well as proposals related to composting and carbon sequestration.
- 12) **Call for next meeting agenda items:** Members suggested the following items for future meetings -
- a. Presentation from GreenWaste Recovery on the services they provide as franchise hauler and other roll off services.
  - b. Recycling markets and what really happens to items sent for recycling.
  - c. Report back on staff research/discussion re countywide waste characterization collaboration.
- 13) **Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 4:12.**



# AB 2346 Organic Waste Reduction Regulations: Procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force  
March 6, 2025

## AB 2346: SB 1383 Procurement Compliance Adjustments



AB 2346 amends SB 1383 procurement compliance requirements to provide jurisdictions with additional pathways to meet their procurement targets

- Aligns procurement targets with local, rather than statewide diversion rates
- Developed by a group of Bay Area Counties, JPAs, Composters, and Compost Advocacy Groups
- Signed into law on September 30, 2024



AB 2346 Presentation courtesy of Jack Steinmann  
at San Mateo County

## AB 2346: Key Impacts



### Procurement Credit without Direct Service Provider Agreement (in some cases)

- Procurement credit allocated to jurisdiction when they mandate third parties procure Recycled Organic Waste Products
- Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinances



### New Compost Sources

- On-farm Compost
  - Community Compost
  - Vermicompost
  - Mushroom Compost



- Credit Cannot be double counted
- Records must still be kept

### Credit for Onsite Mulch and Recovered Food



- Credit cannot exceed 10% of targets
- Ordinance for mulch required
- 1 ton of recovered food equals 1 ton of procurement credit



### Credit for Investments



- Only through 12/31/35
- No more than 10% of target per year
- Investments can include
  - Improvements at composting facilities serving a jurisdiction
  - Investments to establish or expand community composting
  - Spreading equipment
  - Compost hubs

### 5-Year Procurement Target



- Starting January 2027
- Jurisdictions can choose to opt for a 5-year target over 1-year annual target



## A vision for a sustainable county

### Option to calculate target based on local data



- Jurisdictions may calculate their own procurement targets based on local waste characterization studies
- Neighboring Bay Area Counties estimate roughly a 40-60% reduction
- Waste Characterization must be done every 5 years
- Unclear if CalRecycle will set up specific methodology for Study
- Potential for regional collaboration as soon as next year.

### CalRecycle given additional flexibility



- CalRecycle may set new rules to incentivize local compost use. This could look like procurement credit done locally providing additional credit.



**Questions?**  
*Thank you!*

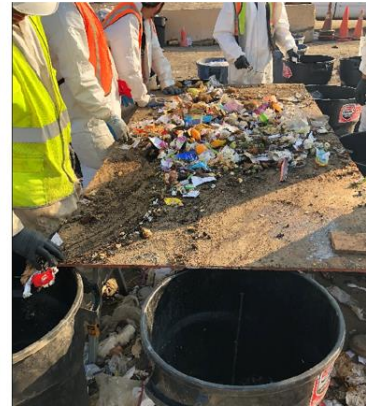
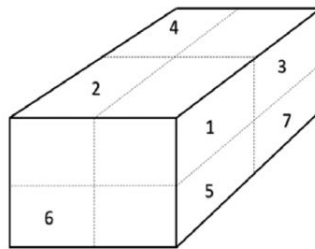




# Countywide Waste Characterization Multi-Jurisdiction Discussion

March 6, 2025

Numbered Cells for Targeted Waste Loads



## Waste Characterization Study Requirements



Local Waste Characterization Studies are used to assess state law compliance and identify local program improvement needs.

- Provides local information to evaluate waste services
- Can assess different service types to focus needed interventions
  - Single Family, Multi-Family, Commercial, Agency
- Provides program feedback to plan outreach/education
- Provides local data to compare against Statewide studies
- Can be used to evaluate SB 1383 capacity planning waste categories and adjust for local conditions.
- Can reset SB 1383 Organics Procurement Targets under AB 2346

## Waste Characterization Study Requirements



Local Waste Characterization Study must be comparable to the most recently published CalRecycle statewide waste study.

SB 1383 Waste Recycling Capacity Planning Requirements:

1. Local study must be performed within the last five years,
2. Include at least the same categories of organic waste as the Department's most recent waste characterization study that was available at the time the local study/studies were performed, and,
3. Include a statistically significant sampling of solid waste disposed by the jurisdiction conducting the study.

14 CCR Section 18992.1(a)(1)(B)

## Waste Characterization Study to Reset Procurement Targets



CalRecycle will review Local Waste Characterization Study to determine its adequacy before resetting Local Procurement Targets:

CalRecycle will assess and approve/disapprove:

1. Study design to ensure compliance with PRC 42652.5(m),
2. Study data and corresponding calculations, and
3. Recalculated procurement targets for each jurisdiction that participated in the study



## Waste Characterization Study Methodology – Best Practices



1. Representative of waste from each participant jurisdiction(s),
2. Representative to control for seasonal waste disposal variation,
3. Use/attempt to use the **material type list** from CalRecycle's 2021 *Disposal Facility-based Characterization of Solid Waste in California* study
  - a) Materials list used must align with local study goals and CalRecycle's materials type list so CalRecycle can compare local results to statewide results
4. Demonstrate sufficient sampling is done to achieve a 90% confidence interval for the materials sampled.
5. Follow ASTM D 5231-92 "Standard Test Method for Determination of the Composition of Unprocessed Municipal Solid Waste"  
(California Public Resources Code section 42652.5(m))

## Waste Characterization Study Prior Study and Costs – 2018

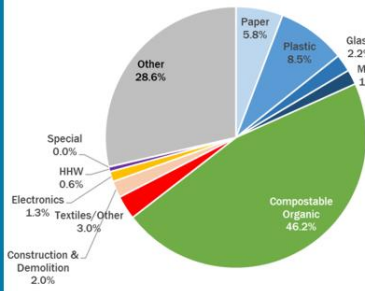


- County issued Waste Characterization RFP in June 2018  
SCS Engineers won the bid with a proposal costing \$64,400
- Waste Characterization Study conducted in fall 2018
- Single Family Residential Waste
  - Multi-Family Residential Waste
  - Commercial Waste
- Study Methodology
- Sampled a total of 44 – 200 pound grab samples
  - Samples collected over a 5-day period
  - Samples sorted into 35 materials categories
- Adjusted by CPI, same study would cost \$80,000 in 2024.

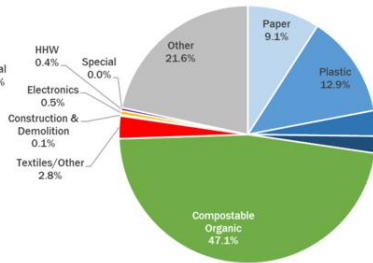
## Waste Characterization Study 2018 Unincorporated County Results



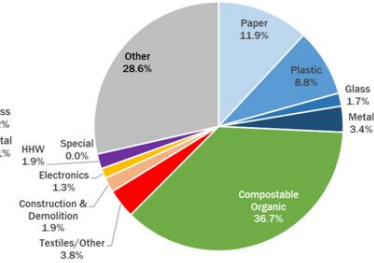
Single-Family



Multi-Family



Commercial



**Questions?**  
*Thank you!*

## California Redemption Value (CRV) SB 1013 Implementation Update for 2025



### California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act

## CRV Changes – January 1, 2025



**Dealers in a convenience zone with no redemption location for more than 60 days, must redeem in-store or operate a dealer cooperative redemption plan.**

- A dealer that has demonstrated to the department that the dealer has gross annual sales (does not include sales of fuel) of less than \$1.5 million or is less than 5,000 square feet is exempted from these requirements.
- Registration of dealers will begin prior to this date to facilitate these exemptions. (*PRC [14578](#) and [§14578.5](#).)*



## SB 1013 CRV Changes – January 1, 2025



Removes option for dealers to pay CalRecycle \$100 per day instead of redeeming beverage containers when in a convenience zone where no recycling location has been for more than 60 days (previously referred to as “Option B”). (PRC [14578](#) and former [§14571.6](#).)



## SB 1013 CRV Changes – July 1, 2025



- **Sunsets Plastic Market Development Payment Program** – State will no longer provide financial incentives to entities that process recycled empty plastic beverage containers and manufacturers using recycled plastic to produce new products within the state.
- **CRV label exemption ends** – all beverage containers in the Beverage Container Recycling Program are required to meet program labelling standards.







# County and Municipal Code Update SB 1053 Bag Ban Discussion

March 6, 2025

## SB 1053 Solid waste: recycled paper bags: standards: carryout bag prohibition.



SB 1053 ([Blakespear 2024](#)) Changes Carryout Bag Rules Statewide:

- Regulated businesses must comply with new rules
- The new 50% post consumer paper bag rule conflicts, at least in part, with local bag ordinances 40% post consumer content in:
  - County Code
  - Capitola Municipal Code
  - Santa Cruz Municipal Code
  - Watsonville Municipal Code
- California Public Resources Code section 42280(e)(3)(A) will require recycled paper bags to contain 50% post consumer recycled content starting 1/1/2028.



## **SB 1053 Solid waste: recycled paper bags: standards: carryout bag prohibition.**



SB 1053 ([Blakespear, 2024](#)) Changes the Carryout Bag Rules Statewide to 50% postconsumer paper in paper carryout bags beginning 1/1/2028. Other provisions take effect beginning 1/1/2026.

- Do we want to work together to implement a code update that is consistent with state law and the same in all cities and County?
- If so, do we also want to consider other provisions not driven by state law that may be important in our County?

**Questions?**  
*Thank you!*

SECTION 1. Article 1 (commencing with Section 42279) is added to Chapter 5.3 of Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

Article 1. Legislative Findings and Declarations

42279. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

(1) In November 2016, voters approved Proposition 67, a statewide referendum to uphold Senate Bill 270 (Chapter 850 of the Statutes of 2014) that banned single-use carryout bags. As a result, most grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience food stores, foodmarts, and liquor stores no longer provide single-use, lightweight, plastic carryout bags to their customers at the point of sale.

(2) Senate Bill 270 (Chapter 850 of the Statutes of 2014) allowed the use of thicker plastic carryout bags that were deemed reusable if they met specified standards. These thicker plastic carryout bags were not generally reused by consumers and resulted in an increased amount of plastic and plastic waste.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to do all of the following:

(1) Support and reflect the will of California voters who voted to ban the distribution of plastic carryout bags at stores.

(2) Incentivize California consumers to bring their own reusable bag for carrying out store purchases, with stores encouraging and supporting this practice, which will reduce the costly and wasteful practice of relying on store-provided carryout bags.

(3) Support sustainable and thriving communities and natural environments that are not burdened with pollution from plastic production nor littered with plastic waste.

(4) Eliminate plastic film carryout bags from grocery store distribution and increase the recycling of paper carryout bags.

(5) Reduce the proliferation of plastic pollution by eliminating the existing provision of law that allows plastic film carryout bags to be distributed as reusable bags under the state's bag ban.

...

SEC. 4. Section 42280 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

42280. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) (1) "Carryout bag" means a bag of plastic, paper, or other material that is provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale for the purpose of carrying purchased goods and that is not a recycled paper bag.

(2) A carryout bag does not include any of the following:

(A) A bag provided by a pharmacy pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code to a customer purchasing a prescription medication.

(B) A nonhandled bag used to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items when placed in a recycled paper bag or a compostable plastic bag.

(C) A precheckout bag, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 42281.2.

(D) A nonhandled bag that is designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger, such as a garment bag used in dry cleaning or laundry services.

(b) “Department” means the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

(c) “Point of sale” means a place where purchased goods may be transferred to a customer, including, but not limited to, a checkout counter, self-checkout kiosk, in-store pickup, curbside delivery, and home delivery.

(d) “Postconsumer recycled material” means a material that would otherwise be destined for solid waste disposal, having completed its intended end use and product life cycle. Postconsumer recycled material does not include materials and byproducts generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing and fabrication process.

(e) “Recycled paper bag” means a paper carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) Is accepted for recycling in curbside programs in a majority of households that have access to curbside recycling programs in the state.

(2) Has printed on the bag the name of the manufacturer, the country where the bag was manufactured, and the percentage of postconsumer content.

(3) (A) Contains a minimum of 50 percent postconsumer recycled materials.

(B) The requirement in subparagraph (A) applies on and after January 1, 2028.

(f) “Store” means a retail establishment that meets any of the following requirements:

(1) A full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or more that sells a line of dry groceries, canned goods, or nonfood items, and some perishable items.

(2) Has at least 10,000 square feet of retail space that generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law (Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 7200) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code) and has a pharmacy licensed pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.

(3) Is a convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity that is engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods, generally including milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, and that holds a Type 20 or Type 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

(4) Is a convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity that is engaged in the retail sale of goods intended to be consumed off the premises, and that holds a Type 20 or Type 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

(5) If not otherwise subject to paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4), if the retail establishment voluntarily agrees to comply with the requirements imposed upon a store pursuant to this chapter, irrevocably notifies the department of its intent to comply with the requirements imposed upon a store pursuant to this chapter, and complies with the requirements established pursuant to Section 42284.

(g) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

...

SEC. 10. Section 42283 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

42283. (a) Except as provided in subdivisions (b) and (c), a store shall not provide, distribute, or sell a carryout bag at the point of sale.

(b) (1) A store may make available for purchase at the point of sale a recycled paper bag but shall not sell a recycled paper bag for less than ten cents (\$0.10) in order to ensure that the cost of providing a recycled paper bag is not subsidized by a consumer who does not require that bag.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, a store that makes recycled paper bags available for purchase at the point of sale shall provide a recycled paper bag at no cost at the point of sale to a customer using a payment card or voucher issued by the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 123275) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code or an electronic benefit transfer card issued pursuant to Section 10072 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(c) A store may provide at the point of sale a carryout bag that meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 42280.

(d) A store shall not require a customer to use, purchase, or accept a recycled paper bag or a compostable bag as a condition of sale of any product.

(e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

...

SEC. 12. Section 42283.5 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

42283.5. (a) A store, as defined in paragraph (5) of subdivision (f) of Section 42280, shall comply with the same requirements of Section 42283 that are imposed upon a store, as defined in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (f) of Section 42280.

(b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

...

SEC. 15. Section 42284 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

42284. (a) A retail establishment not specifically required to comply with the requirements of this chapter is encouraged to reduce its distribution of carryout bags.

(b) Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (5) of subdivision (f) of Section 42280, any retail establishment that is not a “store,” that provides the department with the irrevocable written notice as specified in subdivision (c), shall be regulated as a “store” for the purposes of this chapter.

(c) The irrevocable written notice shall be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the retail establishment, and shall include the name and physical address of all retail locations covered by the notice. The department shall acknowledge receipt of the notice in writing and shall specify the date the retail establishment will be regulated as a “store,” which shall not be less than 30 days after the date of the department’s acknowledgment. The department shall post on its internet website, organized by county, the name and physical location or locations of each retail establishment that has elected to be regulated as a “store.”

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.