

**DEL NORTE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
CITY OF CRESCENT CITY
COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Board of Supervisors Chambers
Flynn Center 981 H Street
Crescent City, CA**

Special Session

Tuesday January 10, 2017

3:30 PM

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The Solid Waste Management Authority of the City of Crescent City and the County of Del Norte, State of California, is now meeting in Special Session.

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All documents referred to in this agenda are available at the Office of the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority at 1700 State Street in Crescent City, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. Monday through Friday OR online at www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov
For more information call 465-1100 or email dnswwma@recycledelnorte.ca.gov

**3:30 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

3:30 PM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ON ANY MATTER ON OR OFF THE AGENDA. After receiving recognition from the Chair, please give your name and address for the record. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

OPEN SESSION ITEM:

1. COLLECTIONS FRANCHISE

- 1.1 Status report from Recology Del Norte regarding their efforts to process and market recyclables. Discussion and possible action regarding possible disposal of recyclables when contamination exceeds acceptable levels and strategies to reduce trash and non-recyclable materials in recycling streams collected by Recology Del Norte. **

2. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the next Regular Meeting of the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority scheduled for 3:30 P.M. Tuesday January 17, 2017 at the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 981 H Street, Suite 100 in Crescent City.

**** Asterisks next to Agenda Item indicates an associated attachment**



Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority


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Phone (707) 465-1100 Fax (707) 465-1300

www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov

The Authority's mission is the management of Del Norte County solid waste and recyclable material in an environmentally sound, cost effective, efficient and safe manner while ensuring 100% regulatory compliance with law.

Staff Report

Date: 09 January 2017
To: Commissioners of the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority
From: Tedd Ward, M.S. – Director 
Attachment: Sign language for community drop-off bins
File Number: 180510 – Recology Del Norte
Topic: Recyclables collected by Recology Del Norte and processed by Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA)

Summary / Recommendation:

- 1. When requested by Recology Del Norte, Authorize the Chair, in consultation with the Director, to pre-approve disposal of materials collected as recyclables by Recology Del Norte as necessary until Recology Del Norte is able to execute a Processing Agreement for the recyclables collected under the Collections Franchise with the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority. Disposal of recyclables will not continue after March 21, 2017 without further approval by the Authority Board.**
- 2. After three written notices to customers regarding non-recyclable items being placed in the recycling carts, authorize Recology Del Norte to eliminate the recycling carts for collection customers who are repeat offenders.**

Background: With the loss of Julindra as its processor, Recology Del Norte has recently discovered a relatively high proportion (>25%) of non-recyclable items and materials in Del Norte's recycling stream, including materials which were recently removed as recyclables due to the collapse of many plastics recycling markets. This (>25%) contamination has resulted in the Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) communicating to Recology Del Norte that another load with similar levels of contamination would be rejected as recyclables and disposed as trash. HWMA generally processes materials with 5% contamination or less.

This is of significant concern because if the HWMA door closes, the transport distance and cost to recycle will almost certainly increase. Also, if we do not act to



reduce the proportion of non-recyclable items, other potential processors might also reject our recyclables for processing at those other locations. If we don't reduce contamination in the very short term (30-60 days), the options for processing those materials become fewer and fewer and more and more costly. Unfortunately, disposal of some recyclables as we move through these transitions is a near certainty.

Analysis: Reducing contamination in the recycling stream is primarily Recology's responsibility. Under their contract, Recology selected and contracted with Julindra to be their processor. The combination of Recology losing Julindra as processor and the elimination of several materials from the recycling stream has complicated this situation. Though Collections Change Order 9 eliminated styrofoam, hard plastics, plastic bags, and cartons from the recycling stream, many people continue to place these items in the recycling bins – which is a significant fraction of the contamination.

People who contribute to contamination include the following categories: People who include food contaminated cardboard and other non-recyclable materials with the assumption 'well, someone will sort it out if it isn't recyclable.' People who are not clear on what is or is not recyclable, and people who deliberately place trash in the recycling bins because there is no cost to do so, and current monitoring of these bins make detection of such dumping fairly unlikely. Additional dumping often occurs outside the bins, and Recology generally collects such trash twice a day at each of the community drop-off locations.

Recology had been responsible for collecting and paying for the disposal of non-recyclable materials removed from the recyclables after sorting at Julindra. Under this system, Recology had a financial burden associated with contamination. As Recology tries to find another processor, if the contamination is too high, the new processor may just say 'no thanks' and then Recology is again scrambling to find yet another processor. Currently, there are three such possible locations north of Santa Rosa, and two of these businesses are for sale.

Commercial cardboard collections are also getting contaminated with food and liquid. Under the collections franchise, collections of two or more recyclable materials for a fee is exclusively the right and responsibility of Recology Del Norte. By including multiple materials, trash and food and liquids get mixed in with the cardboard, rendering it unrecyclable. All recycling bins provided by Recology Del Norte are multi-material collections, as single-material or double-material collections are not the exclusive right and responsibility of Recology Del Norte. The reason for this arrangement is that some supermarkets and other retailers regularly backhaul their baled cardboard for recycling, and some locations like WalMart will make two-material bales for backhaul.

Efforts to immediately reduce contamination include signage (attached) to be posted in front of each of the community drop-off bins, as well as radio ads on KCRE and KPOD. Part of the challenge of such outreach is clearly communicating what is

currently recyclable and the potentially severe consequences to Recology's recycling programs if we are not able to swiftly reduce contamination.

Recology may need to dispose of some of these materials collected as recyclables as they search for a new processor. Disposal of unprocessed recyclables is a violation of the agreement, though for several reasons that may be the best course of action in the coming months. For example, the first load of recyclables rejected by HWMA were managed as trash, so Recology Del Norte was charged HWMA's higher disposal rate after collection and reloading of these materials, and transport to Humboldt. For materials collected as recyclable but likely managed as trash, it would be less expensive to dispose of such materials at the Del Norte County Transfer Station.

While disposal of recyclables is a significant concern to the community (as well as our agency and Recology), it would also be a violation of the Authority's agreement with Recology.

On Friday January 6th, Chair Inscore and I met with Jeremy Herber of Recology Del Norte to inspect the materials ready for transport to HWMA. We all agreed that the contamination was 25% or greater, and the Chair gave approval for those accumulated materials to be disposed, as there was limited storage space in the building, and even more limited capacity for pre-processing.

Alternatives: The following alternatives are in addition to the recommended actions to reduce contamination of recyclables collected by Recology Del Norte.

- 1. Reduce the availability of the community drop-off bins until the contamination is reduced to an acceptable level. This could include reducing the number of drop-off sites, placing them behind fences which may be locked overnight, increasing camera surveillance, etc.**
- 2. Direct staff to evaluate the possibility of granting an exclusive right to Recology Del Norte to collect single-material recyclables such as cardboard, from customers which are not retail commercial businesses. Such action would be implemented by a Change Order to be considered at a future Authority meeting.**

This action would potentially reduce contamination in the commercial recycling locations that are primarily cardboard.
- 3. Direct staff to evaluate the possibility of changing the mix of recyclable materials collected by Recology to include ONLY the most readily marketed materials, including:**
 - **#1 and #2 plastic containers**
 - **Steel cans and tin-plated steel cans**

- **Aluminum cans**
- **Glass containers (all sizes and colors)**
- **Non-waxed corrugated cardboard and brown paper grocery bags**
- **Newspapers, magazines and catalogs**
- **Bagged office paper and bagged opened junk mail**

Such action would be implemented by a Change Order to be considered at a future Authority meeting.

By reducing the variety of materials recycled to materials that are recyclable just about anywhere, Recology could immediately focus their outreach on these materials to reduce contamination. If additional materials may be recycled in future, those materials could be added after contamination is reduced to acceptable levels. This option would be a reduction in services and further eliminate the following materials that are currently collected as recyclable by Recology Del Norte:

Balled aluminum foil, #4, #5, and #7 plastic containers, paperboard (cereal boxes, egg cartons, toilet or paper towel rolls)

Related Issues: In addition to advertising about these changes, Jeremy Herber and I intend to write a series of four or five Coastal Voices pieces in the Del Norte Triplicate describing the reasons for these changes to our recycling programs.

Authority staff have repeatedly requested an outreach plan from Recology explaining how they intend to conduct the outreach for these changes. While we have had verbal conversations in this regard, and Recology has already begun their outreach, staff have not yet received the written outreach plan as requested.

Somewhat understandably, Recology staff have been focused on setting up facilities capable of consolidating the recyclables before they are shipped out of the County, and arranging for a Processor to receive, process and market these recyclables.

The paragraphs below are copied from an e-mail I sent to Mr. Herber in July specifying what we want to see in such a written plan.

“ The Recycling Ad Hoc committee requests that Recology Del Norte staff meet with Authority staff to develop (or review) a “Recycling Transition Outreach Plan” (RTO Plan) which would be an attachment to the Change Order to be adopted by the Authority Board approving a reduction in the list of recyclable materials as you have requested. Specifically, the RTO Plan would address each of the following concerns for **each** material (except electronics) to be dropped from the list of recyclable materials under Recology Del Norte’s programs:

1. For avid recyclers, or people who want to continue recycling that material, what will be their best recycling option (if any) after that material is not accepted under Recology Del Norte's programs? For example, will Julindra continue to accept Styrofoam dropped at their facility? If not, where would be the closest location to reuse or recycle the types of styrofoam currently accepted under Recology Del Norte's recycling programs?
2. Are there any other specific groups that may need targeted outreach for any particular material recycling change? If so, who are they and what form would this outreach take?
3. What would be the general transition outreach strategy for Recology Del Norte's residential, commercial and institutional collection customers? What information provided? How and when? Please include the approximate number and duration of radio ads on each station, the size and number of publications of each ad in the Del Norte Triplicate, and the approximate date and description of other outreach activities.
4. We understand that the cart-sticker change is potentially one of the largest future expenses and logistical challenges associated with this transition. The RTO will address and describe any interim public outreach efforts (if any) associated with dropping these materials from the recycling stream. In other words, we want to reassure people that if they properly prepare their materials, as long as we say those will be recycled, we all will do our best to make sure they are. We will set a date after which some currently recyclable materials will be trash – and no longer appropriate to place in recycling bins or carts. So from that date forward, customers may get their recycling carts tagged, etc. What (if any) outreach will be deployed leading up to the 'no longer recyclable' date?
5. The RTO plan will include a description of Recology's non-advertising customer outreach responsibilities with respect to implementing these changes, such as distributing reusable shopping bag(s) to each residential customer including a new sticker for their recycling cart and a flyer describing the changes and how to apply the new sticker.
6. As this is a reduction in services to customers, how does Recology intend to describe how this transition will be a *benefit* to customers? “

Please Recycle Correctly – Or This Bin May Go Away Forever

Starting January 2017, recyclable materials from these bins will be transported outside the County for sorting and processing. The amount of trash in these bins has been far too much. If the volume of trash is not reduced, these community bin recycling services may be stopped altogether. If you want to continue to recycle using these bins, please help us by doing each of the following:

1. Never put trash or non-recyclable materials in recycling bins. That means no appliances, NONE of the following: toys, electronics, garden hoses, PVC or other piping, coat hangers, scrap metal, fuel tanks or propane tanks, mirrors, light bulbs, ceramic, dishware, mugs and vases, drinking glasses, window panes, , hardback books, carbon paper, photographs, facial or toilet tissues, plastic or foil lining from cereal or cracker boxes, or thermal fax paper. No trash. No kidding.
2. Recycle Right. **The following materials are trash and create problems if put into the recycling bins: cartons, styrofoam, non-container hard plastics, plastic bags and bubble wrap.** Recyclable plastic containers will have one of these numbers embossed on the bottom:



3. Bags of plastic bags are no longer recyclable in these bins, but please continue to place opened junk mail, office paper and shredded paper in separate plastic bags before placing them in the recycling bin.
4. Please remove all foam packing and flatten your boxes before placing them in the cardboard bin. No food-contaminated or waxed cardboard.
5. Help others to Recycle Right. If you see someone who incorrectly places trash or non-recyclable materials in or near these bins, please ask them not to do so - or else these recycling bins may be removed permanently.

Questions? Call Recology Del Norte at 464-4181