

DEL NORTE COUNTY SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority Conference Room
1700 State Street
Crescent City, CA

The Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force is now meeting in Regular Session. Only those items that indicate a specific time will be heard at the assigned time. All other items may be taken out of sequence to accommodate public and staff availability.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Call to order.
2. Public comment. Any member of the public is welcome to discuss any subject relating to solid waste issues in Del Norte County. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes.
3. Discussion and possible action regarding minutes from the 5th November 2019 meeting of the Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force. **
4. Discussion and possible action regarding the working draft of the Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force's letter commenting on the 5-year review. **
5. Discussion and possible action regarding the date for the next meeting of the Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force. No meeting currently scheduled, if task force members wish to schedule a meeting this should go through the Chair.
6. Adjournment. Adjourn to the next meeting of the Del Norte County Solid Waste Task Force at the DNSWMA Conference Room at 1700 State Street, Crescent City.

** indicates attachments

Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force Minutes

Thursday December 5th, 2019

Present: Jeremy Herber, Recology Del Norte
Craig Strong
Stephen Gibbs
Joel Whalen

Absent: Eileen Cooper

Also Present: Tedd Ward, Authority Director
Kyra Seymour, Program Director

1. Chair Strong called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM
2. Chair Strong called for public comments. Seeing none, Chair Strong closed public comment.
3. Chair Strong asked for a motion to approve previous minutes, Jeremy Herber made the motion and Craig Strong seconded. The Minutes of the 05 December 2019 were unanimously approved by all in attendance.
4. The Task Force completed a review of the updated comments for 5 Year review per additional input from task force members. During the review individuals were assigned minor additions and revisions to be reviewed at the next meeting.
5. By consensus, the next meeting was set for Thursday December 12th @ 2PM.
6. Adjournment. At 2:02PM, Chair Strong adjourned to the next meeting of the Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force at 2PM on December 12th at the DNSWMA conference room at 1700 State Street, Crescent City.

Respectfully submitted.

Jeremy Herber, Secretary
Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force

12 December 2019

To: Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority
1700 State Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

SUBJECT: Comments for Five Year Review

Commissioners of the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority:

This is the official response from the Del Norte County Local Solid Waste Task Force regarding the Five Year Review of the Countywide Rural Regional Integrated Waste Management Plan, also known as a Regional Agency Integrated Waste Management Plan (RAIWMP) called for under section 40950 (a) of the California Public Resources Code.

Under section 40950 c of the California Public Resources Code, the Local Task Force has been established 'to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective regional recycling system,' doing all of the following:

1. Identify solid waste management issues of countywide or regional concern.
2. Determine the need for solid waste collection and transfer systems, processing facilities, and marketing strategies that can serve more than one jurisdiction in the region.
3. Facilitate multi-jurisdictional arrangements for marketing recyclable materials.
4. Facilitate resolution of conflicts and inconsistencies between City and County Source Reduction and Recycling Elements (SRREs).

The Del Norte County Local Solid Waste Task Force has the following comments and suggestions regarding the adopted Rural Regional Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan adopted by the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority, with findings and conclusions specific to any necessary revisions to the original planning documents:

OVERALL:

1. The Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force notes that the Electronic Annual Report submitted by Authority staff for 2018 exceeded the per capita disposal targets (4.1 pounds per person per day vs. a target of 4.0 pounds/person-day), though the per-employee disposal was well below that disposal target (13.6 pounds/employee-day vs. a target of 14.8 pounds/employee-day). Generally, this indicates a need to increase or expand current residential recovery programs.

2. In 2018 and 2019, Julindra Recycling closed. For the two decades prior, Julindra had been Del Norte County's only buy-back center and processor of recyclables collected by Recology Del Norte. Recology subsequently leased the former Julindra property to continue processing corrugated cardboard and to transfer recyclable materials collected in Del Norte to larger trucks. In mid-June Recology purchased the closed facility and entered into a contract with Recology Humboldt to sort and process all recycling collected in Del Norte. Recology Del Norte is processing a large quantity of corrugated cardboard and office paper in Crescent City which is being sold to end markets.
3. Over the past few years, the percentage of Del Norte's materials being recycled has decreased. This trend began in 2016, when plastic bags, paperboard cartons, expanded polystyrene, and hard plastics were dropped due to market challenges from the mix of recyclable materials collected by Recology Del Norte and processed and marketed by Julindra. Though both Recology and the Authority conducted outreach and education efforts, the change to the mix of recyclable materials did confuse some customers, which resulted with an increase in contamination and disposal. In September 2017, Julindra closed, and Del Norte County did not have any buy-back center until Hambro Recycling opened in January 2018. The lack of an in-County buyback during this time likely decreased recycling tonnages during that period. Outreach and education efforts on how to recycle right continue. In 2019, recycling percentages and tonnage is improving since a new buyback center has re-opened and members of our community are re-engaging in the recycling process.
4. The Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force believes that it can continue to provide a valuable forum for community discussion regarding solid waste and recycling issues of regional concern and its members can assist the Authority in providing public outreach at community events.
5. Though the Authority currently has secured disposal through 03 March 2040 - more than the required 15 years of disposal capacity.
6. There appears to be an increase in the trash associated with outdoor (homeless persons') encampments during the past five years. There also has been an increase in community volunteer efforts to clean up such encampments and other illegal dumping. Disposal costs for these materials are paid by grants and from the Authority budget. This trash adds to per capita disposal quantities but is not associated with residences or businesses. The Authority should pursue resources to support cleanup efforts and continue to pursue methods of preventing dumping.
7. Over the past few years, there has been an increased effort to build and maintain a cooperative relationship with the Harbor District. The Authority would like to acknowledge the fine works the Harbor is engaged in, with the setting up of collection stations for the recovery of mono-filament fishing line a material that continues to be a

major hazard to marine life, and vessel navigation. The Harbor also participates in recycling programs like oil recycling, and even processes fish waste for use as soil amendments. The Authority supports the harbor in its endeavors by purchasing oil spill mitigation equipment, including an oil separation storm drain, using funds from CalRecycles oil recycling grant. The Authority has offered to assist in events and outreach.

RECYCLING:

8. The Authority staff have used the electronic annual reporting process to incorporate into the Recycling Element the new recycling programs which have been established at the Del Norte County Transfer Station, including expanded recycling of architectural coatings under a product stewardship partnership with PaintCare, recycling of carpet and carpet padding with the Carpet America Recovery Effort, recycling of all household batteries under a partnership with Call2Recycle, offering a reward for mercury thermostats in partnership with the Thermostat Recycling Corporation.
9. In the past few years, the infrastructure in Del Norte County for buy-back centers and processing recyclables has changed substantially. Consequently, the Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force has reviewed and updated the Non-Disposal Facilities Element of Del Norte's Regional Agency Integrated Waste Management Plan. Changes include the closure of Julindra Recycling as a buy-back center, the opening of the Hambro Recycling Buy-back on Elk Valley Road, and Recology Del Norte's purchase and re-purposing of the former Julindra facility to be a consolidation/transfer and corrugated cardboard recycling facility, with all other recyclables collected by Recology Del Norte being sorted, processed and marketed by Recology Humboldt County.
10. The Task Force discussed at length the option of mandatory or 'universal' trash and recycling pickup as a means of improving diversion via an incentive / penalty pricing structure that is currently in effect for present collection customers. We concluded that such an action is not desirable at this time because A) many outlying areas are inaccessible or impractical to provide collection service, B) mandatory collection is anticipated to be very unpopular with self-haulers, and would increase their disposal costs, and C) Contamination of household recycling bins is already improving under recent changes enacted by the collections franchise.
11. Recology has hired a Waste Zero Specialist to provide outreach and public engagement to our community. The employee in this new position is working with local schools and business to educate on recycling more material instead of disposal. One aspect of this person's job will be to educate the users of community drop-off bins to reduce contamination, and to ensure the material collected by Recology Del Norte is clean and recycled to the extent possible. Recology Del Norte's curbside recycling customers are

being monitored to ensure correct items are in the recycling bins and contamination levels are low.

ORGANICS AND COMPOSTING:

12. Near the top of the food recovery hierarchy is food rescue. In order to provide food insecure people with food. The Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands DNATL Community Food Council under the Family Resource Center of the Redwoods are current recipients of a CalRecycle Grant totaling \$302,106. The objective is to rescue, repurpose (if necessary) and redistribute 400,000 pounds of edible food in Del Norte County for human consumption through county food assistance organization.
13. Another important aspect of food recovery is composting. Currently three comprehensive compost workshops are given every year during the summer and fall the workshops last 2 and a half hours, and focus on home and backyard composting, while giving an explanation of what is occurring chemically and physically, along with tips to help with troubleshooting in order to enjoy a better compost material. The goal is to divert food waste away from the landfill, while decreasing anaerobic production of methane. Compost when applied to soil before planting acts as a powerful mechanism to support carbon sequestration. Organic matter is mostly made up of carbon, and when this is incorporated deeply it becomes a stable energy source for plants and increases soils porosity and ability to retain moisture, increasing both drought and flood resistance. Soil health needs to be a part of any agenda to address climate change.
14. In August 2019, the Authority Board directed staff to work with the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority and our legislative representatives to draft and advocate for legislating alternate modes by which rural communities may comply with the intent to SB 1383 to reduce the generation or increase the sequestration of short-term climate pollutants like methane. The Solid Waste Task Force generally agrees with this strategy.
15. Hambro/WSG now processes and disposes of leaves, grass and brush from the Del Norte County Transfer Station at out-of-County facilities. The Authority should evaluate potential strategies to foster the development of in-County facilities for processing these materials.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION:

16. The Authority's efforts to educate the Del Norte community had been supported by block grants provided through the California Department of Conservation.

17. The Authority's collections contractor, Recology Del Norte, has substantially increased the public outreach in the schools of the Del Norte County Unified School District, including both efforts required under contract and additional efforts made at Recology Del Norte's own initiative. The goal is to educate students so they can educate their parents on proper recycling techniques. We are wanting to make recycling fun for all and to do their part in helping to clean-up our recycling stream. We will also be providing waste audits to local businesses to increase quantity of recycling while reducing landfill waste.
18. Satellite recycling drop off bins at un-monitored outlying areas (eg; Smith River) have had high trash contamination, resulting in materials being returned to the trash disposal stream. Actions to counter trash contamination of recyclables include A: The Authority is in process of locating and developing a satellite transfer station in the Smith River area. The future proposed transfer station and recycling bin will be fenced which will discourage illegal dumping after hours. B) Occasional staffing at dropoff bins by Recology Del Norte's Zero Waste Specialist and volunteers at each recycling bin is planned to dissuade dumping and provide education on correct recycling.

The Authority should further assess the benefit of additional actions to reduce illegal dumping and recycle bin contamination, including the use of surveillance cameras and warning signage, and the development of colorful posters on the benefits of recycling.

19. The Authority should include necessary resources within their annual budget to provide educational outreach regarding changing requirements under state law relating to product stewardship programs or other state mandates potentially impacting Del Norte's residences, businesses, industries and agencies.
20. The Task Force has the following recommendations regarding expanding public outreach. The Task Force supports expanded outreach efforts to potentially include posters on and/or inside Redwood Coast Transit Authority vehicles. Similarly, the Task Force supports the Authority efforts to coordinate supportive promotion of retailers who give discounts for reusable cups and containers. Also, the Task Force recognizes the importance of positive public recognition of those who recycle right in addition to monitoring and enforcement against improper recycling. The areas in front of the walls of the Del Norte County Transfer Station along Elk Valley Road could also be used for outreach structures or artworks.

NON-DISPOSAL FACILITIES

21. The Authority should continue to support Del Norte County businesses which legally collect, process and resell recovered materials and products.

22. In November 2019, the Authority adopted a revised Non-Disposal Facilities Element.
23. Since the opening of the Del Norte County Transfer Station in March 2011, the transfer station operations contractor Hambro/WSG has accepted Christmas trees for no charge and without compensation. Recology Del Norte also relies on Hambro/WSG waiving these fees to provide no-cost collection of Christmas Trees from their residential customers. The lack of in-County facilities to process these materials may result in program changes or increasing costs to customers in the future.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES (HHW)

24. The Authority should direct staff to re-assess and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the HHW Collection events as a primary tool for the collection and proper disposal of common household hazardous wastes.
25. The Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority with help from California Product Stewardship Council, recently applied for, and received a competitive Cal Recycle Grant (HD33) worth \$100,000.00 The money from this grant will be used for the promotion of refillable propane gas cylinders and safe sustainable nontoxic LED marine flares. The goals are to increase education about these materials. We will be building on the existing infrastructure of our local retailers, who offer excellent alternatives to these single use hazardous waste items. Del Norte County currently has three locations Hiouchi Hamlet, Lucky 7 Fuel Mart, and Suburban Propane participating in the refuel your fun program, we will be supporting these retailers and conducting exchange events for cylinders. Another goal is to expand sales and availability of LED marine flares that along with a daytime flag meets the legal mandate set forth by the coast guard as a nontoxic/hazardous material alternative. for our boating community. We will partner with the Coast Guard, the Harbor and Englund Marine for education on this issue.
26. To the extent practical, recyclable HHW should be received every day at the Del Norte County Transfer Station. The Authority's HHW programs should be expanded as necessary to receive and process universal wastes using regional resources where such use could increase convenience or reduce program cost. Charges for receiving HHW should be set and/or subsidized as necessary to deter illegal handling and/or disposal of any HHW material or product.
27. The Local Task Force supports the use of extended producer responsibility (EPR), product stewardship, or grants to reduce customer costs and to enhance and expand regional programs for hazardous wastes and other products banned from mixed waste disposal in California. Having adopted Authority Resolution 2007-06, which supports adopting a framework for establishing extended producer responsibility programs for

hazardous materials, ***“...that shifts...waste management costs from local government to the producers of that product, and which will give producers the incentive to redesign products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle.”***

28. For customers with hazardous wastes that cannot be readily collected at the Del Norte County Transfer Station which require immediate disposal, or which exceed household quantities, Authority staff should provide information for safe and legal disposal to the extent possible or refer such customers to companies which could potentially provide such services. The materials that cannot be legally managed within Del Norte County (in December 2019) include: soils that are hazardous due to contamination with petroleum or metals, radioactive materials, solar panels, projectile marine flares, large quantities of treated wood, and friable asbestos. Customers who call for information about proper management of such materials generated in Del Norte County are referred to engineering firms within the region. Customers with explosives, narcotics or other controlled substances are referred to the Sherriff who has taken custody and disposed of small quantities of such materials in the past. Authority staff are working with
29. The Authority should continue holding annual HHW Collection events on a transitional, voluntary basis at least until more effective EPR-based collection programs have been implemented in Del Norte County.

These conclusions and the recommendations described in this letter were reviewed and adopted at the Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force Meeting of 12 December 2019.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Sincerely,

(Original Signed by)
Craig Strong, Chair
Del Norte Solid Waste Task Force