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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.

Walnut Creek City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room
(Use elevator by City Council Chambers)
1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA**

If you would like to address the Board, please complete a speaker's card and submit it to the Secretary of the Board. When addressing the Board, please state your name and address for the record. There is a three-minute limit to present your information. (The Board Chair may direct questions to any member of the audience as appropriate at any time during the meeting.)

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

All items listed in the Consent Calendar may be acted upon in one motion. However, any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar by request by a member of the Board, public, or staff, and considered separately.

- a. Approve Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on January 27, 2026*

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Award of Reuse and Cleanup Services Agreement*
 1. Authorize the Executive Director to conduct final negotiations with Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR) for Reuse and Cleanup services, in accordance with the terms and compensation listed in Attachment A, and to bring a final agreement for Board approval at a subsequent Board meeting; and
 2. Authorize MDRR to order the new vehicles necessary to provide these services.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

These reports are provided for information only. No Board action is required.

- a. Executive Directors Monthly Report*
- b. Future Agenda Items*
- c. Updated Rate Year 12 Attachment C*
- d. Articles of Interest to the Board*

6. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. ADJOURNMENT

**Corresponding Agenda Report or Attachment is included in this Board packet.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADDRESSING THE BOARD ON AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA</u></p> <p>Persons wishing to speak on PUBLIC HEARINGS and OTHER MATTERS listed on the agenda will be heard when the Chair calls for comments from the audience, except on public hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. The Chair may specify the number of minutes each person will be permitted to speak based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the time available. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Board for discussion and action. There is no further comment permitted from the audience unless invited by the Board.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ADDRESSING THE BOARD ON AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA</u></p> <p>In accordance with State law, the Board is prohibited from discussing items not calendared on the agenda. For that reason, members of the public wishing to discuss or present a matter to the Board other than a matter which is on the Agenda are requested to present the matter in writing to the Secretary to the Authority at least one week prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting date. If you are unable to do this, you may make an announcement to the Board of your concern under PUBLIC COMMENTS. Matters brought up which are not on the agenda may be referred to staff for action or calendared on a future agenda.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT</u></p> <p>In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and California Law, it is the policy of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority to offer its public meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate, please contact the Board Secretary of the Authority at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (925) 906-1801.</p>

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE
CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2026**

The special Board Meeting of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority's (CCCSWA's), aka RecycleSmart, Board of Directors convened at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, City of Lafayette, Contra Costa County, State of California, on January 27, 2026. Chair Candace Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Board Members: Candace Andersen, Chair
Ken Carlson
Matt Francois
Lisa Maglio
John McCormick
Renee Morgan, Vice Chair
Janet Riley
Cindy Silva
Steve Woehleke
Stella Wotherspoon

ABSENT: Board Members: Newell Arnerich
Darlene Gee

Staff members present: David Krueger, Executive Director; Janna McKay, Board Secretary and Program Manager; Grace Comas, Senior Accountant; Judith Silver, Senior Program Manager; Ashley Louisiana, Program Manager; Jennifer Faught, Program Manager; and Deborah L. Miller, CCCSWA Counsel.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Program Manager Ashley Louisiana took this opportunity to recognize Jack Dice of Moraga, a 91-year-old Moraga resident who had recently passed away, and who had been the leader of the Muffin People, an all-volunteer group working seven days a week in Lamorinda securing food donations. She stated Jack had been doing that work for the last 20 years.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of the Regular CCCSWA Board Meeting on December 11, 2025

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

MOTION by Board Member Morgan to approve Consent Item a, as submitted. SECOND by Board Member Silva.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Solid Waste Collection Maximum Rates for Rate Year 12
Adopt Resolution 2026-01, Adopting Maximum Rates for Solid Waste Services for Rate Year 12 (March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027).

Executive Director David Krueger described the process that had started in September 2025, to consider rates for Rate Year 12 (RY 12) when the rates had been analyzed, explained, discussed, and individually presented to the member agencies. Preliminary maximum rates were presented to the Board of Directors in December 2025 and were now submitted to the Board for approval of the final rates to apply for the period March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

Mr. Krueger explained that 74 percent of the rate went to Republic Services to cover costs, 3 percent to the joint powers authority for administration and outreach, 5 percent to Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR), with 17 percent for member agency fees. He explained that the member agencies had decided how they would set their rates for RY 12, with the understanding there would be more expenses next year (RY 1) given the new Franchise Agreement and the increase in compensation to contractors. He reported that all agencies were planning to spread out the RY 1 rate increase over a couple of years to avoid one big rate increase next year. He added in all cases rates for all customer types were the same for each member agency. The only exception is miscellaneous rates which had been set at the increase in the collection portion of Republic's expenses, which had been capped at 4 percent this year. He provided a comparison of rates with other agencies in the area that were similar.

Mr. Krueger recommended the adoption of the rates for Rate Year 12, March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027.

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

MOTION by Board Member Silva to adopt Resolution 2026-01, adopting maximum rates for solid waste services for Rate Year 12 (March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027). SECOND by Board Member Riley.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS / BOARD RETREAT

- a. RecycleSmart Trivia – Round One

Janna McKay, Program Manager opened the first round of the Trivia Game and awarded prizes for the most correct responses.

b. CalRecycle SB 1383 Enforcement Reviews
Rob Hilton, HF&H Consultants, Inc.

Rob Hilton, HF&H Consultants, Inc. spoke to what enforcement would look like under SB 1383. He reported that two-thirds of the State of California had gone through a JACE (jurisdiction and agency compliance and evaluation) review, and HF&H had worked for two dozen agencies that had already gone through that review. He explained that RecycleSmart had not yet gotten its notice for a JACE notice and evaluation, which should occur within the next 18 months.

Mr. Hilton reported on his experience with CalRecycle's JACE reviews. CalRecycle would be looking at specific implementation records to prove that all requirements were being met, and that 100 percent of generators (customers) were subscribed for three container services or have an eligible waiver. With respect to processing and recovery, the appropriate facility to authorize the recycling of material would have to be verified, with records. As to contamination, the lid flipping records would have to be provided, CalRecycle had a very defined process that would start with an informal notice followed by a formal notice, at which point the agency would have 10 business days to provide what he described as voluminous records. The records review would then start and there would be a lot of opportunities to correct. Once the evaluation was concluded, a draft compliance report would be presented. He noted HF&H had not seen a clean report and there would be findings and issues identified, which would not necessarily involve a notification of violation or a fine. The final step would be a notice of violation, and he was aware of 60 or so notices of violation that had timelines and compliance plans attached to them.

Mr. Hilton described some of the issues that had been found in their work with other agencies related to 100 percent generator subscriptions given the stop and start of accounts, route reviews, recovered organic waste product procurement records, missing and unclear documentation, and a lack of enforcement. He commented that there could take more than three years to clear a notice of violation compliance.

Mr. Hilton responded to questions related to the 10-day period when all the requested documents would have to be provided and he recommended that documentation be gathered as early as possible; he suggested that JACE site visits should include two RecycleSmart staff and that they could be as long as two 12-hour days or even a week; and he recommended that RecycleSmart request that CalRecycle do all of the member agencies in one review and that site visits cover the entire service area.

Mr. Krueger explained what RecycleSmart staff was doing now to get the data prepared for the upcoming CalRecycle compliance review.

c. New Franchise Agreements: Services, Terms, Contract Management, and Implementation Plans
David Krueger, Executive Director, RecycleSmart

Executive Director Krueger offered a summary of changes expected with the new Franchise Agreements, as detailed in the tables in the staff report dated January 27, 2026.

Mr. Krueger explained that in regards to the initial terms of the new agreements, the Collection Agreement with Republic Services would end in 2037, the disposal contract with Republic would end in 2042, a contract with Republic to take commercial food scraps and turn them into slurry using the THOR machine and ship the material to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) would end in 2042, the transfer station contract with MDRR in Pittsburg would end in 2047, MDRR would still be the recyclable processor to 2042, staff was still negotiating with MDRR on a 10-year Reuse and Clean-up Day contract expected to be considered by the Board next month, composting would be done by Recology until 2037, and a contract with EBMUD for anaerobic digestion to make electricity and soil amendment at their plant in Oakland would end in 2030. There was a change in contractor for transfer services (Republic to MDRR), the composting services (Republic to Recology) and the cleanup portion of Reuse & Cleanup Days (Republic to MDRR). He explained that the contracts had different end dates to ensure competition and a period of bid time, if needed. He described the sites where the different materials would go and why, and noted that any of the contracts could be extended beyond the initial period.

With respect to money flow, Mr. Krueger explained that Republic was still doing the billing and would remit to RecycleSmart a portion of the customer rate revenue each month. RecycleSmart would then remit the member agency fees to the member agency fees and use the rest to pay everyone else for services. Except for Reuse & Cleanup, the contracts would be paid in dollars per ton. MDRR would pay RecycleSmart 75 percent of the sale of recyclables and there will be future Board discussions about what to do with those funds.

Mr. Krueger identified changes in the new contract and compared those changes to the current contract. Recyclables to be collected would be only those that could be recycled such as plastic containers #1, #2 and #5, and no plastic bags, cartons, or aseptic packaging could be recycled. As a result, the recycling collection message would be changed for 2027, with simpler labels.

Mr. Krueger discussed changes in service for single-family homes. Single-family customers will receive up to two blue carts and up to two green carts at no additional charge. Rather than needing to get a second cart when a customer only occasionally has more material than will fit in their cart, he stated the new Franchise Agreement would allow four on-call pick-ups each year for extra yard trimmings and four on-call pick-ups each year for extra recyclables. There could be four extra pick-up of each, up to eight on-call pickups total per year at no additional charge. He stated that the scheduled neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup program would continue, with a few enhancements: A reuse component will be added to the current on-call Cleanup program; the Reuse and Cleanup program will now accept large items (furniture, appliances, mattresses, box springs, tires, carpet, TV's, electronics) up to 200 pounds each, and up to 8 feet long per item, whether or not they were reusable. Cooking oil could also be recycled, there would be new cart labels, smaller (20-gallon) green carts would be available, credits for missed pickups would increase from \$5 to \$10 per day late, there would be a Track my Truck phone app, two document drop-off shredding events per year, and a "Recycle Smarties" contest to win a year of free service for sorting correctly. There would also be more routes, more trucks and more drivers requiring some route changes. This means that some customers will have to change collection days. He also spoke to the process of missed pickup credits and the incentives to Republic in the old contract that would not be in the new agreement. No call-ins will be required to get missed pickup credits in that it would be automatic with the new agreement. Customers will get a missed pickup credit if their containers aren't emptied on the scheduled day.

Mr. Krueger also described the changes to multi-family and commercial, and noted that multi-family complexes will receive one on-call Reuse and Cleanup collection per unit, per year at no additional charge (e.g. a 20-unit complex could get up to 20 pick-ups per year). This would likely help reduce illegal dumping of large items.

Mr. Krueger also identified other changes such as a change to the contract year, a change to the compensation to Republic, the service changes for member agency facilities, and the addition of Canyon as a member agency among many other changes, along with the Implementation Plan for Republic, MDRR and RecycleSmart.

A drone video of MDRR's construction of its new 9,000 square foot building for the dumping of organics was shown. Mr. Krueger mention that three new automated scales, will be installed at MDRR's transfer station to be able to weigh in Republic's trucks from the Authority's service area without long waiting times.

Board Member McCormick was impressed with the work being done and emphasized the need to use all opportunities to inform residents of the changes proposed close to when they occur.

Board Member Francois asked how all the parts of the new Franchise Agreement would be in place by March 2027, and Mr. Krueger stated that detailed implementation plans were being developed to do that and the Board would be updated on the status of those plans at each meeting.

Board Member Silva was pleased that multifamily residents would now be able to have three carts at every trash enclosure but asked what would be done if the sites did not have enough room for three carts, and Mr. Krueger advised the state and the new collection agreement allow waivers for places where there is insufficient room for three carts.

d. Recycle/Organics/Landfill Sorting Exercise: What Goes Where?

Jennifer Faught, Program Manager, presented the Sorting Exercise: What Goes Where? under current guidelines, after which the Board had to identify what would change under the New Franchise Agreement.

e. Emerging Issues, Regulations, and Innovations in Recycling
Rob Hilton, HF&H Consultants, Inc.

Rob Hilton, HF&H Consultants, Inc. spoke about what was coming up next in emerging issues. With respect to the regulation/legislative side, he stated SB 54 was the most ambitious piece of producer responsibility legislation in the U.S. It sought to ensure that by 2032: 1) 100 percent of single-use packaging (made from any material) and single-use plastic foodware sold in California are either recyclable or compostable; 2) 65 percent of single-use plastic packaging and single-use plastic foodware are recycled; and 3) 25% source reduction of single-use plastic packaging and single-use plastic foodware. A general goal of SB 54 is to standardize recycling lists in different communities throughout the State, have more truth in labeling around resin codes and help California customers understand if it said recyclable or compostable, it would likely be recycled or composted. It would also shift the burden of funding the systems from local agencies and ratepayers to the producers of those products. There was also a \$5 billion (\$500 million per year for ten years) to fund cleanup in disadvantaged communities, particularly environmental justice communities.

In the statute and legislative intent, Mr. Hilton stated it was very clear that in adopting the rules the legislators wanted to transfer the cost obligations from ratepayers to producers. The process was in the third round of rulemaking and each draft caused greater concern as to whether that promise would be fulfilled to protect ratepayers and put the burden on those creating the problem. The opportunity was to get some new funding from producers of the products through a PRO (Producer Responsibility Organization) instead of garbage ratepayers to fund recycling programs, and the promise that if establishing new programs and new facilities to recover materials required by the law, the PRO would work with communities or service providers to provide funding with the hope of reducing single-use plastics and reducing associated litter and environmental and human health issues.

Mr. Hilton stated that while a reimbursement plan for agency programs was aggressively being sought, there was no indication that a plan would be provided until the development of the Producer Responsibility Organization plan, which was not expected until June 2026, after the identification of the needs assessment, which had been expected in January but which had not yet been provided. The final regulations were expected to be published in March 2026. He added that starting in January 2027, no producer could sell a covered product in the state unless subscribed to that producer responsibility organization. The money was to start flowing in calendar year 2027, including reimbursement funding from things that may have been done from 2023 to 2026. He noted that at the Governor's request, CalRecycle had withdrawn the regulations in March 2025, and restarted the process, and had until March 2026 to meet the statutory deadline. If that was not done, there would be a one-year delay to restart the process.

Mr. Hilton identified the local agency requirements that all materials on the State recycle/compost list had to be accepted in their local programs, although he noted that the new list included things that had just been indicated should be in the trash. There were waivers and exemptions available and there was no mandatory collection of non-compliant materials that were neither recyclable nor compostable. For the materials not accepted in the curbside program the producer responsibility organization could work with alternative collection services (such as Ridwell, Inc.) to take those materials.

Mr. Hilton stated with respect to zero emission vehicles that there had been a concern at the beginning of the new Franchise Agreement process that the entire garbage fleet would have to convert to electric vehicles, but due to the federal administration change, California pulled its EPA waiver request that would have allowed implementation of the State electric vehicle requirement. There is no longer an electric vehicle obligation on private fleets, although the requirement remains for city fleets. It was, however, anticipated that that decision may be reversed with another administration and the State Air Board had indicated that at some point the requirement might come back.

Mr. Hilton explained that SB 1383 implementation has been largely accomplished. He noted that CalRecycle is considering making some improvement to the current SB 1383 regulations, with the goal of making compliance easier. Over the next year or so he expected CalRecycle would have informal meetings after which a more formal process would be pursued. The hope was that any changes would not require re-negotiations with the service providers.

With respect to extended producer responsibility programs in California, Mr. Hilton referred to a scheme that rather than charging a deposit to consumers there was a desire for the producer to be

responsible for the entire end of life process and cost for materials, with regulations and targets set, and the industry would be responsible for making it work. He identified materials that were already covered as well as those that had been under discussion for some time but had not been adopted.

Mr. Hilton commented that most companies had a technology package on their trucks as an aftermarket to the truck initially purchased, such as cameras, automatic breaking, and the like. He presented videos to show some of the emerging innovations that included several different cameras. He stated the new RecycleSmart automated side loader trucks would have more cameras and would get tablets with route maps for sequencing and service validation among others, with computer access through an over-the-air system using cell signals, and with access to dispatchers and options for dynamic routing, camera integration and improved safety.

Mr. Hilton also described the AI used to improve recovery, safety, efficiency and cost related to automated sorting, smart collection, route and fleet optimization, predictive analysis, contamination monitoring, facility operations and driver safety.

Mr. Hilton noted the importance of behavior change and educating the community and he stated that generally newsletters, postcards and mailers had been used to educate the community on the garbage industry, although that was generally ineffective and the industry was moving toward a new model based on social science, called community based social marketing, to target individual behaviors, and he explained how that model could be pursued through a campaign approach.

f. RecycleSmart Trivia – Round Two

This item was tabled to a future Board meeting.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Waste Characterizations Study – Phase Two

Judith Silver, Senior Program Manager, stated that a second phase of waste characterization study would be done in the spring with five days of residential trash sorting the week of April 27, 2026, and three days of self-haul visual sorting May 6-8, 2026. She invited those interested to attend.

b. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Grant

Ashley Louisiana, Program Manager, stated that given the desire to pursue the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Grant, RecycleSmart had partnered with the California Product Stewardship Council to manage the administrative process to secure the grant. She reported that the \$100,000 grant had been awarded to RecycleSmart. The collection event would be situated within the RecycleSmart service area and staff will reach out to Member Agencies to help secure a location.

c. Truck Sign Art Contest

Ms. Louisiana also identified the RecycleSmart and Republic Services 2026 Truck Sign Art Contest and stated that staff and Republic would pick the signs to place on trucks. The contest

would involve participants from 3rd through 12th grades from schools throughout the service area. She displayed the current truck sign and explained that art submissions were due by March 27, 2026, and a sign from a student and a sign developed by staff would both be displayed on Republic trucks.

d. Monthly Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Krueger reported on the request from the Contra Costa Central Sanitary District to help the community of Rossmoor with door-to-door household hazardous waste collection. In the past, Rossmoor had a program to pick up that material at individual doorsteps in Rossmoor, although that program had since been eliminated. There was a desire to reopen that program.

Rossmoor would need a local government agency to sponsor the program and be the permit holder. Central San had asked Mr. Krueger if RecycleSmart could sponsor the program. Mr. Krueger suggested that sponsoring the program might not be too onerous and he would get more information and see if the Board wanted to pursue sponsoring the Rossmoor program. He stated that the program could be a pilot to determine if the Authority wanted to offer door-to-door household hazardous waste collection agency-wide, potentially to all residents or possibly just for the disabled or elderly who would have difficulty taking their hazardous materials to the existing drop-off facility in Martinez.

As to why the Central Sanitary District did not want to take on the Rossmoor request, Mr. Krueger stated their problem was that their Board did not want to make the service available universally and their charter prevents them from offering it to just some of their customers.

At this point in the retreat, Mr. Krueger asked guests to introduce themselves, and the following do so: Ritchie Granzella, General Manager for Mt. Diablo's Post-Collection site; Kimberly Lam, Republic Services; Clark Colvis, public at large; Ellen Edgar, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development; and Carol Mascali, Supervisorial District II Andersen's Office.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Lafayette Organics Outreach Pilot

Board Member McCormick reported that Lafayette had decided to create a joint mayoral/vice mayoral two-year project in that city under the theme of sustainability and had met with RecycleSmart staff to create something that could make a big impact in Lafayette. What had developed was a project related improving participation in the residential organics program.

Judith Silver, Senior Program Manager, described the pilot project to migrate food scraps into the green cart and suggested that people were confused as to how to participate. A postcard would be prepared and sent to all Lafayette residents to inquire about why more residents don't put food scraps in their green cart. Staff would also conduct some lid flips in Lafayette to get a better understanding of the practices of residents using both the green cart and black cart, and, after outreach and education, conduct another round of lid flips. The information gleaned from that process would be shared with the other member agencies.

A group picture was taken of those at the retreat. The Board thanked RecycleSmart staff for the event.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at approximately 3:50 P.M. to the regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. in the Walnut Creek Offices at Walnut Creek City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janna McKay, Board Secretary
Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority,
County of Contra Costa, State of California



Agenda Report

TO: CCCSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: DAVID KRUEGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2026
SUBJECT: AWARD OF REUSE AND CLEANUP SERVICES AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Authorize the Executive Director to conduct final negotiations with Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR) for Reuse and Cleanup services, in accordance with the terms and compensation listed in Attachment A, and to bring a final agreement for Board approval at a subsequent Board meeting; and
2. Authorize MDRR to order the new vehicles necessary to provide these services.

DISCUSSION

Currently MDRR collects reusable and recyclable materials from single-family homes on pre-scheduled neighborhood Reuse Days. Republic Services (Republic) currently collects non-reusable/recyclable items on pre-scheduled neighborhood Cleanup Days, with each Reuse Day being followed by a Cleanup Day on the next working day. The existing agreements for these services expire on February 28, 2027.

Under the guidance of the Board's Franchise Design Ad Hoc Committee, the Authority elected to procure new Reuse and Cleanup services separately from the other post-collection and collection service agreements. The Authority combined Reuse and Cleanup services under one new agreement with the same contractor in order to facilitate scheduling of the two related services. Pursuant to Board direction, staff has engaged in sole source negotiations with MDRR for Reuse and Cleanup services. Sole source was approved due to MDRR's past success in collecting reusable items and donating those items to non-profit organizations serving those in need.

The differences in the services provided in the current agreements versus the recommended new services are summarized below:

CURRENT	NEW
MDRR collects Reuse Day materials. Republic collects Cleanup Day materials.	MDRR collects both Reuse Day and Cleanup Day materials.
Single-family homes receive 2 scheduled neighborhood Reuse & Cleanup Days per year and 1 on-call Cleanup only pick-up at no additional charge.	Single-family homes receive 2 scheduled neighborhood Reuse & Cleanup Days per year and 1 on-call Reuse & Cleanup pick-up per year at no additional charge. A Reuse component will be added to the existing on-call pick-up for Cleanup.
Multi-family dwellings are not eligible for the Reuse & Cleanup Days program.	Each multi-family complex receives 1 on-call Reuse & Cleanup pick-up per dwelling unit per year at no additional charge. For example, a 20-unit complex may receive up to 20 pick-ups per year at no additional charge.
Large bulky items, and non-reusable/broken furniture, TVs, electronics, appliances, mattresses, and tires are not accepted on Reuse & Cleanup Days.	Large bulky items, and non-reusable/broken furniture, TV's, electronics, and appliances <u>will be</u> accepted on Reuse & Cleanup Days. Each item can be up to 8 feet long and 200 lbs. Bulky items include mattresses, box springs, carpet, and tires. Customers may set out up to 4 bulky items and up to 4 tires per pick-up.
Reuseable items are collected on one day and Cleanup Day items are collected the following day.	For the 2 scheduled single-family neighborhood Reuse & Cleanups days per year, reusable, recyclable, electronic, and bulky items will be collected on one day and all other items on the following workday. For the on-call Reuse & Cleanup Day pick-ups (for both single and multi-family), all items will be collected on the same day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDRR collects household batteries from retail drop-off locations • Republic collects holiday trees • Member agency crews collect illegally dumped materials 	MDRR collects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household batteries from retail drop-off locations • Holiday trees • Illegally dumped materials

On-call means the customer contacts MDRR to schedule an individual pick-up when they need it. For scheduled neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days an entire neighborhood is collected twice per year on the same schedule, and the schedule is determined by the MDRR with Authority approval. The advantage of on-call collection is that the customer receives the pick-up when they need it. The advantage of pre-scheduled neighborhood collection is that there is significantly more participation than with on-call programs, presumably because residents see their neighbors setting out materials and it reminds them to set out their own. The recommended new services provide both neighborhood and on-call collection options to single-family homes, and on-call collection for multi-family dwellings.

In addition to Reuse and Cleanup services, the recommended agreement with MDRR also includes the annual holiday tree collection and collection of illegally dumped materials, as these services require the same types of trucks as Reuse and Cleanup materials. Currently member agency crews collect

illegally dumped materials. Staff recommends that MDRR provide that service in the future, upon request of the Authority or a Member Agency. MDRR would also continue to collect and recycle batteries from the retail battery collection program, which allows residents to drop off household batteries for recycling at seventeen (17) retail stores located throughout the service area.

Contract Term (Years)

The recommended contract term is fifteen (15) years and four (4) months from March 1, 2027 to June 30, 2042, with a one (1) year option for the Authority to extend. The additional four (4) months in the initial term is to align the rate / contract year with the Authority's fiscal year. MDRR had originally requested an initial term of ten (10) years with an option for a five (5) -year extension upon mutual agreement, but recently requested a fifteen-year initial term.

Contracting Entity

MDRR proposes to form a new affiliated company, Mt. Diablo Reuse and Recovery, Inc. (dba MDRR Reuse) to provide Reuse and Cleanup services; MDRR requires additional time to complete the corporate formation process.

Cost Implications

MDRR would provide all of the services discussed above at no direct cost to the customer. The program cost, to be bundled into the customer rates collected by Republic, would be on the order of \$4.5 million to \$4.9 million per year, pending final negotiations.

When staff met with each member agency to discuss anticipated customer rates for Rate Year One of the new agreements, the Reuse and Cleanup Days program was estimated to cost \$4.5 million, and the resulting rate scenarios were based on that assumption. MDRR has since proposed costs closer to \$4.9 million per year. Remaining cost factors to be negotiated include, but are not limited to, the impact of a fifteen (15) year term and fifteen (15) – year vehicle depreciation schedule on annual costs, and inter-company charges between MDRR's new reuse company and their other affiliated companies.

The Authority would pay MDRR in twelve equal monthly installments each year for all services except the collection of illegally dumped materials. The Authority would pay MDRR for collection of illegally dumped materials on a per-pickup basis. MDRR's compensation would be adjusted using a cost-based method for Rate Years Five, Ten, and Fifteen, and using an index-based method for all other years. The compensation adjustment methods would be identical to those used in the Authority's other service agreements.

Because the multi-family program is new and staff and MDRR don't yet know the level of participation, the agreement will contain language that if participation increases more than originally assumed, MDRR could ask the Authority to increase the number of crews and their compensation would increase by a set amount per crew. The original number of crews needed was estimated based in part upon participation in similar multi-family programs in other jurisdictions. Such participation tends to run between 5% - 10%.

Recommendation and Next Steps

Staff would conduct final negotiations with MDRR within the framework of the essential business terms and compensation provided in Attachment A and draft an agreement for approval by the Board.

The Authority and MDRR recently have negotiated and executed two other agreements to provide services; staff expects the new agreement with MDRR for Reuse and Cleanup services will incorporate the recommended business terms for these specific services but otherwise be substantially similar to those other agreements. The drafting of the agreement is not yet complete. Thus, staff recommends the Board authorize the Executive Director to complete the negotiations and draft a Reuse and Cleanup services agreement materially consistent with the recommended business terms discussed here and the Authority's other recent agreements with MDRR.

As staff has previously discussed with the Board, typically at least a 12-month lead time is required to procure new collection vehicles. MDRR needs to procure eight new collection vehicles to provide the Reuse and Cleanup services contemplated here. Accordingly, to position MDRR to provide the services beginning in March 2027, MDRR requests the Board's authorization to procure the trucks before the final form of Reuse and Cleanup Agreement is executed. Staff recommend the Board authorize that purchase based on the understanding that MDRR intends to execute a final Reuse and Cleanup services agreement materially consistent with the recommended business terms discussed here and the Authority's other recent agreements with MDRR, and in the best interest of the Authority.

ATTACHMENT

A. Recommended Reuse and Cleanup Agreement Terms

TERM SHEET FOR REUSE AND CLEANUP SERVICES

Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days

- Each Single-Family Dwelling shall receive two pre-scheduled Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days Collection events per calendar year.
- Each Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days Collection event is a two-day event: Reuse Day followed by Cleanup Day. Therefore, each Single-Family Dwelling will receive a total of two Neighborhood Reuse Days and two Neighborhood Cleanup Days per year at no charge.
- The Contractor is not required to perform Neighborhood Reuse Day or Cleanup Day Collection on the same day of the week that a neighborhood receives regular weekly Recyclable Materials, Organics, and Solid Waste Collection from the Franchised Collector.
- The Contractor is not required to provide Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Day services during the month of January each year, in order to provide the necessary labor and equipment to Collect Holiday Trees in January.
- Each year the Contractor shall propose for Authority approval the pre-scheduled Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days Collection event dates for each neighborhood for the upcoming year.
- The Authority shall notify Single-Family Dwellings (through a mailer or other method) of their pre-scheduled Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days at least two weeks before their scheduled Collection event.
- The Contractor shall maintain an on-line tool for Single-Family Customers to look up the dates of their Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days, with a link from the Authority's website.

On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collection

- Upon Customer request, the Contractor shall provide each Single-Family Dwelling with one On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collection per calendar year at no charge to the Customer.
 - This one On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collection per calendar year is in addition to the two Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days Collection events per calendar year that Contractor provides to Single-Family Dwellings.
- Upon Customer (Occupant, Owner, or property manager) request, the Contractor shall provide each Multi-Family Dwelling complex with one On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collection per Dwelling Unit per calendar year at no charge to the Customer.
 - The Contractor is not required to track Multi-Family Collections by individual Dwelling Unit. For example, a 20-unit complex may receive up to 20 Collections per calendar year at no charge, regardless of which specific Dwelling Unit(s) request a Collection.
- For On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collections, the Contractor shall Collect all Allowable Materials, both Reuse Day materials and Cleanup Day materials, on the same day.

- This same day Collection of Reuse Day and Cleanup Day materials counts as one (1) no-charge Collection even if the Contractor must send multiple Vehicles (box truck, stake-bed, rear loader) to Collect all Allowable Materials.
- Contractor shall provide On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collections within five (5) Working Days of the Customer's request, unless the Customer requests a later date.
- The Contractor is not required to perform On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collections on the same day of the week that a Customer receives regular Recyclable Materials, Organics, and Solid Waste Collection from the Franchised Collector.
- The Contractor is not required to provide On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collection services during the month of January each year, in order to provide the necessary labor and equipment to Collect Holiday Trees in January.
 - However, the Contractor shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate Customer requests for On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collections during January in cases where the Customer cannot wait for a later date (e.g. is moving to a new residence).

Other Services

- The Contractor shall provide student move-out Reuse and Cleanup Collection services to St. Mary's College and Ascot Dr. in Moraga once per year.
- The Contractor shall provide all Rossmoor residences (Single-Family and Multi-Family) with two scheduled two-day neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days Collection events per year.
 - The Contractor is not allowed to provide individual On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collections in Rossmoor, at the request of community management.
- The Contractor shall Collect and Reuse books and furniture from schools and libraries upon Customer request.

Acceptable Materials

- For both Neighborhood Reuse and Cleanup Days and On-Call Reuse and Cleanup Collections, the Contractor shall Collect all of the materials accepted in the current Reuse and Cleanup Days program, plus the following new materials, regardless if the items can be Reused:
 - Bulky Items
 - Up to 8' in length and 200 lbs. each
 - Up to four individual Bulky Items per Set Out
 - Bulky Items include:
 - Appliances
 - Furniture
 - Carpet and carpet pads
 - Mattresses and box springs
 - Electronics
 - Tires
 - Up to 35 inches in diameter each
 - Removed from rims
 - Up to four tires per Set Out

Diversion of Reusable Items

- The Contractor shall maximize the Reuse of Collected materials.
- The Contractor is not required to repair broken items.
- The Contractor shall donate, and not sell, Reusable Items to recipients.

Diversion, Recycling, Transfer, and Disposal of Non-Reusable Items

- The Contractor shall maximize Recycling and Diversion of those Collected items that cannot be Reused, including but not limited to electronics, household batteries, appliances, scrap metal, cardboard, tires, mattresses, box springs, carpet, and carpet pads.
- Contractor shall Transfer, Transport, and Dispose of all Collected materials that cannot be Reused or Recycled.
- The Recycling, Transfer, Transport and Disposal of all materials Collected by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be at the Contractor's sole expense, and all related costs are included in the Contractor's Compensation listed below.

Holiday Tree Collection

- The Contractor shall provide Holiday Tree Collection services to all Single-Family and Multi-Family Dwellings during the month of January each year on a schedule proposed by the Contractor and approved by the Authority.
- Customers must remove ornaments, tinsel, decorations, lights, and stands from Holiday trees so that they can be Diverted.
- Contractor shall Divert Holiday Trees through either Composting, as biomass fuel, as mulch, or via another method consistent with AB 939 and SB 1383 and approved in advance by the Authority.

The Contractor may not cause Collected Holiday Trees to be utilized as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) or for any other use at a landfill.

Collection of Illegally Dumped Materials

- Upon request of the Authority, Contra Costa County (County) or Member Agency Staff, the Contractor shall Collect Illegally Dumped Materials (except for hazardous Unpermitted Waste and/or Excluded Waste) from public property located within the Authority's Service Area.
- The Authority, the County, and/or Member Agency Staff may contact the Contractor via a dedicated e-mail address each Monday and Thursday regarding the location(s) of any new Illegally Dumped Materials that have been identified. Contractor shall Collect the Illegally Dumped Materials on the next Working Day (Tuesday or Friday).
- The Contractor shall maximize Reuse and Diversion of Illegally Dumped Materials, to the extent feasible.

Retail Battery Collection Program Services

- The Contractor shall continue to provide a battery collection program for residents to drop off household batteries at seventeen (17) retail stores throughout the Authority's Service Area.
- Collection of batteries will occur on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly schedule based upon the needs of the individual locations.
- Provide, at each retail site, two (2) covered battery collection containers with appropriate signage approved by the Authority.
- Proper Collection, sorting and Recycling of the collected batteries.
- Sort, tape and place collected batteries into containers, as required by law, for shipment to an approved battery recycling company.
- Regularly audit the retail battery collection locations to ensure that both battery containers and signage are being properly utilized.
- The Contractor may change the seventeen (17) specific retail stores with prior approval from the Authority.
- The Contractor may not decrease the total number of retail stores without prior Authority approval.

Compensation

- The Contractor shall provide all services at no direct charge to the Customer.
- The Contractor's initial compensation for all services will be on the order of \$4.5 million to \$4.9 million per year.
- The Authority shall compensate the Contractor in twelve monthly installments each year for all services excluding Collection of Illegally Dumped Materials.
- The Authority shall compensate the Contractor on a per pick-up basis for requested Collections of Illegally Dumped Materials.
- Cost-based compensation adjustments in Rate Years 5, 10, and 15.
- Index-based compensation in all other years.
- Mechanism to increase routes and compensation proportionally if participation increases.

Contract Term

- Initial term of 15 years and 4 months.
- One (1) year extension at the Authority's sole option.



Agenda Report

TO: CCCSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: DAVID KRUEGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2026
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

SUMMARY

Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (Authority) staff perform high-level programmatic and administrative tasks each month to provide outreach and education to residents, businesses, and schools to increase diversion and instill waste prevention practices. Staff manage the franchise agreements and customer service in addition to monitoring monthly reporting by our service providers. Staff also interact with Member Agency staff, community groups, and regional partners on a variety of topics including SB 1383, legislation, and industry best practices.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. This report is provided for information only. No Board action is required.

DISCUSSION

Notable Events:

As described in the Third Amendment to the Republic franchise agreement, the service quality metric is 2,700 or fewer missed container pickups from residential subscribers on incomplete routes in a four-week period. Republic is entitled to a special rate increase in RY 12 that is based on the number of four-week periods in which they met the service quality metric. Because they met the service quality metric in 11 of the 12 four-week periods, they will receive a special rate increase of \$2,138,515.02 in RY 12 (March 2026 – February 2027). The Third Amendment also provides that \$112,553.42 of the RY12 special rate increase may be “clawed back” for each four-week period that Republic does not meet the metric between September 15, 2025, and February 26, 2027. Therefore, we are continuing to track performance through the end of the franchise.

Period	Four-Week Period Beginning	Number of Missed Residential Collections	Metric Met (2,700 or fewer)
1	September 15, 2025	2268	Yes
2	October 13, 2025	1372	Yes
3	November 10, 2025	2112	Yes
4	December 8, 2025	2588	Yes
5	January 5, 2026	1695	Yes
6	February 2, 2026		

Completed and Ongoing Activities:

- The January and February monthly **Member Agency liaison meetings** focused on recycled content paper procurement records tracking, Repair Café dates and locations, spring compost giveaway promotion, student art on trucks contest promotion, and announcement of award of a CalRecycle household hazardous waste grant.

Member Agency Liaisons			
Name & Member Agency	Title	Email	Phone (925)
Ellen Edgar, County	Planner	Ellen.edgar@dcd.cccounty.us	655-2767
Cat Bravo, Danville	Management Analyst	cbravo@danville.ca.gov	314-3377
Nichole Zittel, Lafayette	Associate Planner	nzittel@ci.lafayette.ca.us	299-3211
Darin Hughes, Orinda	Assistant Planner	dhughes@cityoforinda.org	253-4269
Cassius Carandang, Moraga	Assistant Planner	ccarandang@moraga.ca.us	888-7042
Candice Rankin Mumby, Walnut Creek	Sustainability Manager	rankinmumby@walnut-creek.org	943-5899 x2304

- The Authority hosted the annual **Member Agency Construction & Demolition (C&D) update meeting on February 24** with staff from each jurisdiction and a representative from Green Halo, C&D project diversion tracking software. Discussion topics 2025 statistics related to tons of C&D recycled and reused, which facilities received the most C&D, and new features of the Green Halo software. The County now uses Green Halo to track C&D, staff from the Department of Conservation and Development joined the meeting.
- Authority staff and Republic Services have been meeting with the **Sustainable Rossmoor “Trash Talk” Committee** monthly to share information and develop new outreach materials for distribution in Rossmoor, such as move in/out guides, enclosure posters, and sorting information for caretakers.

- The **annual Compost Giveaway events** in partnership with Republic Services are scheduled for **April 25** in Lafayette (Lamorinda communities) and **May 2** in Danville (Danville/County/Walnut Creek communities). Free online registration will be available on the RecycleSmart website in March, and staff will provide promotional materials to the Member Agencies for sharing.
- The **free Compost Hub** located at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek is being heavily used by the community! Republic Services is delivering compost twice monthly in preparation for spring. Staff receives a lot of resident calls and compliments on the program. For information about the free Compost Hub visit www.recyclesmart.org/freecompost.
- Young artists in the RecycleSmart service area can help create the highly visible educational truck signs on the Republic Services recycle, compost, and garbage trucks! Students in 3rd – 12th grade are invited to participate in the **Five R's Truck Sign Art Contest** that highlights any or all the Five R's – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot – to raise awareness and encourage everyone to prevent and reduce waste. Artwork submissions are due March 27, 2026. For submission guidelines visit: www.recyclesmart.org/truck-sign-art-contest.



Staff participated in or attended the following meetings in January & February 2026

- Lafayette Environmental Task Force meeting, January 8
- BayROC (Bay Area Recycling Outreach Coalition) meeting, January 16
- AB 939 Quarterly Managers meeting, January 20
- Hello Lafayette event, February 3
- United States Compost Council National Conference, Sacramento, February 3-4
- Orinda Community meeting, February 10
- Moraga Community meeting, February 20
- California Organic Recycling Council Member Meeting, February 26
- Site visit at Siesta Valley in Orinda, February 26

Upcoming Events & Activities

Women's Conference

For the 3rd year, staff from RecycleSmart, Republic Services and Walnut Creek will assist with the lunch service at the **March 3** Women's Conference at the Leshner Center. We help conference patrons properly discard box lunch packaging and any uneaten food into the green and blue carts.

Tour of Halo Glass Recycling Facility

Authority Staff will tour the Halo Glass Recycling Facility in Modesto on **March 4**. Halo Glass Recycling operates a state-of-the-art glass processing facility. The facility converts glass sourced from buy-back centers and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) including the Mt Diablo Resource Recovery MRF that handles the Authority's recyclables, into color sorted, furnace ready "cullet" for the glass industry.

CalRecycle Annual Visit

Our CalRecycle Local Assistance and Market Development (LAMD) representative Kathleen Strickley will attend our **March 12** Member Agency Liaison Meeting to conduct her annual review of required programs. On **March 24**, staff from the Authority and Republic Services will host Kathleen on a tour of the service area so she can observe various commercial, multifamily and residential programs "in action." This annual LAMD visit is different from the JACE compliance reviews that were discussed at the January Board retreat.



Future Agenda Items

TYPE	BOARD MEETING: 03/26/2026
C	Approve 02/26/2026 Minutes
C	Mid-Year Budget for 2025-26
A	Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2026-27
A	Resolution Recognizing Candace Andersen as Chair for 2025-26
I	Executive Director's Monthly Report
P	RecycleSmart Trivia Game
FYI	March 11 - Personnel Committee Meeting
FYI	March 31 - Legislative Committee Meeting

TYPE	BOARD MEETING: 04/23/2026
C	Approve 03/26/2026 Minutes
A	2026 Legislation Bills and Recommendations
I	Executive Director's Monthly Report
FYI	April 1 - Finance & Administration Committee Meeting

TYPE	BOARD MEETING: 05/28/2026
C	Approve 04/23/2026 Minutes
A	Operations and Reuse Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2026-27
I	Executive Director's Monthly Report
P	Waste Reduction Student Scholarships

TYPE

- C – Consent Item
- A – Action Item
- I – Information Item
- P – Presentation

RY12 Projected End-of-Year Reserves

No.	Cost	Danville	Lafayette	Moraga	Orinda	Walnut Creek	County	Total
1	Proposed Rate Adjustment	9.00%	10.00%	7.00%	6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	
2	6/30/25 Ending Balances	\$ 3,122,491	\$ 2,444,261	\$ 1,202,536	\$ 1,199,772	\$ 5,439,620	\$ 2,697,919	\$ 16,106,599
5	RY11 Other Expenditures	\$ -	\$ (37,956)	\$ (197,000)	\$ -	\$ (1,250,000)	\$ -	\$ (1,484,956)
3	RY11 Year End Distribution of Reserves	\$ 375,587	\$ 208,792	\$ 117,196	\$ 149,286	\$ 621,599	\$ 390,349	\$ 1,862,810
4	RY11 Due To (Due From) Reserves	\$ (34,889)	\$ 107,455	\$ 46,335	\$ 291,234	\$ 355,442	\$ 165,269	\$ 930,846
6	RY12 Other Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	RY12 Year End Distribution of Reserves	\$ 746,528	\$ 415,383	\$ 229,625	\$ 299,658	\$ 1,242,031	\$ 781,958	\$ 3,715,182
8	RY12 Due To (Due From) Reserves*	\$ 965,294	\$ 957,666	\$ 349,331	\$ 614,122	\$ 1,541,189	\$ 849,032	\$ 5,276,634
9	Projected Available Reserves for RY 12 Rates	\$ 5,175,012	\$ 4,095,600	\$ 1,748,023	\$ 2,554,072	\$ 7,949,882	\$ 4,884,526	\$ 26,407,115

* RY 12 rates were set to include individual Member Agencies' use of reserves or contribution to reserves.

Correction from January Board meeting report was \$5,209,560 to corrected amount \$5,276,634.

STAINLESS STEEL TRAYS UNVEILED

SUSTAINABILITY SHINES AT BURTON VALLEY ELEMENTARY

By Michelle Foxworthy, Food & Nutrition Services Coordinator, Lafayette School District

Burton Valley Elementary in Lafayette, CA has taken another exciting step toward a more environmentally conscious food service program. Beginning November 2025, students are now enjoying their lunches on stainless steel serving trays — a change that supports both sustainability and a restaurant-style dining experience.

This initiative was made possible through generous grants from RecycleSmart, the California Center for Environmental Health, and Plastic Free Restaurants. These partnerships have allowed the Food and Nutrition Services team to replace paper boats and melamine baskets with durable, reusable stainless steel ones, reducing landfill waste, conserving natural resources and limiting microplastic contamination.

Each day, the Burton Valley kitchen team serves approximately 400 students at lunch. Thanks to this project, they'll be washing and sanitizing trays daily in the school's newly equipped kitchen — made possible by a California Department of Education Dishwasher Grant.

This effort marks an important milestone in the Lafayette School District's ongoing commitment to sustainability and responsible food service practices. The Food and Nutrition Services team looks forward to expanding similar initiatives across other school sites in the future.

"We're proud of this meaningful change," said Michelle Foxworthy, Food and Nutrition Services Coordinator. "It's a reflection of our community's dedication to nourishing students while caring for our planet."





Trash Talk members visit Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, Rossmoor's recycling facility in Pittsburg in May.



Trash Talk member Ann McCullough at the New Residents' Fair in October

Making a dent in mountains of garbage

By **Jan Stone**
and **Kathleen Epperson**
Club correspondents

A 2025 goal for Sustainable Rossmoor's Trash Talk committee was to better understand what happens to Rossmoor's recycling and composting. Trash Talk members toured the Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery facility in Pittsburg, where Rossmoor's recycling is sorted. This was followed by a tour of the Forward Landfill facility in Manteca, where food waste is composted. Both locations provided a wealth of information, as well as stunning visuals of the mountains of waste the Rossmoor community generates on a daily basis.

The Trash Talk committee is using information gleaned from these visits, along with ongoing collaborations with RecycleSmart and Republic Services, to update the waste guidelines in the Rossmoor phone book, posters in trash enclosures, Rossmoor News' Trash Tips and on the Trash Talk website, www.sustainablerossmoor.org/trashtalk

California is a leader in establishing policies to improve the environment by encouraging personal practices such as sorting waste for proper disposal and reducing single-use plastic. As of 2022, to reduce methane gas, California residents are required to separate organic material – primarily food waste – from landfill waste. According to the Cal-Recycle website, methane gas contributes to “California's hotter summers, more frequent droughts and more wildfires.”

Not all Rossmoor residents compost their organic waste, though the majority have access to compost bins in mutual trash enclosures. Looking for an opportunity to educate residents about the importance of this practice, the Trash Talk committee expanded its compost education efforts by encouraging compost collection at club events such as the annual Tomato Festival attended by 400 diners. Committee members also talked with Republic Services and RWC management about collecting compost at large events and Trust Facilities. This ongoing conversation

is a goal for 2026 because consistent compost practices, both at home and at Rossmoor gatherings, reinforce good compost habits and diverts more organics from the landfill.

Most Rossmoor residents want to do the right thing. This was evidenced by comments made at the Sustainable Rossmoor planning meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2. Many mentioned challenges related to uneducated residents, their caregivers, family members house cleaners and contractors leaving inappropriate items in trash enclosures and contaminating the recycling and organics bins.

By providing free pickup of recyclables and organics, Republic Services is encouraging residents to properly separate trash. This only works if the recycle and organics containers are not contaminated by items that belong in a landfill. Contaminated recycling goes to landfill. This is not good for the environment and can increase coupon costs. Contaminated organics, such as compost containing plastic, cannot be sold to organic farmers, a revenue stream for offsetting

hauling costs.

In response to these challenges, the Trash Talk committee is updating materials to address move-in/move-out infractions, ensuring information gets into the hands of new residents (including renters) quickly and hosting quarterly meetings to address these issues. The committee also participates in the New Residents' Fair giving out recycle totes and kitchen compost pails available free to all residents from the RPM office (formerly MOD).

To avoid creating mountains of trash, the Trash Talk committee urges all Rossmoor residents to check the Rossmoor phone book before depositing items in trash enclosure bins. The guidelines cover not only sorting recycling, compost and landfill, but also how to dispose of hazardous waste and unwanted usable items, as well as electronic and large items. According to David Krueger, RecycleSmart's executive director, “Rossmoor does an excellent job of recycling and composting.” The Trash Talk committee's goal is to make it even better.