

ANNUAL REPORT

2015/16



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Innovative Environmental Solutions



ANNUAL REPORT

Solid Waste Management Services

Fiscal Year 2015/16

(July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016)

This Annual Report describes the services, including performance measurements, provided by the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RR&WMD) to the communities of Buellton, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Solvang and the unincorporated areas during fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). Some of the cities, such as Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang receive an array of services through different programs and facilities, while other communities, such as Lompoc and Santa Maria, receive more limited services, since they provide many solid waste management programs on their own.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The RR&WMD provides a wide variety of community programs to the region overall, as well as services specific to the unincorporated areas of the County. The Division is paid for these services through service contracts with the different cities and as part of the waste collection bills paid by residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas.

Waste Collection

The County administers two waste collection permitting systems in the unincorporated areas. It maintains exclusive franchise agreements with private hauling companies to provide the regular collection of waste, commingled recyclables, and green waste from residents and businesses. For the collection of bulky, construction related, or large quantities of organic refuse, the County has designed a collection system by issuing permits to a limited number of businesses (referred to as unscheduled haulers) who are allowed to collect this irregularly generated material with roll-off containers.

REGULAR COLLECTION OF TRASH, RECYCLABLES AND GREEN WASTE

RR&WMD staff is responsible for managing exclusive franchise agreements for the collection of solid waste materials from residents and businesses in the County unincorporated areas. Management responsibilities include identification of services to be provided, negotiation of service agreements, development of rates, mediation of customer complaints/service issues, and performance tracking. The following highlights some accomplishments of the franchised waste haulers, MarBorg Industries in the South Coast and Waste Management in the North County for key performance areas for FY 2015/16:

- **Sharps Collection Containers:** 92 customers in the North County and 148 customers on the South Coast requested and received postage paid sharps collection containers.
- **Household Batteries:** Residents are encouraged to put their unusable batteries in a clear closed bag and to place the bag on top of their curbside recycling container on collection day. A total of 5,750 pounds of batteries were collected curbside in the North County and 5,810 pounds of batteries were collected curbside on the South Coast.
- **Bulky Items:** Residents are allowed to request twice each year the curbside collection of bulky items that cannot fit into their trash container. A total of 1,287 pounds of bulky items were collected curbside in the North County and 3,182 pounds of bulky material were collected curbside on the South Coast.
- **CNG Vehicles:** The County requires its franchised waste haulers to operate clean burning condensed natural gas (CNG) trucks rather than diesel fueled vehicles. The nearly 40 trucks needed to service the unincorporated areas save 400 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. This translates into an annual environmental benefit



equivalent to removing 84 vehicles from the road each year. These trucks are also less expensive to fuel, resulting in savings that help moderate solid waste collection rates.

- **Recovery of Waste Material:** Each service provider is required to recover or divert from landfilling a specific percentage of material collected in each service area. These requirements are part of the County’s overall program for meeting the state’s goal of diverting 75 percent of the waste generated from landfills. The diversion requirements vary in different zones based on the characteristics of the waste collected. The following provides the overall recovery rates (comparing tons of recyclables and green waste to trash) in the two broader areas of the County for FY 2015/16.

AREA SERVED	TRASH	RECYCLING	GREEN WASTE	RECOVERY RATE
North County	59%	21%	20%	41%
South Coast	47%	20%	33%	53%
Countywide	52%	21%	27%	48%

UNSCHEDULED SOLID WASTE HANDLING SERVICES

The RR&WMD manages the Unscheduled Solid Waste Handling Services Permit Program. Under this program, the Division issues and manages permits granted to local businesses that rent roll-off bins in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. The program has the following components:

- A roll-off business must have a permit to operate in the unincorporated area; the RR&WMD issues five-year permits;
- Permit holders are:
 - Limited to providing up to 20 unscheduled pickups per calendar year from a customer, unless they are collecting waste that is exempt from this regulation; and
 - Required to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all waste they collect through the rental of roll-off containers on an annual basis.
- RR&WMD staff conducts an annual audit to ensure that the unscheduled haulers are recycling the majority of the material that they collect.

Recycling and Organics Programs

The RR&WMD provides resources to the community to ensure that the maximum amount of recyclables and organics are diverted from being disposed in a landfill. These programs are targeted to residents, businesses, schools, and construction projects. Resources include a variety of educational materials, indoor and outdoor recycling and composting containers, and responses to a variety of public inquiries regarding the reuse, recycling, and composting of materials.

MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

In 2003, the County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance banning the disposal of recyclables by commercial customers. RR&WMD staff worked with local chambers of commerce, property management companies, and the franchised service providers to develop a convenient collection program to service the commercial sector. Staff from the franchised service providers and the RR&WMD worked closely with each commercial customer in an effort to modify trash and recycling service to appropriate levels to ensure compliance with the ordinance. In many instances, these efforts led to cost savings for the customer. Each year, RR&WMD staff reviews customer lists and service levels and meets with new businesses to ensure compliance with the ordinance. Staff provides indoor recycling collection containers, as well as stickers, posters, and other outreach materials to facilitate the implementation of a recycling collection program at a business.

COUNTY BUILDING RECYCLING

Additionally, recycling collection is provided at all County facilities, and the RR&WMD provides free indoor recycling collection containers upon request. During FY 2015/16, **48 such containers were provided to five County departments.**



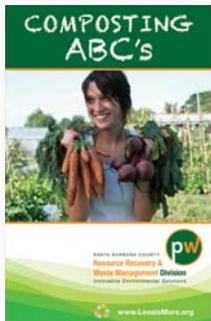
SCHOOL RECYCLING

The RR&WMD provides two types of school recycling services. The first service pertains to starting and maintaining recycling programs at schools located in the unincorporated areas and the cities of Goleta and Solvang. The Division provides indoor and outdoor recycling containers, educational materials such as stickers and posters, and makes presentations to school classes and assemblies. In FY 2015/16, 182 recycling containers were delivered to eight different schools. The second type of school recycling service relates to education, and a full description is provided under **Public Information and Education.**

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

In 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted California's Green Building Code (aka CalGreen) that requires that a minimum of 50 percent of all construction and demolition debris to be recycled. All development projects in the County must include a solid waste management plan

(SWMP) to comply with this recycling requirement. RR&WMD works with the Planning & Development Department in reviewing these SWMPs. In addition, companies that haul construction waste material are required to have a permit to operate in the County unincorporated areas and must divert from landfilling at least 50 percent of the material that they collect from construction sites, if feasible. Staff works regularly with the County Planning & Development Department to maintain these two construction debris management programs, as well as the statewide mandatory CalGreen Standards.



BACKYARD COMPOSTING

The County purchases composting bins that are made available to the public year-round at a reduced cost of \$40 versus over \$80 at retail stores. The RR&WMD sold **235 discounted composting bins to South Coast residents and 25 to North County residents** in FY 2015/16.

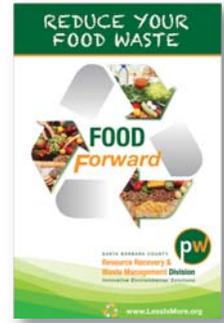
To educate residents regarding backyard composting, the County:

- Includes extensive information on its waste reduction/reuse/recycling website, **LessIsMore.org**,
- Distributes a composting booklet, entitled **Composting ABC's**, and
- Holds educational workshops. During the spring and summer of 2016:
 - Six public workshops on composting were held (four on the South Coast and two in the North County) with a total of 116 residents attending, and
 - A special workshop on vermicomposting was held in the North County with 20 residents attending.
- Places print ads and online ads;
- Conducts outreach through e-mails;
- Distributes handouts (e.g. flyers, **Recycling Resource Guide for Santa Barbara County**) at events (e.g. Earth Day events and Farmers' Markets);
- Places notices in newsletters of franchise waste haulers;
- In addition, approximately 1,885 members of the public received information on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling by visiting the RR&WMD's booth at the South Coast Earth Day (400), participating on tours of the Tajiguas Landfill (1,000) and South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station (110), and listening to presentations (375 students) from RR&WMD staff at various schools.



FOOD FORWARD FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

In FY 2014/15, the RR&WMD launched the Food Forward program to encourage and educate households and businesses to prevent and reduce the generation of food waste and to recycle or reuse the food scraps that they do generate. As part of this effort, the Division published in hard copy and made available online at LessIsMore.org a booklet entitled **Food Forward**, which contains the following components:



- Identifies simple ways households can reduce their food waste;
- Explains food expiration phrases used on products to discourage the premature disposal of food;
- Provides the general criteria and incentives for donating prepared and unprepared food;
- Lists places in Santa Barbara County that accept donations of prepared and/or unprepared food;
- References organizations in Santa Barbara County that accept food scraps to feed animals;
- Provides the criteria for participating in a pilot collection program for commercial food scraps; and
- Encourages the continued practice of backyard composting.



During FY 2015/16, the RR&WMD continued its efforts by:

- Continuing to implement a commercial food scraps collection program in the South Coast unincorporated areas and the city of Goleta; and
- Partnering with the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County (Foodbank) by participating in a Healthy School Pantry event to distribute educational materials to participants about the Food Forward and Backyard Composting programs.





Hazardous Waste Collection

More and more materials are prohibited from being disposed in a landfill due to their toxicity, corrosiveness, and reactivity. Some materials are highly toxic and are generated on a more limited basis, while other materials such as batteries, are widely generated by the community. The RR&WMD provides numerous opportunities for the public to manage their hazardous waste in an appropriate manner.

COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER

The RR&WMD leases the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center (CHWCC) from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) for the collection of hazardous waste from households and businesses. Countywide participation continues to be strong. In FY 2015/16, **8,329 participants (7,978 residents and 351 businesses) disposed of a total of 598,067 pounds of hazardous waste at the CHWCC.** The table below shows the breakdown of residential participation:

JURISDICTION / UNINCORPORATED AREAS AND OTHER COMMUNITIES	NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL PARTICIPANTS	PERCENTAGE
Goleta	2,074	26%
Santa Barbara	2,792	35%
South Coast Unincorporated Areas/ Solvang/Other Communities	3,112	39%
TOTALS	7,978	100%

COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Due to the remoteness of some areas of the County, the RR&WMD holds hazardous waste collection events to ensure that all parts of the community have easy access to appropriate methods of disposing of hazardous waste. RR&WMD held two hazardous waste collection events at the **Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station with 453 residents and businesses participating and collected a total of 43,369 pounds of hazardous waste.** The Division also held one collection event in **New Cuyama with 25 residents and businesses participating and collected 3,300 pounds of hazardous materials.**

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Since 2005, the County has been an authorized collector of Covered Electronic Devices under the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle's) statewide electronics recycling program. Under this program, the County collects both covered and non-covered electronic devices at its transfer stations and community collection events and contracts with an approved recycler to safely dismantle the devices and recycle the components. The table below shows a breakdown of the total pounds of electronics collected for recycling during FY 2015/16:



FACILITY / COLLECTION EVENT	POUNDS OF ELECTRONICS COLLECTED
South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station	478,763
Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station	76,619
Santa Ynez Valley Collection Events	17,415
Cuyama Valley Collection Event	1,230
TOTAL	574,027

SHARPS COLLECTION

RR&WMD partners with the County Public Health Department (PHD) to operate a used sharps (needles) collection program for the region. RR&WMD purchases sharps containers that are distributed, free of charge, at the PHD's five clinics. Community members can pick up a free container and return it when full to one of the clinics. Participation in the sharps collection program has remained steady. Countywide, **a total of 2,612 sharps containers were distributed to the public and 4,391 pounds of sharps were collected at County clinics** during FY 2015/16. Also, sharps disposal flyers/brochures continued to be distributed at medical facilities, pharmacies, solid waste transfer stations, hazardous waste collection facilities, and at public events.

In addition, since July 2011, under its franchise collection agreements, the waste haulers serving the unincorporated areas of the county have provided postage paid sharps collection containers to their customers upon request. In FY 2015/16, **240 customers requested sharps containers** from the franchised service providers (92 in North County and 148 in South County).



PHARMACEUTICALS COLLECTION (OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET)

In FY 2009/10, in coordination with the County Sheriff's Department, the County Public Works Department launched a countywide pharmaceutical collection program called Operation Medicine Cabinet. Collection containers were installed at all nine Sheriff's substations to enable residents to drop off pharmaceuticals of any kind. In addition, educational materials have been developed to make the public aware of the program. During FY 2015/16, **8,454 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected** through this program.



On June 21, 2016, the County Board of Supervisors passed an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Ordinance for the Collection and Disposal of Unwanted Drugs. The ordinance requires manufacturers that sell their products within the County to design, fund, and operate a program to safely collect and dispose of their unwanted products. It encompasses the entire County and includes both prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Manufacturers must either independently or as part of a stewardship group submit a plan to the County by June 21, 2017. Within three months of the plan's approval, the independent manufacturers and/or the stewardship group(s) must begin operating their program, which will include collection receptacles at pharmacies, free mail-back envelopes, and one-day collection events.

USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION

The County serves as the regional coordinator for a used motor oil collection program funded by CalRecycle for the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Solvang, and the County unincorporated areas. In addition to the area's hazardous waste collection facilities, this program supports nine certified used oil collection centers that accept motor oil and oil filters from the public for proper recycling. **A total of 13,293 gallons of used motor oil and 3,857 used motor oil filters were collected** from these centers in FY 2015/16. Motor oil and oil filter collection containers were also purchased and distributed under this program. RR&WMD also conducted a countywide media campaign in spring 2016 to promote the recycling of used motor oil and to raise the public's awareness regarding the availability of these collection centers.

RR&WMD also continued to implement a program targeting those members of the community who are newer to the United States and that surveys have indicated are the most likely to change their own motor oil rather than use an automotive service. Through this program, Santa Barbara City College and Allan Hancock Community College train teachers of English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) students on a used motor oil curriculum, and the teachers then convey this information to their students. A total of **1,437 students received instruction in this curriculum** and benefited from learning how to recycle used motor oil in our county.



Public Information and Education

The Division uses a variety of means to communicate with the public, including outreach to the Spanish speaking community, regarding the different solid waste management programs and services that are available. The following means were used to provide information to the public during FY 2015/16:

LESSISMORE.ORG

LessIsMore.org is the region's primary online source for information on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling in the County. The Division's website provides a wide variety of information including:

- Identifying materials accepted for recycling in Santa Barbara County;
- Listing locations where households can take used motor oil and all types of hazardous materials for recycling or proper disposal;
- Giving tips to prevent or reduce waste and to reuse materials;
- Providing descriptions of the County's various waste reduction and recycling programs; and
- Making electronic versions of the **Recycling Resource Guide for Santa Barbara County** available in English and Spanish.

The site includes the ability to search by key words and to translate the information into Spanish. In FY 2015/16, the Division had a total of **192,380 LessIsMore.org visits from 169,278 unique visitors with 311,755 page views.**

RECYCLING RESOURCE GUIDE

The County RR&WMD continues to annually update and distribute its **Recycling Resource Guide for Santa Barbara County (Guide)** throughout the County. The Guide is printed in English one year and in Spanish the following year. Enough copies of the Guide are produced to allow for distribution of a specific version for two years until the next update. In FY 2015/16, County staff **updated the Spanish version of the Guide and distributed 2,462 copies** in the community. Additionally, **1,001 copies of the FY 2014/15 English version of the Guide were also distributed.**

Area libraries, governmental offices, and community organizations receive copies of the guide annually and contact our office for replenishment. Other copies were distributed during tours of the Tajiguas Landfill and South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station, at composting workshops, at public events, such as farmers' markets and Earth Day events, and in response to individual requests. Also, updates to the Guide are posted on LessIsMore.org on an ongoing basis for easy access.



www.LessIsMore.org



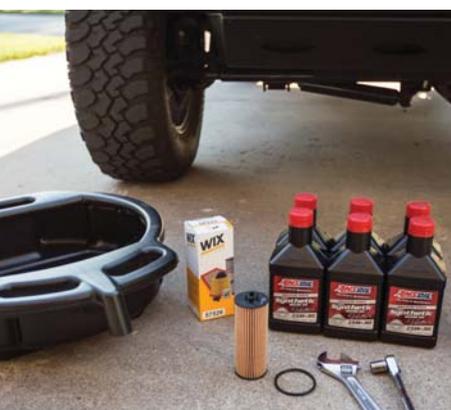
INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

The Division uses various methods to publicize upcoming events, new developments, and reminders about existing programs and services to the community. Outreach efforts include the use of news releases, articles on the Division and LessIsMore.org websites, videos posted online and on County television, and print and electronic ads in newspapers, on radio and television, and in waste hauler newsletters. Efforts are made to target the Spanish-speaking population by distributing materials in Spanish at various events and venues (e.g. Earth Day events, YMCA Healthy Family Event, Santa Barbara School of Squash), running spots on Spanish-speaking television and radio stations, and providing a Spanish translation device on LessIsMore.org.



At least one public information campaign is conducted each month. In FY 2015/16, RR&WMD conducted the following campaigns:

- **Holiday campaign** to encourage residents to recycle their Christmas trees, donate unwanted items to thrift stores, and to remind residents that they can put extra recyclables next to their containers immediately following the holidays.
- **Santa Ynez Valley (Fall and Spring) and New Cuyama (Fall) Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Events** to make residents aware of the collection days held for hazardous and electronic waste generated in the Santa Ynez Valley and New Cuyama areas.
- **Backyard Composting** to advertise the Division's backyard composting workshops held in Santa Barbara, Solvang, and Santa Maria in the spring and summer of 2016, as well as the year-round availability of composting bins for sale at a discounted rate.
- **Used Motor Oil Recycling** to increase the public's awareness of the need to recycle their used motor oil, to not pour it down a storm drain, and to publicize the countywide availability of collection sites.
- **Electronics Recycling** to make the public aware of the numerous locations available to collect their electronic equipment for recycling or reuse.
- **America Recycles Day** was commemorated with ads, a news release, and articles on websites to highlight LessIsMore.org as the "ultimate recycling resource."





FACILITY TOURS

In FY 2015/16, RR&WMD staff continued to provide solid waste management facility tours to interested members of the community. Tours of the Tajiguas Landfill and the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) were promoted on LessIsMore.org, and outreach materials were prepared and distributed at community events and through our educational contractors. Also, educational posters and handouts were prepared for use during the tours.

For the Tajiguas Landfill, **29 tours were provided to approximately 1,000 students/ community members.** RR&WMD staff explained how waste is managed in our community, the technical aspects of the facility, and provided tips and guidance on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse. Similarly, **six tours of the South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station (SCRTS) were conducted to 110 people.** During the SCRTS tours, RR&WMD staff showed the various types of materials collected for recycling, described the process of collecting, transporting, and sorting the recyclables for sale, and provided tips and guidance on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse. In addition, at the end of these tours, outreach materials for the County’s waste reduction/recycling programs were distributed.

SCHOOL RECYCLING

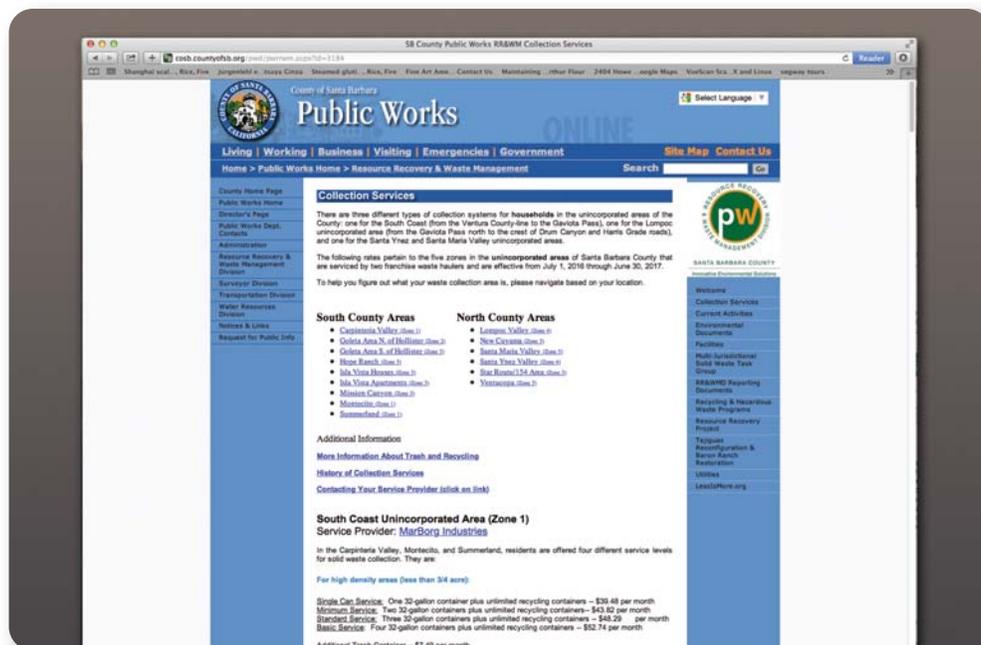
The County has several programs to educate students about source reduction, recycling, and composting. These services are provided by Explore Ecology through its Art from Scrap (AFS) Program, by Waste Management through an educational mobile trailer, and by the County through facility tours described above. Explore Ecology brings students to their facility to learn the basics of integrated waste management and to participate in making art from waste materials. It also visits schools to make in-class presentations. Under a separate contract, Waste Management sites a mobile trailer at interested schools to enable students to learn about source reduction, recycling, and composting. Below is a table showing the results of these programs:

PROGRAM	AREA	# OF SCHOOLS OR CAMPS	# OF STUDENTS	# OF CLASSES
Art from Scrap	Unincorporated South Coast/ City of Goleta	36	2,151	91
Art from Scrap	Unincorporated North County	24	4,042	159
Waste Management	Unincorporated North County	4	NA	NA
TOTAL		64	6,193	250

RESOURCE RECOVERY & WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION WEBSITE

RR&WMD staff maintains the Division's website that provides the following information:

- Collection services (trash and recycling) and corresponding rates for single-family residential service provided by the franchised waste haulers in the five service zones of the unincorporated areas;
- Descriptions and notices of upcoming activities and events;
- Environmental documents for current and past projects;
- Descriptions of County facilities, including the types of materials accepted and corresponding fees;
- Reporting documents from the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan;
- Link to County's website for information on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse, LessIsMore.org;
- Link to County's Resource Recovery Project;
- Information on the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration; and
- Overviews of the Laguna County Sanitation District, Street Lighting Districts, Mission Canyon Sewer District, and the Utility Undergrounding Program.





Community Clean Up

Litter and illegally dumped materials are blight on our communities. The RR&WMD provides several programs that focus on the elimination or removal of waste materials found on roadsides and on private property.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Division is responsible for enforcing Chapters 17 (solid waste) and 23 (abandoned vehicles) of the Santa Barbara County Code for the unincorporated areas of the County, as well as mitigating illegally dumped materials along County roadsides. Here are the results of those efforts for FY 2015/16:

UNINCORPORATED AREA	CODE VIOLATIONS IN ISLA VISTA (IV)	CODE VIOLATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTY	ILLEGAL DUMPING	ABANDONED/ INOPERABLE VEHICLES	TOTAL
North County	Not applicable	52	138	79	269
South County	109	43	55	4	211
Countywide	109	95	193	83	480

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAG BAN

On August 25, 2016, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors adopted a local ordinance banning single-use plastic bags in some stores in the unincorporated areas of the county. The RR&WMD developed the ordinance and administers its enforcement. This ordinance is intentionally similar to other locally approved bans in the cities of Carpinteria, Ojai, and Santa Barbara, as well as the state-wide ban that will be up for approval on the November 2016 ballot. This ban affects supermarkets, pharmacies, food markets, and liquor stores. These stores may only offer reusable bags for sale or bags made out of recycled paper that will cost 10 cents per bag. Seven larger stores and chain pharmacies have complied with the ban by the deadline of March 22, 2016, while smaller stores, such as neighborhood markets and liquor stores, must comply by September 24, 2016.



Regional Coordination

The County RR&WMD administers a variety of regional waste-related programs that involve the participation of several different entities. These programs are either most efficiently administered on a regional basis or are required by the state to be managed by the County.

GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

The County RR&WMD continues to administer the countywide Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County (GBPSBC) and contracts with a consultant to serve as the Program Director. Currently, 30 agencies and organizations provide financial support and/or in-kind contributions to the program. Under the GBPSBC, businesses are offered positive incentives and assistance to implement actions that protect, preserve, and improve the environment above and beyond their compliance with applicable regulations. Upon completing the necessary mandatory and a minimum number of voluntary measures in the following areas, businesses will be certified as “green” businesses:

- Solid waste reduction and recycling;
- Environmentally preferable purchasing;
- Energy conservation;
- Water conservation; and
- Pollution prevention, which includes storm water runoff and using alternative forms of transportation.



Businesses achieving certification are subsequently given a sticker for display at their business, a certificate recognizing their achievement, and are honored at the annual GBPSBC Luncheon. They also receive free advertising by being listed in the directory of certified businesses on the GBPSBC website, recognition on chamber of commerce websites, and being highlighted through free print and online ads. During FY 2015/16, **10 businesses/agencies achieved certification and 12 were recertified. A total of 138 businesses have been certified/recertified, since the program began in December 2008.**

RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Division applied for and received approval for a renewal of the 10-year designation of the Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (SBRRMDZ) from CalRecycle in FY 2015/16. As part of the renewal, the cities of Buellton and Goleta joined the existing member jurisdictions, the County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria, to comprise the SBRRMDZ. The purpose of the RMDZ program is to offer low interest loans and incentives to manufacturers in California that:

- Change the way products are made or packaged to prevent or reduce waste;
- Repair, recondition, wash, or treat a worn or used product to enable the product to be used again for its original purpose;
- Use recycled materials to make a feedstock for use by other manufacturers or to make a new product; or
- Use conversion technologies to convert waste materials that cannot be recycled or composted into high value products such as energy, fuels, and citric acid.

In conjunction with the renewal, the County contracted with the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce (SMVCC) to administer the SBRRMDZ.

LOCAL SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE

The County RR&WMD continued to administer the Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Local Task Force (LTF), a group mandated by CalRecycle and comprised of representatives from each of the nine jurisdictions, as well as Vandenberg Air Force Base and the water districts. The LTF discusses and comments on proposed facilities, regulations, and local programs. During FY 2015/16, **the County held three LTF meetings to review and discuss updates on solid waste management efforts in various jurisdictions in the County, statewide legislation, and extended producer responsibility initiatives.**

STATE DOCUMENT PREPARATION

In FY 2015/16, the County RR&WMD staff continued to prepare several regional reports for submittal to state agencies:

- Quarterly disposal reports for all jurisdictions in the County were submitted to CalRecycle;
- Annual Reports for the cities of Solvang and Goleta and County unincorporated areas were submitted to CalRecycle; and
- The annual Hazardous Waste Report (Form 303), encompassing the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Solvang and the unincorporated areas was submitted to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Notably, the City of Goleta and the County of Santa Barbara have formed a Regional Reporting Authority. CalRecycle has calculated the quantity of material that was landfilled for 2015 to be 4.1 pounds per capita, **equivalent to a diversion rate of 72 percent.**

In addition, RR&WMD:

- Provided hazardous waste information to Goleta and Santa Barbara for their storm water reports;
- Provided disposal information for Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District reports;
- Gathered information from other facilities in Santa Barbara County for the Quarterly Station Notification Reports and Annual Permitted Facility Reports and prepared the same reports for County-owned facilities; and
- Prepared and submitted an Amendment to the Multi-Jurisdictional Non-Disposal Facility Element for Santa Barbara County.

Open Space / Restoration Areas

In addition to offering solid waste management services, the RR&WMD has created the opportunity for the public to enjoy new open spaces and has established restoration areas in many sensitive habitats in our community. These projects have been done in partnership and coordination with many other local, state, and federal agencies, as well as local nonprofit organizations.



BARON RANCH TRAIL AND NATURAL AREA

The Baron Ranch (Ranch) trail is a six-mile loop contained within the property boundaries of the Ranch and is currently open only to hikers Saturday-Monday of each week, from dawn to dusk. The RR&WMD has received a proposal to connect this trail to the Camino Cielo area at the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains on U.S. Forest Service land. Such a connection will increase accessibility to the trail and the Ranch by the public to seven days a week and will expand the use of the trail to include bicyclists and horseback riders in an unsupervised setting.

In consideration of these various uses, the Public Works Department, in consultation with County Parks Division personnel and trail user groups, is working to move the trail to the western side of the creek, thereby separating the recently discontinued agricultural operations from the trail. This action would also enhance the user experience through the Arroyo Quemada riparian corridor, where the Public Works Department has been conducting a large-scale native plant restoration. With the cessation of the agricultural operations, the County will be exploring options on the future use of that portion of Baron Ranch during FY 2016/17.



FOOTHILL OPEN SPACE AREA

The Foothill Open Space Area, once a regional landfill, is located between the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta, and served the south coast of Santa Barbara County before the Tajiguas Landfill opened in 1967. The site is now a valuable urban open space resource that houses two nonprofit organizations: HEARTS, a therapeutic riding program for children and adults with disabilities and Growing Solutions Restoration Education Institute (Growing Solutions), a nonprofit nursery specializing in native plant propagation. RR&WMD also has given biofuel innovator, Russell Teall, the use of an area at Growing Solutions to grow jatropha plants, whose seeds hold great potential as a viable alternative fuel source. RR&WMD received two grants to conduct re-vegetation/ restoration of the area. Using these grants, the RR&WMD sponsored over 30 community planting days, and with the help of neighbors and other community members, helped restore the former landfill site with native plants and enhanced the system of on-site trails.



CARPINTERIA BLUFF NATURAL AREA

The RR&WMD cleaned and planted new vegetation at an abandoned burn dump near the City of Carpinteria in 2005. Used for decades by local residents and nearby oil extraction facilities as a place to burn garbage, this seaside property is now successfully restored and contributes aesthetically and biologically to the City of Carpinteria's bluff open space and trails, providing access to community beaches and offering panoramic views of the Santa Barbara Channel.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT & WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Waste management services are provided by the County RR&WMD to the cities of Buellton, Solvang, Goleta and Santa Barbara in addition to the unincorporated areas of the County. Waste management services consist of transferring and burying trash, sorting material for recyclables such as metals, wood, green waste, tires, dirt, drywall, electronics, cardboard, mattresses, etc., processing and marketing green waste, and contracting for and transporting commingled recyclables to be processed and marketed. Additionally, the County accepts self-haul trash from the general public originating from all communities in the County.

The following highlights the quantity of the material managed at these facilities during FY 2015/16, as well as a breakdown of certain material types. Additionally, the RR&WMD is continuing a multi-year procurement for a state-of-the-art processing facility to sort all waste currently being buried at the Tajiguas Landfill.

In addition to waste management facilities, the RR&WMD operates the Laguna Sanitation Treatment Plant, which services waste water generated by the Orcutt community.

Waste Burial — Tajiguas Landfill

Waste generated by the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Solvang and some parts of the unincorporated areas of the County are disposed at the County operated Tajiguas Landfill. In addition to receiving waste directly delivered by the public and private hauling companies, the landfill receives waste collected from the South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station, and the New Cuyama and Ventucopa Transfer Stations.

In FY 2015/16:

- 200,281 tons of material were buried at the landfill;
- 36,855 tons of green waste were ground and distributed regionally as a mulch product; and
- 25,796 tons of material from MarBorg Industries' construction and demolition debris facility were used as alternative daily cover.



Over the past 15 years, methane gas has been collected at the Tajiguas Landfill and used as fuel to power an engine-driven turbine to produce 2.8 megawatts of electricity for approximately 2,500 homes. In addition to generating energy, capturing this methane gas reduces greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to planting over 44,800 acres of trees per year or removing the annual emissions of over 33,800 vehicles.



RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATIONS

The RR&WMD operates four recycling and waste transfer stations in the County. The County owned and operated facilities work to remove items from the waste stream that can be reused, recycled, and also serve as revenue streams.

In FY 2015/16:

- 21,473 tons of commingled recyclable materials collected curbside were delivered to a County facility and were sent to processors for sorting into marketable commodities;
- 24,515 tons of green waste were delivered to County facilities and subsequently cleaned to remove contaminants and ground into mulch. This mulch was either sold to small and large scale customers or made available for free pick-up by the public.
- 1,238 tons of construction and demolition debris were recycled;
- 574,027 pounds of electronic equipment were collected and sent for processing to recover recyclable and reusable components; and
- 8,101 tons of miscellaneous materials, such as tires, mattresses, and metals were recovered and sent to recycling facilities.

SOUTH COAST RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION

The South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station received 72,231 tons of material in FY 2015/16. Of that material:

- 24,251 tons were transferred to the Tajiguas Landfill for burial;
- 21,473 tons of commingled recyclables were transferred to Gold Coast Recycling for processing;
- 24,515 tons of green waste were either processed on-site or transferred to another County facility for processing and marketing; and
- The remaining 1,992 tons of material were recovered for recycling.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION

The Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station received 27,659 tons of material in FY 2015/16. Of that material:

- 13,757 tons were transferred to the Tajiguas Landfill for burial;
- 13,212 tons of green waste were either processed on-site or transferred to another County facility for processing and marketing; and
- The remaining 690 tons of material were recovered for recycling.

NEW CUYAMA AND VENTUCOPA TRANSFER STATIONS

The New Cuyama and Ventucopa Transfer Stations are located in a remote area of northeastern Santa Barbara County. In FY 2015/16, 499 tons of material were received at the New Cuyama facility, and 46 tons of material were received at the Ventucopa facility. The material collected at these facilities is collected once per week by MarBorg Industries in a semi-trailer and taken to the SCRTS. Recyclables and green waste are sorted, while the remaining material is hauled to the Tajiguas Landfill.



Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project

Over the past eight years, the County RR&WMD, in collaboration with the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, has been working on the potential development of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project (TRRP), a financially and environmentally responsible long-term solution to managing our community's waste. The TRRP will process municipal solid waste currently disposed at the County owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill, as well as source-separated material currently collected under the area's waste collection programs, such as recyclables and organics. The proposed TRRP is a public/private joint venture that may be publicly owned but designed, built, and operated by a private company (MSB Investors, LLC). The TRRP consists of a materials recovery facility to process mixed municipal solid waste, as well as source-separated recyclables and an anaerobic digester to process both mixed and source-separated organics. The end products of these processes will be the recovery and sale of additional recyclables, green energy, compost, and soil amendments. It is anticipated that the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with this project is equivalent to taking 25,000 vehicles off of local roadways. Residue from the facility will continue to be disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill.



In July 2016, the TRRP will be presented to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for approval of a contract with MSB Investors, LLC to build and operate the TRRP and to certify the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR). It is further anticipated that the Board will consider this project in the winter of 2016, regarding approval of waste delivery agreements with the cities currently served by the Tajiguas Landfill and the release of the public funding package.

Waste Water Treatment — Laguna Sanitation Waste Water Treatment Plant

The Laguna County Sanitation District (District) is a dependent special district of the County and provides waste water management services to residential and business customers in the Orcutt and unincorporated Santa Maria areas. The District currently owns and operates approximately 125 miles of sewer lines and one lift station, as well as a plant capable of treating up to 3.7 million gallons of waste water per day. Waste water is treated to disinfected tertiary levels capable of reuse as recycled water for agricultural and industrial uses. In 2012, the District installed a solar facility that generates one megawatt of electricity to power portions of the treatment plant facility along with a natural gas and biogas system. Biogas is generated from the anaerobic digester. Digested biosolids are trucked to a commercial composting facility.



RECENT LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES

As both federal and state agencies grapple with climate change, there have been an increasing number of policies and laws implemented to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by eliminating the disposal of organics in our landfills.

California's Global Warming Solutions Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, passed in 2006, is a state mandated reduction of GHGs to pre-1990 levels. In order for the State to achieve this goal, getting organics out of landfills has been specifically targeted in many pieces of subsequent policy and legislation. AB 32's "Scoping Plan" adopted by the California Air Resources Board specifically identifies the need to divert 22 million tons of organic material from landfills. This Plan has been amended in recent years and has included specifics related to diverting organics from our waste stream and has identified the need to expand the State's ability to compost diverted organics, specifically through anaerobic digestion and composting, as is proposed in the TRRP.

CalRecycle has implemented a State-wide Anaerobic Digestion Initiative under its Strategic Directive 6.1, which seeks to reduce by 50 percent the total amount of organics currently landfilled by 2020. To further this directive, CalRecycle has released a state-wide programmatic Environmental Impact Report to assist local jurisdictions in developing facilities at existing waste management facilities like landfills, similar to the proposed TRRP.

California's Public Resources Code has also been amended to reflect this shift towards increasing recycling and diverting organics through AB 341, specifically identifying composting of organics as a way to achieve the State's goal of recycling 75 percent of waste generated. The passage of AB 1826 requires businesses to divert organic waste they generate from disposal beginning in 2016 for larger generators and extending to smaller generators through 2019. In addition, the California Air Resources Board, in conjunction with CalRecycle, is currently considering additional regulations to be passed in 2018 that would effectively eliminate all organics from disposal in landfills by 2025. Most recently, on October 8, 2015, Governor Brown signed into law two more bills directly targeting organic waste: AB 876 requires local governments to plan for 15 years of organic waste recycling infrastructure; and AB 1045 requires state agencies to work together to support the diversion of organic waste from landfills.

The federal government has followed California's lead in establishing policies to remove organics from landfills. On September 15, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, announced the first ever national food waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030.

It is clear that managing organic waste is a rapidly expanding area of policy and law that will require local jurisdictions to develop needed infrastructure and will most likely add more cost to waste management systems. Santa Barbara County is not alone in addressing these policies by proposing to establish an anaerobic digesting (AD) facility. As of 2014, CalRecycle identified 12 AD facilities that process organic waste, one under construction, and an additional eight proceeding through the permitting process. Even if the County chooses not to develop the TRRP, similar facilities will need to be developed locally in order to comply with existing and future state and federal mandates.

FUTURE NEW PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

While the RR&WMD has already implemented a wide range of programs, due to regulatory changes as well as changes in community needs, several additional programs and facilities have been identified to be pursued in future years. These additions include:

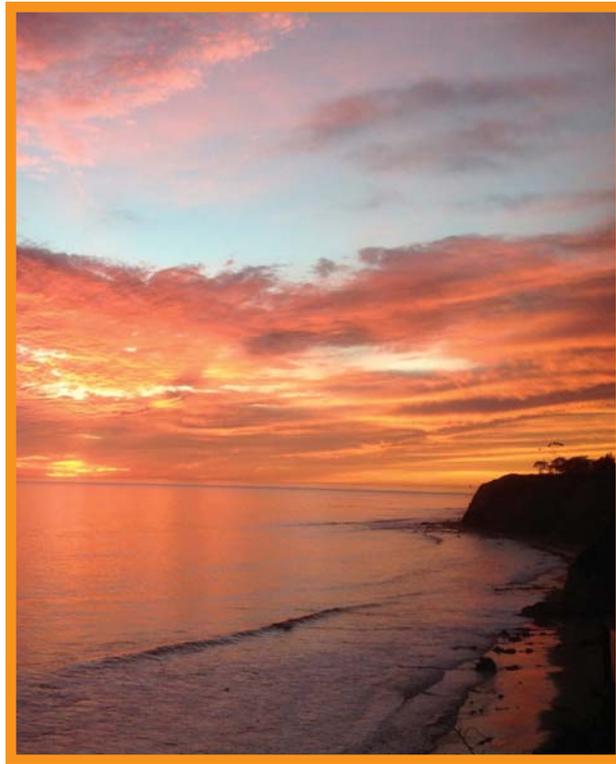
- Expansion of local waste processing capability and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions related to waste management through completion of the TRRP in order to comply with Public Resources Code Section 41721, AB 32, AB 1826, and AB 876;
- Expansion of the pilot commercial food waste collection program to a permanent and larger program in order to comply with AB 1826;
- Increased opportunities to appropriately dispose of pharmaceuticals, including participation in the County's efforts led by the Public Health Department to implement a pharmaceutical take-back ordinance;
- Evaluation of the feasibility of collecting hazardous waste and other regulated wastes from residents unable to use collection centers;
- Expansion of the County's recycled-content and environmentally preferable purchasing practices through participation in the County's Sustainability Committee; and
- Working with the Parks Division in the Community Services Department to expand the existing public trail on Baron Ranch.







For more information please visit:
LessIsMore.org



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