

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Innovative Environmental Solutions



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

This Annual Report describes the solid waste management services provided by the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RRWMD) to the communities of Buellton, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Solvang, and the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County during fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). 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 Buellton, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, receive more limited services since they operate many of their own solid waste management programs.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

RRWMD provides a wide variety of community programs to the region overall, as well as services specific to the unincorporated areas of the County. RRWMD funds these programs through contracts with partnering cities and through program fees included in the solid waste collection bills of households and businesses in the unincorporated area.

WASTE COLLECTION

RRWMD administers exclusive franchise agreements with MarBorg Industries (MarBorg) to provide regular collection of trash, commingled recyclables, and organic waste from residents and businesses in the unincorporated area. Additionally, RRWMD issues a limited number of permits to unscheduled haulers who collect waste – most commonly construction and demolition material – on an irregular basis using roll-off containers.

REGULAR COLLECTION OF TRASH, RECYCLABLES, AND ORGANIC WASTE

RRWMD oversees two franchise agreements for the collection of solid waste from residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas:

- The Zones 1-3 agreement covers the South Coast and Cuyama Valley areas and was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 24, 2022; it runs from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2029.
- The Zones 4 and 5 agreement covers the Lompoc, Santa Ynez, and Santa Maria Valleys and was approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 11, 2023; it runs from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2034. Approval of this agreement prompted a transition from the previous hauler for the region, Waste Management. MarBorg began swapping containers for residential and commercial customers in May 2024 to prepare for an orderly transition of services.

Franchise agreement oversight includes the identification of services to be provided; negotiation of service agreements; development of rates; mediation of customer complaints/service issues; and performance tracking, among other duties.

Notable accomplishments of the franchised collection program during FY 2024-25 are highlighted below.

Hauler Transition: During the transition from Waste Management to MarBorg in Zones 4 and 5, fewer than twenty (20) complaints were received. No routing changes were proposed in the immediate months following the hauler transition, and customers were notified that their regular pick-up days would remain the same. MarBorg successfully swapped 90% of waste containers prior to the July 1, 2024 start date, allowing them to provide seamless service to residents and businesses once the hauler transition was completed. The remaining containers needing to be switched out were primarily commercial carts that were difficult to track down.



Hauler Satisfaction Survey: In May 2025, RRWMD conducted a survey to collect customer feedback on the hauler transition in Zones 4 and 5 and to better gauge overall satisfaction with MarBorg’s services. Of the 340 responses received, 150 were from residents in the unincorporated North County area, 103 were from residents in the unincorporated South Coast, and the remaining 87 responses were from residents living in an incorporated area. Customers living in the unincorporated North County were asked about their overall satisfaction with Waste Management and then again with MarBorg Industries. With “strongly dissatisfied” being a 1 out of 5 and “strongly satisfied” being a 5 out of 5, these customers indicated an average satisfaction score of 3.8 for Waste Management and 4.2 for MarBorg, representing greater satisfaction with MarBorg than with Waste Management. Only 12 respondents indicated a preference for Waste Management over MarBorg. These 12 customers noted issues with price, payment, pick-up, a lack of collection calendar, or preference for the previous Waste Management containers. Customers in the unincorporated South Coast area indicated an average satisfaction score of 4.3 for MarBorg, a slightly higher satisfaction rating than in the unincorporated North County.

Bulky Items: Per the franchise agreements, single-family residents can request up to four bulky item collections per year, and multi-family residential properties can request pick-ups equal to the number of units present. Bulky collections are often comprised of materials such as appliances, mattresses, furniture, and large electronics. Notably, electronic items have become an increasingly large portion of these collected loads, all of which are properly handled and recycled. Recorded count of bulky item collections in the North County and on the South Coast are included in the table below.

BULKY ITEM COLLECTIONS (TOTAL # OF COLLECTIONS)						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
North County	3,924	4,775	3,924	3,168	3,278	2,963
South County	5,190	5,047	5,190	3,823	4,189	2,839

Waste Recovery: The County’s franchised haulers are required to provide comprehensive diversion programs that comply with State law and County Code. These programs are part of the County’s overall program for meeting the State’s goal of diverting 75 percent of waste from landfills. In addition to the haulers’ efforts, other diversion activities include operation of the County’s ReSource Center, diversion of green waste by landscapers, processing of construction and demolition material by private facilities, and several programs, including those operated by the County, which recover electronics, appliances, and hazardous waste. Through these diversion efforts and recycling programs, the County continues to be compliant with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, which requires that at least 50% of the waste stream be diverted from landfills each year.

UNSCHEDULED SOLID WASTE HANDLING SERVICES

RRWMD manages the Unscheduled Solid Waste Handling Services Permit Program. Under this program, RRWMD issues and manages permits granted to local businesses that rent roll-off bins in the unincorporated areas of the county. This program consists of the following components:

- A roll-off business must have a permit to operate in the unincorporated area; RRWMD issues five-year permits.
- Permit holders are limited to providing up to 20 unscheduled pick-ups; and
- Permit holders are required to recycle a minimum of 65 percent.

RECYCLING AND ORGANICS PROGRAMS

RRWMD helps the community maximize the diversion of recyclables and organic waste from landfill disposal. Resources offered to households, businesses, schools, and contractors include a variety of educational materials, indoor recycling containers, composting containers, and signage. RRWMD staff also frequently respond to public inquiries regarding the reuse, recycling, and composting of various materials.

MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

In 2003, the County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance banning the disposal of recyclables by commercial customers. RRWMD 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.

Since early implementation of the Mandatory Commercial Recycling ordinance, RRWMD has worked closely with the County's franchised haulers to modify customers' trash and recycling services to appropriate levels and ensure compliance with the ordinance. In many instances, these efforts have led to cost savings for customers. Additionally, RRWMD staff provide signage, posters, and other outreach materials to facilitate recycling activities.

During FY 2024-25, RRWMD provided over 200 trash, recycling, and organics bins to restaurants, grocery stores, and schools to facilitate compliance with AB 827, which requires that certain food service establishments provide customers with containers to collect organics and recyclables.

COUNTY BUILDING RECYCLING

Recycling service is provided at all County facilities, and RRWMD provides free indoor recycling collection containers upon request.

SCHOOL RECYCLING

To support schools in the unincorporated area and in the City of Solvang, RRWMD provides indoor recycling containers and educational materials, such as stickers and posters, and coordinates assemblies and in-class presentations. During FY 2024-25, RRWMD continued to contract with Explore Ecology to provide lessons on waste reduction, food waste reduction, and composting to schools in the South County and contracted with Science Discovery to provide the same services to schools in the North County. Through this program, 53 schools participated, either in person or virtually, and were able to access additional resources through RRWMD's LessIsMore.org website.

MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANICS RECYCLING

Effective in 2016, the statewide law AB 1826 requires the diversion of organic waste from landfills. Organics are defined to include green waste, wood materials, food scraps, and cardboard and paper products soiled with food. Outreach materials were developed and distributed to all commercial customers subject to this law and included graphics and instructions on how they could participate in the County’s commercial food scraps collection program.

In addition, as of January 1, 2022, Senate Bill (SB) 1383, the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Act of 2016, establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. Also, at least 20 percent of currently disposed edible food must be recovered for human consumption by 2025. SB 1383 places requirements on multiple entities, including jurisdictions, residential households, commercial businesses and business owners, and commercial edible food generators, to support the achievement of these statewide organic waste disposal reductions targets. Further details are posted on LessIsMore.org, the County’s website for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Collection of Manure, Bedding Material, and Other Organics:

During Fiscal Year 2024-25, the County continued to offer horse manure/bedding collection services to customers in the North County unincorporated area. Recorded tons of material collected are included below.



COLLECTION OF MANURE/BEDDING MATERIAL (TONS COLLECTED)						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
North County	1,711	1,693	1,316	1,201	1,164	1,314

RESIDENTIAL ORGANICS RECYCLING

In Santa Barbara County, organic waste recycling programs vary by watershed. RRWMD continues to develop numerous outreach materials and conduct countywide campaigns to educate constituents about organics recycling. Additionally, the North County Public Works office offers a program for residents to conveniently pick up free kitchen food scraps collection pails. RRWMD participates in numerous outreach opportunities at community events to distribute the free pails and talk with community members about how to recycle their organic waste.

Yard Waste Recycling

For many years, the County has had a robust recycling program for yard waste that continues to divert significant amounts of material from the Tajiguas Landfill. Source-separated yard waste is collected in green containers from customers along the South Coast and in the Santa Ynez Valley. The County grinds the yard waste for conversion into mulch, which is then distributed for local reuse for agriculture, landscaping, and gardens. The tons of mulch delivered from the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Stations are referenced on page 8 under the Mulch Program.

Mixed Organics Recycling

Beginning in July 2022, the County launched a mixed organics program for the Lompoc and Santa Maria Valley unincorporated areas. While these areas previously participated in yard waste recycling, the implementation of SB 1383 required that residents and commercial customers in this region use a green container to divert all organic waste. In July 2022, the County launched a comprehensive outreach effort to spread the word that green containers in this area should now contain customers' food waste and food-soiled paper, along with yard waste, to ensure that all organic waste is diverted from the landfill. The mixed organic waste is brought to Engel & Gray's composting facility in Santa Maria to be aerobically composted.

Commercial Organic Waste Collection Program

Initially started as a component of the Food Forward Program launched in FY 2014-15, the County has worked with its franchised waste haulers to collect food scraps from commercial customers in the South Coast and North County unincorporated areas, as well as in Goleta and Solvang, to ensure that the material is repurposed for a beneficial reuse rather than being landfilled. Since the implementation of SB 1383, this program expanded to include collection of all organic waste beyond just food scraps, including but not limited to soiled paper products. Organic waste-generating businesses that are not sending waste to the ReSource Center at the Tajiguas Landfill are required to source-separate organic waste. In the South Coast and North County unincorporated areas that send their waste to the ReSource Center, the organic waste collection service is still offered to large generators.

Edible Food Recovery Program

During FY 2021-22, RRWMD partnered with the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Solvang to establish Edible Food Recovery programming in response to requirements set forth in SB 1383. This effort is coined the Santa Barbara County SB 1383 Edible Food Recovery Plan and is administered by RRWMD staff. The County works with these city partners to assist businesses and non-profits that operate across jurisdictional boundaries to leverage shared resources and promote unified messaging on the program. The major goals of this network are to help local food recovery organizations increase their capacity and support them in their efforts to rescue edible food through grants and other resources while also reducing organic food waste that enters county landfills. This effort has continued through FY 2024-25, with several food generators getting matched to food recovery organizations.

FOOD FORWARD – FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

Launched in FY 2014-15, RRWMD's Food Forward program educates households and businesses about ways to prevent and reduce the generation of food waste. As part of this effort, RRWMD provides tips, information, and food waste data through print publications and online. These resources cover the following components:

- Identifying simple ways households can manage and reduce their food waste
- Explaining food expiration phrases used on products to discourage the premature disposal of food
- Providing the general criteria and incentives for donating prepared and unprepared food
- Listing locations in Santa Barbara County that accept donations from households and businesses
- Listing organizations in Santa Barbara County that accept food scraps to feed animals
- Encouraging the continued practice of backyard composting



During FY 2024-25, RRWMD distributed copies of the Food Forward booklet at various events, such as Earth Day festivals, farm day events, and hazardous waste collection events. The booklet also continued to be available at all public-facing RRWMD offices.

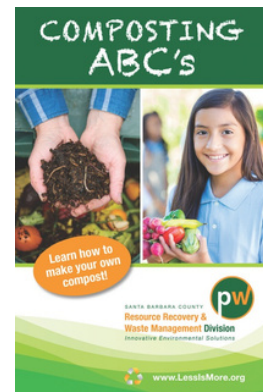
BACKYARD COMPOSTING

RRWMD continued to purchase composting bins to make available to the public year-round at a reduced wholesale cost of \$55 versus over \$200 at retail stores. The number of discounted composting bins sold from the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Stations and the North County Public Works building is included below.

COMPOSTING BINS SOLD						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Countywide	72	101	123	100	77	95

To educate residents about backyard composting, the County:

- Distributed over 1,000 English versions and over 300 Spanish versions of its composting booklet, Composting ABC's
- Attended educational workshops and community events, including Earth Day, Farm Day, and Touch-a-Truck
- Posted extensive information on its waste reduction website, LessIsMore.org
- Conducted outreach through e-mails and phone calls with residents
- Included articles in waste hauler newsletters





MULCH PROGRAM

Yard waste collected through the County's curbside green waste program is processed into mulch that is then made available for reuse by the community. Households, schools, non-profit organizations, churches, and businesses in Zones 1, 2, 3, and the Santa Ynez Valley portion of Zone 4 contribute the feedstock for the mulch program (whereas mixed organic waste collected from customers in Zone 5 and the Lompoc Valley portion of Zone 4 is composted at Engel & Gray's facility). Since March 2021, a portion of the County's mulch has been used during the compost curing process at the ReSource Center's Anaerobic Digestion Facility and Compost Management Unit. Information about the ReSource Center is included on [page 36](#) of this report.

Community members can obtain free mulch by accessing a pile that is regularly maintained at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS), as well as an additional pile located at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS). For a fee, qualified trucks can be loaded with large amounts of mulch at either SCRTS or SYVRTS. During FY 2024-25, 2,038 tons of mulch were loaded into qualified vehicles at SYVRTS, and 4,195 tons of mulch were loaded into qualified vehicles at SCRTS.

RRWMD also delivers mulch for a fee in a dump truck, a roll-off truck, or a semi-truck, after a Purchase Agreement/Liability Waiver form has been signed. During FY 2024-25, 3,553 tons of mulch were delivered from SYVRTS, 4,996 tons of mulch were delivered from SCRTS, and 3,152 tons of mulch were delivered from Tajiguas to a total of 645 individual customers.

Residential and commercial water customers in the City of Santa Barbara can receive up to two \$45 rebates per mulch delivery from the City each fiscal year, and the Goleta Water District offers up to two \$85 rebates per mulch delivery each fiscal year to customers in their service area.



HOUSEHOLD BATTERY COLLECTION PROGRAM

Convenient curbside collection of household batteries continued to be offered to residents in the unincorporated area. Participants simply tape their spent batteries, put them in a clear plastic bag, and place the bag on top of their curbside recycling container on collection day. Recorded pounds of batteries collected in the North County and the South Coast are included below.

CURBSIDE BATTERY (POUNDS COLLECTED)						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
North County	8,750	6,214	4,775	3,448	2,680	2,565
South County	7,957	7,734	5,047	3,037	8,655	7,279

CONSTRUCTION WASTE

In 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted California’s Green Building Code (aka CalGreen). This code currently requires that a minimum of 65 percent of all construction waste be recycled. All development projects in the County must include a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) to comply with this recycling requirement. RRWMD works with the County Planning & Development Department in reviewing SWMPs for large projects that have potentially significant impacts on the community. In addition, companies that haul construction waste are required to have a permit to operate in the County unincorporated areas and as a condition of this permit, must recycle the majority of any material that they collect (including construction waste) when feasible.

TEXTILES RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Textiles Recovery Program began in November 2019 to help divert textiles from the landfill. RRWMD and MarBorg initially partnered with a company called Textile Waste Solutions to transport collected material to Los Angeles for sorting and downcycling, before being shipped overseas for reuse in developing countries. In mid-2024, the program was paused while RRWMD and MarBorg sought a new recycling partner and reconfigured operational plans in anticipation of the passing of SB 707.

A new, expanded program was subsequently rolled out in early 2025 in partnership with Homeboy Threads and the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta. The program focuses on resale of wearable clothing and recycling of unwearable or unusable items, with an emphasis on domestic solutions and circularity. The table below shows the results of the first load of textiles sent for processing. RRWMD is excited to be one of California’s first jurisdictions with a municipal textiles recycling program.

TEXTILES: POUNDS (AND % OF TOTAL)	
	FY 2024-25
Resale	2,694 (31.6%)
Recycling	5,820.6 (68.3%)
Disposal	11.3 (0.1%)
Total	8,525.9 (100.0%)



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Numerous wastes are prohibited from landfill disposal due to their toxicity, reactivity, corrosiveness, and flammability. Some wastes are highly toxic and are generated on a more limited basis, while other materials, such as batteries, are widely generated by the community. In partnership with local municipalities and the private sector, RRWMD provides opportunities for the public to safely and conveniently manage their hazardous waste.

COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER

RRWMD 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. **The tables below show the breakdown of overall CHWCC participation and pounds of hazardous waste collected during FY 2024-25 and in previous years.**

RESIDENTIAL PARTICIPANTS CHWCC						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Unincorporated Areas	3,005 (39%)	2,832 (37%)	2,753 (38%)	3,113 (38%)	3,621 (38%)	2,997 (39%)
City of Santa Barbara	2,713 (35%)	2,818 (36%)	2,623 (36%)	2,932 (35%)	3,571 (37%)	2,663 (35%)
City of Goleta	1,555 (20%)	1,820 (24%)	1,563 (22%)	2,094 (25%)	2,291 (24%)	1,938 (26%)
City of Solvang/ Other Communities	451 (6%)	233 (3%)	273 (4%)	195 (2%)	83 (1%)	16 (<1%)
Total	7,724	7,703	7,212	8,334	9,566	7,614

BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS CHWCC						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Countywide	216	184	185	243	265	261

RESIDENTIAL+ BUSINESS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Participants	7,940	7,887	7,397	8,577	9,831	7,875
Pounds Collected	491,857	676,655	422,205	539,895	638,747	582,109



PAINTCARE

In October 2012, California passed a law requiring the paint and coatings industry to develop a product stewardship program for paint. Under the “PaintCare” program, a fee is added to the purchase price of new paint to enable PaintCare to recycle and properly dispose of paint and other “program products” that are delivered to its collection sites. The fee also helps cover storage containers and transportation costs. In February 2014, the County partnered with PaintCare to have the CHWCC serve as a collection site, one of the first jurisdictions in the state to do so. Paint and other program products are collected, transported, and disposed at no cost to the County and its partnering jurisdictions, resulting in cost savings to ratepayers. The total pounds of paint collected and the associated cost savings at the CHWCC in FY 2024-25 and previous years are recorded below. Since joining the PaintCare program, the County has saved approximately \$1,185,985.

PAINTCARE AMOUNTS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Pounds Collected	218,033	180,532	162,544	173,630	211,868	179,116
Cost Savings	\$206,124	\$158,844	\$143,017	\$80,132	\$78,402	\$62,470



COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

In addition to the permanent collection center, RRWMD holds periodic collection events to ensure that all community members have easy access to safely manage their hazardous waste. In FY 2024-25, RRWMD held one household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event at the New Cuyama Transfer Station and two events at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station (SYVRTS), one in fall and one in spring.

Participation totals and pounds of HHW collected during the events are included below.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION (SYVRTS) TEMP EVENTS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Participants	646	711	538	454	755	276**
Pounds Collected*	14,770	75,036	71,586	44,938	79,121	22,333

NEW CUYAMA TRANSFER STATION TEMP EVENTS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Participants	29	30	16	61***	26	19
Pounds Collected*	5,824	2,020	3,103	8,769***	3,869	2,440

* Not Including Electronics ** Only One Event Held *** Two Events Held

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 (CalMicro) 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 2024-25 and the five fiscal years prior. Please note that since 2005, electronics have evolved into smaller and more complex devices; therefore, the quantity of electronic waste collected over time has generally decreased.



POUNDS OF ELECTRONICS COLLECTED						
Facility/Event	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station	257,340	234,009	238,100	203,086	287,297	296,039
Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station	26,804	50,745	68,804	20,636	55,959	48,711
Santa Ynez Valley & Cuyama Valley Collection Events	17,657	20,728	24,336	24,885	25,941	6,916
TOTAL	301,801	305,482	331,240	248,607	369,197	351,666



SHARPS COLLECTION

RRWMD partners with the County Public Health Department (PHD) to offer a used sharps (needles) collection program for the region. RRWMD purchases sharps containers that are distributed, free of charge, at the PHD's five clinics. Community members can pick up the free containers and return them when full to one of the clinics. Sharps disposal flyers/brochures are distributed at medical facilities, pharmacies, solid waste transfer stations, hazardous waste collection facilities, and at public events.

Additionally, since July 2011, under the County's 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. The table below provides the total amount of sharps containers distributed to the public, the approximate pounds of sharps collected at the five County clinics, and the count of customers who requested sharps containers from the franchised hauler in FY 2024-25 and five prior fiscal years.



SHARPS CONTAINERS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20

Number Distributed	1,620	1,200	1,400	3,060	2,250	2,610
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APPROXIMATE TOTAL POUNDS OF SHARPS COLLECTED AT FIVE COUNTY CLINICS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20

Pounds Collected	3,628	2,688	2,100	5,202	3,937	4,567
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CUSTOMERS WHO REQUESTED SHARPS CONTAINERS FROM THE FRANCHISED HAULERS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20

North County	188	0*	126	22	71	51
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South County	246	126	220	564	466	247
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TOTAL	434	265	346	586	537	298
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* Waste Management did not collect this data during the final year of their contract, FY 23/24. Data collection restarted under MarBorg's new franchise agreement for the North County, beginning in July 2024.

PHARMACEUTICALS COLLECTION

In 2009, in coordination with the County Sheriff’s Department, RRWMD established a countywide pharmaceuticals collection program called Operation Medicine Cabinet. Medication collection kiosks were located at all nine Sheriff’s substations, and educational materials were developed for the public. The program quickly became a success, as it provided a much needed and requested opportunity for residents to safely dispose of their unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications.

In an effort to reduce costs and shift the responsibility of managing unwanted medications to the producers of those medications, 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 Santa Barbara 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.



MED-Project and Inmar are the organizations that administer the County’s medication and sharps stewardship programs on behalf of the pharmaceuticals industry. MED-Project has been operational since FY 2017-2018, and Inmar has been active since FY 2020-2021. Between the two groups, the County now has 45 collection kiosk locations at pharmacies, County health clinics, and law enforcement facilities. The table below summarizes the **pounds of medications collected** in FY 2024-25 and five previous years. In addition, both groups provide mail-back pharmaceutical disposal options by request to Santa Barbara County residents. These mail-back opportunities are also available for sharps disposal and work similarly to the franchised hauler’s program. MED- Project began mail-back collection in 2019, and Inmar provided this service starting in 2021. MED- Project and Inmar continue to recruit new sites and work on promoting existing locations.

POUNDS OF MEDICATIONS COLLECTED						
Program	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Drop-Off	17,569	17,264	16,317	15,051	14,433	15,157
Mail-Back	20.2	62	83	19	13*	1*

* MED-Project Only



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 seven certified used oil collection centers that accept motor oil and oil filters from the public for proper recycling. The gallons of used motor oil and number of filters collected from these centers in FY 2024-25, as well as from the five previous fiscal years, are recorded in the table below.



Motor oil and oil filter collection containers were also purchased and distributed to do-it-yourselfers under this program. In Spring 2025, RRWMD conducted a countywide media campaign to promote the recycling of used motor oil and to raise the public’s awareness regarding the availability of local collection centers.

USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Gallons Collected	32,581	16,457	17,195	18,586	19,292	12,845

OIL FILTERS						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Number Collected	6,732	4,018	4,001	2,335	5,797	3,280

RRWMD 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, instructors at Santa Barbara City College and Allan Hancock Community College offer **English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) students** a lesson on used motor oil recycling. Notably, in FY 23/24, the ESL program expanded to New Cuyama and has continued to be available in this community. **The number of students who participated in the lessons is provided in the table below.**

SCHOOL YEAR						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Participants	498	410	271	323	195	316

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

RRWMD 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 methods were used during FY 2024-25:

LESSISMORE.ORG

RRWMD's [LessIsMore.org](https://www.lessismore.org) website is the region's primary online source for information on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling in the county. The website provides a wide variety of information including:

- Materials accepted for recycling in the county
- Disposal instructions and guidelines for various types of solid waste
- Household hazardous waste collection opportunities
- Tips to prevent or reduce waste and to reuse materials
- Descriptions of the County's various waste reduction and recycling programs
- Electronic versions of the County's outreach materials available in English and Spanish

The site includes the ability to search by key words and to translate the information into Spanish. The table to the right illustrates how many searches the LessIsMore.org site had in FY 2024-25.

Notably, the number of users peaked most regularly on the first of the month, which correlates with the publication of RRWMD's e-newsletter, the Less is More ReView. Sharps, electronic waste, and mulch were the most common searches on the site.



LESS IS MORE CALENDAR

During FY 2024-25, RRWMD transitioned the Less Is More Guide into a calendar format. The new calendar can be posted at desks and in homes for easy and convenient access to waste reduction information year-round. Each month corresponds to a specific theme, such as hazardous waste, composting, and sharps disposal. The calendars were distributed at locations throughout the county, such as libraries, Public Works offices, the CHWCC, and recycling centers. The calendar will continue to be updated with new themes and dates each fiscal year.







INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

RRWMD utilizes various methods to publicize upcoming events, new developments, and reminders about existing programs and services. RRWMD's comprehensive annual outreach plan includes the use of news releases, social media, website articles, bill inserts, videos, paid advertisements across all media platforms, and articles in waste hauler newsletters. Additionally, RRWMD circulates a monthly waste reduction e-newsletter, the Less Is More ReView, to approximately 20,000 local residents.

Efforts are made to reach the Spanish-speaking population by distributing materials in Spanish at various events and venues (e.g. Earth Day events, mobile food pantries, Downtown Friday events in the City of Santa Maria) and running spots on Spanish-language television and radio stations. In addition, RRWMD contracts with Los Promotores to provide in-person Spanish-language outreach to North County residents, primarily regarding organics collection.

In FY 2024-25, RRWMD conducted the following campaigns:

- **America Recycles Day** (November 2024) was commemorated with ads, a news release, and website postings to highlight the materials that can be placed in blue containers for recycling.
- **Santa Ynez Valley** (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025) and **Cuyama Valley** (Fall 2024) **Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Events** ads publicized the collection days held for hazardous and electronic waste. Press releases, print ads, radio spots, social media, and information posted on LessIsMore.org and RRWMD's website were used to promote these events.
- **Christmas Tree Recycling** (December 2024 and January 2025) ads encouraged residents to recycle their Christmas trees and donate unwanted items to thrift stores, and reminded residents that they can put extra recyclables next to their curbside containers immediately following the holidays. This campaign included a press release, print advertising, radio and television spots (in English and Spanish), and information posted on both RRWMD's website and LessIsMore.org.
- **Electronics Recycling** (February 2025) ads reminded residents not to dispose of electronics in the trash and instead, to take them to one of several facilities that will accept them for free. The campaign utilized print ads, online ads, radio ads, website postings, and social media.

- **Hazardous Waste Recycling** (April 2025) ads under a “Spring Cleaning” theme educated residents in both English and Spanish on the importance of hazardous waste diversion from the landfill, and the availability and ease of access of the CHWCC for correct hazardous waste disposal. The CHWCC typically sees a 20% increase in participation on the weekends immediately following these ads.
- **Organic Waste Collection Program** (July 2024 through June 2025) ads educated residents and businesses of the newly implemented organics collection programs in the North County and publicized the existing organics diversion made possible by the ReSource Center in the South County. This campaign included email updates in the monthly "ReView", bill inserts, mailers, waste hauler newsletters, kitchen pail distribution at community events, and tours and presentations led by RRWMD staff. This campaign was supplemented by outreach conducted by the County's municipal partners.
- **Used Motor Oil Recycling** (May and June 2025) ads increased the public's awareness of the need to recycle their used motor oil and promoted the countywide availability of free collection sites. Newspaper, television, radio and online ads, as well as a press release and social media, were used to promote this program.

FACILITY TOURS

RRWMD continues to provide tours of the County's ReSource Center, Tajiguas Landfill, and South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station. The tours are promoted on LessIsMore.org, through program partners like MarBorg and Explore Ecology, and via word of mouth. Virtual tours are also offered and shared with schools through the County's school education partners.

During FY 2024-25, 19 tours were provided to 405 members of the public. During the tours, RRWMD staff explained how waste is managed in our community and the technical aspects of the facility, and provided tips and guidance on waste prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse. At the end of these tours, outreach materials for the County's waste reduction and recycling programs were distributed.

SCHOOL WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION

RRWMD has several programs to educate students about source reduction, recycling, food waste prevention, and composting. While County staff provide presentations and facility tours for adults, as described above, RRWMD contracts with environmental educators Explore Ecology in the South County and Science Discovery in the North County to provide educational services. These services include visiting schools to deliver in-class waste reduction presentations and hosting field trips to the ReSource Center and area landfills.



Below are tables showing the number of students and classes reached under Explore Ecology's and Science Discovery's education contracts.

EXPLORE ECOLOGY FY 2024-25	# OF CLASSES	# OF STUDENTS	
Art from Scrap Field Trip	17	326	
Tajiguas/ReSource Center Field Trip	17	393	
Waste Reducton	41	851	
Food Waste	32	562	
Compost	38	701	
Food Waste/Compost	19	410	
Totals	164	3,243	

SCIENCE DISCOVERY FY 2024-25	# OF CLASSES	VIRTUAL PROGRAMS	# OF STUDENTS
Recycle	22	0	631
Vermicomposting	26	0	758
Paper	22	0	652
Food Waste/Compost	14	0	400
Hidden Hazards	11	0	324
Santa Maria Landfill Field Trip	12	9	545
Totals	104	9	3,310

For the field trip program, 17 classes visited the County's ReSource Center and Tajiguas Landfill, and 12 classes visited the Santa Maria Landfill. Science Discovery also provided virtual field trips to an additional 9 classes. In total, 938 students participated in the tour program during FY 2024-25.

RESOURCE RECOVERY & WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION WEBSITE

RRWMD's section of the County's main website continued to provide the following information:

- Service details and rates for trash, recycling, and organics collection
- Descriptions and notices of upcoming activities and events
- Descriptions of County facilities, including the types of materials accepted and corresponding fees
- Links to the County's LessIsMore.org website for information on waste prevention and reduction, recycling, and reuse
- Descriptions and notices of Requests for Proposals
- Environmental documents for current and past projects

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

RRWMD provides several programs to respond to illegal dumping and keep communities clean and safe.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

RRWMD 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. Enforcement activities occur countywide, with the most active area being in the South County community of Isla Vista. The number of code enforcement incidents is shown in the chart below:

UNINCORPORATED AREA	CODE VIOLATIONS IN ISLA VISTA (IV)	CODE VIOLATIONS IN OTHER AREAS	ILLEGAL DUMPING	ABANDONED VEHICLES	TOTAL
North County	Not applicable	49	294	13	356
South County	92	9	179	4	284

VIOLATION BREAKDOWN	
Couch Violations IV	2
Illegal Dumping IV	50
Abandoned Vehicles IV	1
Solid waste Violation	29
Other	10
IV Reported Bulky Items	79

ISLA VISTA MOVE-OUT

At the end of each academic year in June, students from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) discard tons of materials as they move out from their residences. During the two-week move-out period in June 2025, MarBorg Industries collected 419.67 tons of solid waste and recyclables along the streets in Isla Vista, in addition to 819 mattresses and 3.66 tons of e-waste. Of note, there were no reported arsons this year, and just three couch fires were observed by County Code Enforcement staff. By comparison, there were 150 arsons, including dozens of burned pieces of furniture, in the early 2000's. This dramatic improvement can be attributed to the establishment and enforcement of state and local laws, meetings with property owners and management companies, and the issuance of warnings and citations.

In an effort to capture as much of the move-out material as possible for reuse and to prevent it from ending up at the Tajiguas Landfill, Give Isla Vista (GIVE), a campus organization, solicits donations of unwanted and reusable materials, such as:

- Clothing
- Books
- Shoes
- Furniture
- Furnishings
- Sports goods
- Electronics
- Appliances
- Kitchenware
- Glass and dinnerware
- Canned/packaged goods
- Office Supplies
- Bikes
- Miscellaneous materials



UCSB students and community volunteers receive, organize, and sort these donations for a weekend sale conducted by GIVE. For the 2025 event, 99 volunteers spent 881 hours performing this work, and 13 paid staff worked an estimated 1,958 hours over 12 days. One ton of food was donated to the Associated Students Food Bank, and 30 tons of material were sold or donated for reuse. An additional 600 pounds of electronics were recycled. Proceeds from the sale totaled \$38,000 and were distributed to numerous Isla Vista organizations and projects.

RRWMD donates heavy-duty plastic bags to GIVE for use in sorting and storing the thousands of pieces of clothing collected. RRWMD also helps promote the sale by attaching a flyer and referencing the sale in a letter regarding move-out that is distributed to property owners, management companies, campus organizations, and community groups in Isla Vista.



REGIONAL COORDINATION

RRWMD 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 OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

RRWMD continued to participate in the Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County (GBPSBC) and achieved “Innovator” status at the October 2024 Green Business Awards. This is the highest level of sustainability achievable through the program.

Under the GBPSBC, businesses are offered incentives and assistance to implement actions that protect, preserve, and improve the environment and that go above and beyond their compliance with applicable regulations. Upon completing certain mandatory and a minimum number of voluntary measures in the following areas, participants are certified as “green” businesses:

- Solid waste reduction and recycling
- Environmentally-preferable purchasing
- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Pollution prevention
- Wastewater
- Transportation

Businesses achieving certification are given a certificate and window decal to display at their business and are honored at the annual GBPSBC event. They also receive free advertising by being listed in the directory of certified businesses on the GBPSBC and California Green Business Network websites, through recognition on chamber of commerce websites, and being highlighted through free print and online ads. The GBPSBC has been certifying and recertifying businesses since December 2008. During FY 2024-25, 14 businesses/agencies achieved certification, and 17 were recertified. Of these, five – including RRWMD – achieved Innovator status. As of FY 2024-25, a total of 99 businesses are certified through the program.



SANTA BARBARA REGIONAL RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE

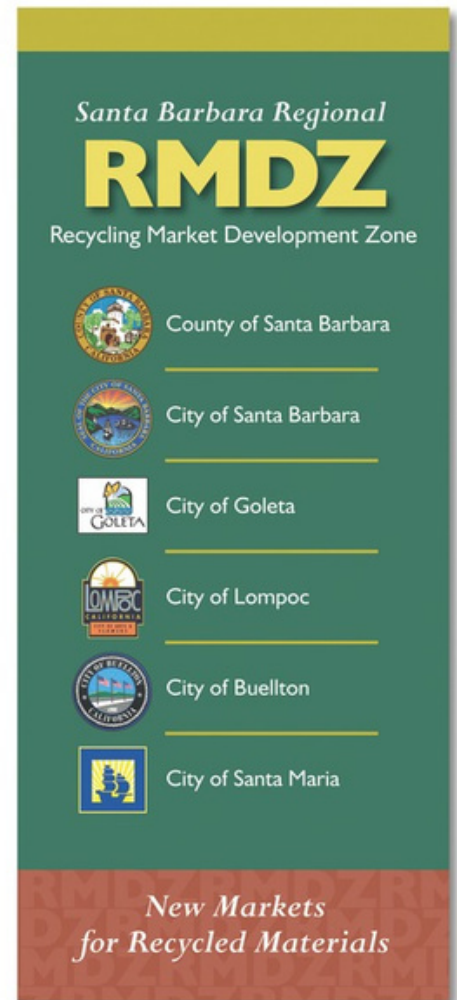
The Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (SBRRMDZ) is one of 39 RMDZs in California and encompasses the unincorporated areas in the county and the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria.

The purpose of the RMDZ program is to offer low interest loans and incentives to businesses that change the way products are made or packaged to prevent or reduce waste.

RRWMD contracts with the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce to serve as the Zone Administrator for the SBRRMDZ.

During FY 2024-25, the Zone Administrator:

- Assisted an agricultural plastics recycler to expand operations, relocate, get the proper permitting, and apply with CalRecycle for an RMDZ loan (which is still pending approval)
- Collaborated with RRWMD staff on project development, site visits, and workshops
- Coordinated approval of ZIF funds for a Solar Panel Recycling Workshop scheduled for November 2025 and assisted in planning and connecting with Allan Hancock College as the host site
- Assisted companies with relocation and permitting, including a green waste processing company in Santa Barbara
- Hosted a food recovery/compliance workshop with the City of Santa Maria Utilities Department
- Performed site visits to review recycling efforts and on-site composting
- Attended Zone Works workshops for updates from CalRecycle and other Zones
- Served as an active Board member of the California Association of Recycling Market Development Zones (CARMDZ), providing input regarding the RMDZ program on a statewide level, reviewing and commenting on relevant legislation, and attending CARMDZ Board and leadership meetings
- Updated and created new informational materials for the program and attended outreach events to provide RMDZ information to potential businesses and industry representatives
- Reviewed potential grant opportunities and local and state business assistance programs
- Collaborated with other agencies to promote the RMDZ program and sustainability initiatives



SOLID WASTE LOCAL TASK FORCE

RRWMD continues to administer the Santa Barbara County Solid Waste Local Task Force (LTF), a State-mandated group comprised of representatives from each of the nine jurisdictions, as well as Vandenberg Space Force Base, special districts, and the waste industry. The LTF discusses and comments on proposed facilities, regulations, and local programs. During FY 2024-25, the County held four LTF meetings to review and discuss:

- Storm recovery updates
- The ReSource Center and organics management updates
- SB 1383 procurement
- SB 1383 collection systems
- Jurisdictional updates
- Product stewardship updates
- Legislative and regulatory updates
- SB 54 preparation and rulemaking
- Joint grant funding opportunities



STATE DOCUMENT PREPARATION

In FY 2024-25, RRWMD staff continued to prepare several regional reports for submittal to CalRecycle, including:

- Electronic Annual Reports (EARs) for the cities of Solvang and Goleta and County unincorporated areas
- Quarterly Recycling & Disposal Reporting System (RDRS) reports for the Tajiguas Landfill, South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, and New Cuyama Transfer Station
- The annual Hazardous Waste Report (Form 303), encompassing the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Solvang, and the unincorporated areas
- The DTSC Universal Waste Electronic Devices annual report
- The CalRecycle Net Cost Report for the Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program
- Form 198 reports for electronic waste collected at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station and the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station

REGIONAL DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

During previous fiscal years, RRWMD spearheaded a collaborative effort to create a regional Disaster Debris Management Plan (DDMP) for the South Coast and the Santa Ynez Valley. The effort included the production of jurisdictional-specific reports for the participating jurisdictions, which included the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Solvang, and Buellton. The DDMP is an integral part of the larger disaster preparedness efforts included in the Santa Barbara County Emergency Management Plan.

The DDMP covers the response to and recovery from all debris-generating events within the region, as well as additional tasks required to maintain regional disaster debris management readiness, including training, exercises, and plan maintenance. The plan includes debris generation assessments from a variety of potential disasters, including earthquakes and floods. The report shows the full scope and scale of the challenges the participating communities face and was used to define the facilities needed for the region in order to properly respond to future disasters.

The regional DDMP effort originated within the Local Task Force. Ongoing efforts are needed to identify and prepare debris management facilities for the County and cities.



2024 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

With funding from the County and the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, the local environmental education non-profit Explore Ecology organizes and coordinates an annual Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) for Santa Barbara County. Typically, Explore Ecology coordinates the beach captains and volunteers for each clean-up location; distributes bags, gloves, and other materials provided by the California Coastal Commission; and conducts the advertising campaign. During the September 20, 2024 Coastal Cleanup Day event, 1,059 volunteers at 29 sites collected 4,771 pounds of trash and 527 pounds of recyclables from 87 miles of coastline and waterways. Some of the most unusual items found included:

- A singular outdoor couch cushion
- A disc golf goal
- A candelabra

OPEN SPACE / RESTORATION AREAS & CONSERVATION AREAS

In addition to providing solid waste management services, RRWMD provides opportunities for the public to enjoy restored native habitats and open spaces. These efforts involve coordination with academic, conservation, non-profit, and resource agencies to further biological research and preserve, enhance, and permanently protect habitat for sensitive species.

BARON RANCH — ARROYO QUEMADO TRAIL AND NATURAL AREA

Located in a coastal valley along the Gaviota Coast approximately 25 miles west of Santa Barbara, the RRWMD-managed Baron Ranch (Ranch) comprises 1,083 acres. Portions of the Ranch were historically developed with avocado and cherimoya orchards; however, due to the age of the orchards and their declining productivity, agricultural activities were suspended in June 2016.



A multi-use public trail has been constructed on the Ranch and is maintained by the County Community Services Department, Parks Division, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara Trails Council. The trailhead is located at the Calle Real frontage road that parallels the north side of Highway 101. In the southern section of the Ranch, a trail bridge takes visitors along the western side of Arroyo Quemado Creek, and about a mile from the bridge, the trail crosses back to the east side of the creek. The trail consists of a six-mile loop into the northern portion of the Ranch, as well as a connection to the West Camino Cielo Trail in the Los Padres National Forest. The trail bridge and trail realignment were completed in FY 2020-21 and included enhancements to the entrance to the Ranch, such as native plant restoration, a vehicle turnaround, signage, and new fencing and gates. The trail is now open for all user groups (hikers, non-motorized bicyclists, and equestrians) seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to dusk.

In FY 2023-24, a second realignment of the trail was completed to reduce recreational impacts to the creek. The realigned trail is elevated above the creek corridor and provides sweeping views of the Ranch.

Trail facilities were impacted by the Alisal Fire in October 2021 and subsequent debris flows. Trail repairs (including repairs to the pedestrian bridge) have been completed, and other maintenance continues. Some hazards remain along the trail, including erosion gullies, uneven surfaces, and the potential for falling trees.

The only area of the Ranch open to the public is the designated trail. Public access is prohibited in other areas of the Ranch, which are used for native plant restoration and wildlife and habitat conservation.



BARON RANCH RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION AREA

Since July 2009, RRWMD has restored over 50 acres of barren, disturbed, and former orchard areas on Baron Ranch, and continues to maintain these areas and provide additional habitat enhancement through control of invasive plant species. These activities include:

- Restoration of native communities such as Coastal Live Oak Riparian Forest, Freshwater Marsh, Ceanothus Megacarpus Chaparral, Southern Willow Scrub, Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub, and Southern Coastal Live Oak Woodland
- Planting over 39,000 native plants, shrubs, and trees, including over 5,000 coast live oak trees, over 5,700 willow trees, over 300 blue elderberry, and 300 sensitive plants (Plummer's baccharis, Santa Barbara honeysuckle, and Hoffman's nightshade)

The restored areas have significantly expanded the Arroyo Quemado riparian corridor and provide valuable habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, including American black bear, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, grey fox, California mule deer, and numerous bird species. Additionally, the area may provide habitat for the Federal- and State-listed Least Bell's vireo. Over the past year, wildlife cameras have documented the presence of mountain lions, bears, bobcat, coyote, deer, and other wildlife at the Ranch. Additional wildlife include reptiles, such as the southwestern pond turtle (State-listed species of special concern and in the process of being federally listed under the Endangered Species Act), and amphibians, such as the federally-listed (threatened) and State-listed (species of special concern) California red-legged frog. Recent breeding season creek surveys have identified a thriving population of California red-legged frogs in Arroyo Quemado with 171 adults, 32 juveniles, and 39 egg masses observed.

Over 30 acres of the Arroyo Quemado riparian corridor and adjacent upland areas have been permanently protected in a restrictive covenant that was approved in 2022 in association with a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. An additional 100+ acres, including the northern portions of Arroyo Quemado Creek west towards the watershed boundary and encompassing California red-legged frog critical habitat, have also been permanently protected in a conservation easement with the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County. These areas are permanently protected as a condition of a Habitat Conservation Plan prepared by RRWMD and by the Incidental Take Permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2022 for the operation of the ReSource Center. In total, approximately 141 acres and 1.6 miles of Arroyo Quemado aquatic habitat are protected.



Proposed upcoming restoration activities include restoring approximately 15 acres of disturbed areas with coastal sage scrub habitat to support the Crotch's bumble bee, a "candidate" species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act, and permanently conserving these new restored areas in a new conservation easement. In Fall/Winter 2025, RRWMD will also be replanting 125 Santa Barbara honeysuckle plants (a sensitive species) in areas adjacent to Arroyo Quemado.

The restoration areas and other areas of the Ranch were impacted by the Alisal Fire and subsequent debris flows. Native vegetation is successfully recolonizing burned areas, and RRWMD is conducting invasive species management in the impacted restoration areas to help promote recovery of the native species. Other conservation activities include ongoing use of the Ranch for biological research conducted by regulatory agencies and by researchers from UCSB. Avian research studies conducted in Summer 2022 detected 55 species, including riparian-obligate songbirds like Yellow Warbler and Blue Grosbeak, which are scarce in the area. These studies were repeated in Summer 2023.

BARON RANCH FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

In partnership with the Fire Safe Council and the Santa Barbara Fire Department, a grant-funded prescribed grazing program was implemented at the Baron Ranch in Spring/Summer 2024 and Spring/Summer 2025. Goats and sheep were brought to the Ranch to graze approximately 200 acres of grassland areas to reduce fire fuel loads along the Gaviota Coast. The prescribed grazing can also provide a secondary benefit of reducing invasive species which border the Baron Ranch restoration areas.

FOOTHILL OPEN SPACE RESTORATION AND TRAILS

The Foothill Open Space Restoration consists of the restoration of 7 acres of the closed Foothill Landfill (east of the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station) with native coastal sage scrub and riparian plants. The restoration was conducted through a partnership between RRWMD and the Growing Solutions Restoration Education Institute (Growing Solutions) through a grant from the State Department of Parks and Recreation with County matching funds. From 2008 to 2012, over 10,000 natives were planted, and native seeds were sown largely through community planting days with the help of volunteers (residents, students, and community groups). The restoration area contains several trails and interpretive signs and is available to residents for passive recreational use. The site also houses the Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

RRWMD provides waste management services to the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, in addition to the unincorporated areas of the county. Waste management services consist of:

- Transferring and burying trash
- Sorting material for recycling, such as metals, wood, green waste, tires, dirt, drywall, electronics, cardboard, and mattresses at the County's transfer stations
- Processing green waste at the County's transfer stations and marketing and delivering the resulting mulch
- Processing and baling commingled recyclables at the ReSource Center
- Processing organics at the ReSource Center and marketing the finished compost

Additionally, RRWMD accepts self-hauled trash from the general public that originates from all communities in the county.

CalRecycle's calculations indicate that the per-capita disposal rate for the Santa Barbara County region was 5.7 pounds per person per day in 2024.

The following section highlights the quantity of material managed at these facilities during FY 2024-25 and provides a breakdown of material types.

TAJIGUAS LANDFILL

Municipal solid waste generated by the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, as well as the unincorporated South Coast, Santa Ynez Valley, and Cuyama Valley, is sorted and separated at the County owned and operated ReSource Center. Residual is disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill. Commingled recyclables generated in the unincorporated areas and in the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Lompoc, and Santa Barbara are sorted at the County's ReSource Center, with residual also buried at the Tajiguas Landfill. In addition to accepting waste directly from private hauling companies and the public, the ReSource Center and Tajiguas Landfill receive waste consolidated at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, the New Cuyama Transfer Station, and the Ventucopa Transfer Station.

In FY 2024-25, a number of capital improvement projects were completed at the landfill. During the fiscal year:

- 198,764 tons of waste was buried at Tajiguas Landfill
- 38,756 tons of green waste was hauled to the Tajiguas mulch pad for processing into mulch
- 123,404 tons of municipal solid waste was hauled to the ReSource Center's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) from partner jurisdictions
- 7,093 tons of recyclables was directly hauled to the ReSource Center MRF from partner jurisdictions
- 2,326 tons of recyclables was hauled to the ReSource Center MRF from the City of Lompoc
- 4,135 tons of organic waste was hauled to the ReSource Center's Anaerobic Digestion Facility (ADF)
- 41,607 tons of organic waste sorted from the trash at the MRF was transferred to the ADF
- 18,263 tons of mulch was used as green material alternative daily cover (ADC) at the landfill
- 4,463 tons of compost was produced by the ADF



RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATIONS

RRWMD operates four transfer stations that serve as intermediary sites for franchised loads and collection sites for the general public.

SOUTH COAST RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION

In FY 2024-25, the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station received:

- 9,635 tons of municipal solid waste that was transferred to the ReSource Center MRF for further processing
- 25,849 tons of commingled recyclables that was transferred to the ReSource Center MRF for further processing
- 1,089 tons of miscellaneous material, including appliances, carpet, metal, wood pallets, e-waste, mattresses, and tires that was transferred to non-County facilities for processing
- 9,687 tons of construction waste that was transferred to non-County facilities for processing
- 9,057 tons of green waste that was transferred to the Tajiguas mulch pad

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION

In FY 2024-25, the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station received:

- 13,881 tons of municipal solid waste that was transferred to the ReSource Center MRF for further processing
- 109 tons of commingled recyclables that was transferred to the ReSource Center MRF for further processing
- 239 tons of miscellaneous material, including appliances, metal, wood pallets, e-waste, mattresses, and tires that was transferred to non-County facilities for processing
- 1,717 tons of construction waste that was transferred to non-County facilities for processing
- 5,233 tons of green waste that was transferred to the Tajiguas mulch pad

NEW CUYAMA AND VENTUCOPA TRANSFER STATIONS

The New Cuyama and Ventucopa Transfer Stations are located in a remote area of northeastern Santa Barbara County. MarBorg Industries takes all of the material collected at these sites to the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, where typically 60-90% of the material is able to diverted from the landfill and transferred to the ReSource Center MRF. Below is a table showing the **tons of material received at the New Cuyama and Ventucopa facilities**.

MATERIAL RECEIVED AT NEW CUYAMA AND VENTUCOPA FACILITIES						
	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20

Amount in Tons	587	536	1,280*	1,243*	1,200*	>1,200*
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* Tonnage includes waste from the community that was formerly picked up by the franchised hauler and consolidated at the transfer stations.

RESOURCE CENTER

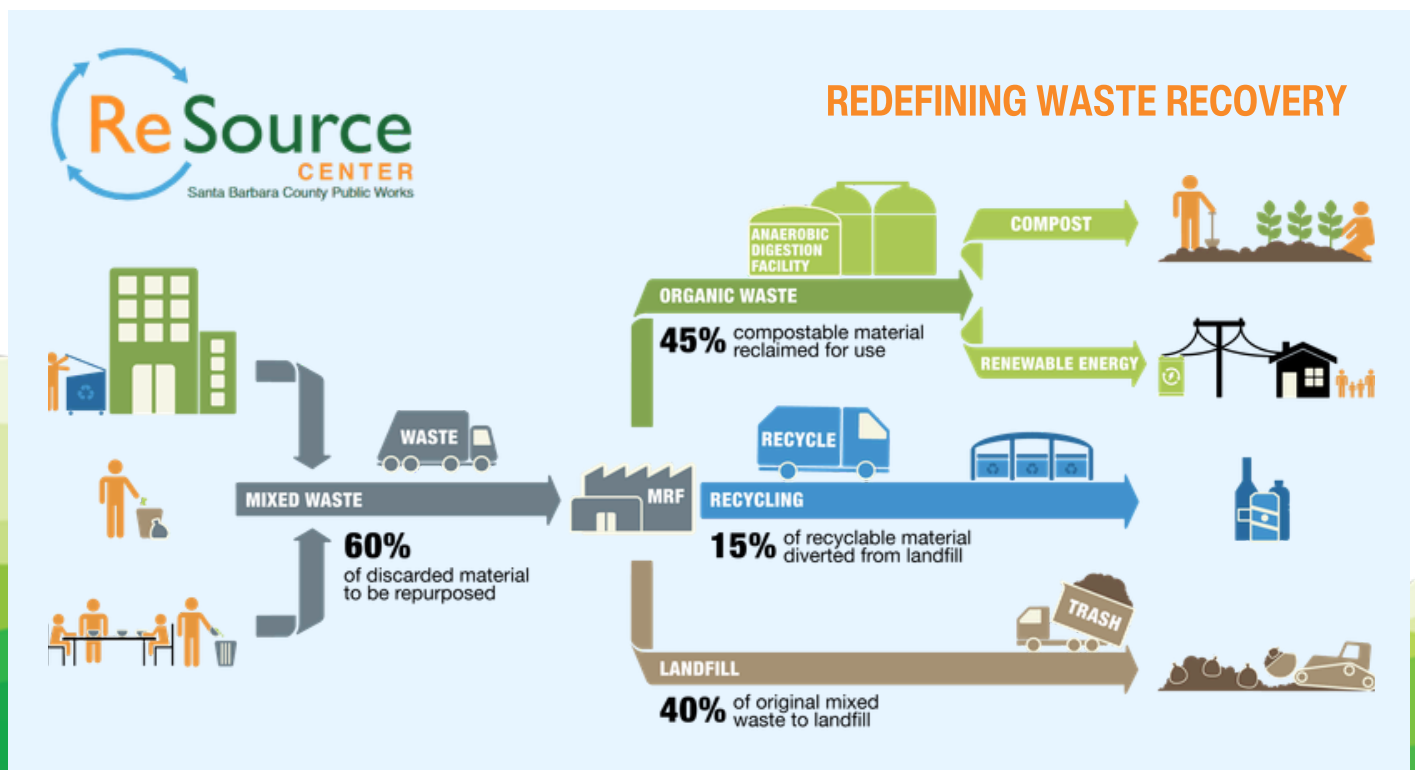
This past year marked the third full year of operation of the County's ReSource Center. The Resource Center consists of a materials recovery facility (MRF) to process mixed municipal solid waste and source-separated recyclables, and an anaerobic digestion facility (ADF) and compost management unit (CMU) to process both mixed and source-separated organics. Although the facility is still undergoing commissioning and acceptance testing for some of its operations, the ReSource Center continues to successfully divert waste from the landfill while producing green energy, compost, and soil amendments. Once full commissioning is complete, the estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will be equivalent to removing over 28,000 vehicles from local roadways.

With the inclusion of the energy collected through the landfill gas system (as well as the solar panels on the MRF), the operations of the ReSource Center are largely energy self-sufficient and produce surplus energy to export to the grid for local use.

The ReSource Center is owned by the County but originally designed, built, and operated by a private company, MSB Investors, LLC. Due to MSB's inability to complete final acceptance testing, maintain site safety, respond to Notices of Violation from local and state agencies, and achieve the high environmental standards of the project, the County terminated the contract in late 2023.

To ensure the success of the ReSource Center, RRWMD took over the agreement with MarBorg for the contracted operation of the MRF, and RRWMD directly operates the ADF and CMU. These changes have resulted in higher recycling diversion percentages and greater compost quality.

This innovative facility keeps Santa Barbara County at the forefront of mitigating the environmental impacts of waste.



NOTABLE LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY CHANGES

SENATE BILL (SB) 54, PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION AND PACKAGING PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT

SB 54 established the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, which requires that at least 65% of covered material be recycled beginning in 2032. Additionally, the bill requires plastic producers to:

- Source reduce plastic covered material
- Ensure that covered material offered in California is recyclable or compostable
- Ensure that covered materials meet specified recycling rates
- Establish an environmental mitigation surcharge to be deposited into a new California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund

RRWMD has submitted comments via the regulatory rulemaking process and completed surveys and information requests from CalRecycle and the Producer Responsibility Organization.

ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2440, RESPONSIBLE BATTERY RECYCLING ACT OF 2022

The Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 requires producers, either individually or through the creation of one or more stewardship organizations, to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of covered batteries. This program will be similar in nature to California's electronic waste recycling program.

SB 1215 - ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING ACT OF 2003: COVERED BATTERY EMBEDDED PRODUCTS

This bill expands the scope of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 to include battery-embedded products and requires consumers, on and after January 1, 2026, to pay a recycling fee in an amount established by CalRecycle. RRWMD is preparing for the associated operational and administrative changes needed.





ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Below are additional highlights for FY 2024-25, as well as a preview of new projects on the horizon.

- A Gore Membrane Cover system was installed at the ReSource Center CMU. This new system covers all of the windrows of curing digestate to reduce odors by at least 85%, reduce curing times for the digestate, and eliminate the use of the windrow turner.
- In June 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved RRWMD's recommendation to pursue a restructuring of the fee schedule for maximum franchised collection rates in Isla Vista in order to clarify existing services and provide additional services for customers in that region.
- Construction of an Advanced Treatment System (ATS) was completed at the ReSource Center CMU. The ATS will significantly improve the quality of stormwater runoff and is one of the first such systems to be installed in California.

COMING SOON

- The presentation of an ordinance update to the Board of Supervisors to modernize mandatory waste service requirements in Isla Vista, including transitioning curbside collection cans to carts.
- The presentation of restructured collection rates for Isla Vista customers.
- The installation of an island mode generator at the Tajiguas Landfill to allow the facility to be completely independent from the electrical grid and avoid interruptions of service during power outages.
- A first-of-its-kind Spanish edition of the Less Is More waste reduction calendar.
- A bilingual ReSource Center and Tajiguas Landfill tour video.
- Expansion of the North County field trip program to include a tour of Engel & Gray's composting facility.



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waste in Santa Barbara County.

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