

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026, 1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Contact/Chair: Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov

Agenda

1. Introductions

- Ashley Swauncy
- Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad
- Carmen Romo-Diego, City of San Diego
- Dave Didonato, City of Chula Vista
- Diana Jamaledine, City of Solana Beach
- Edward Baskin, City of San Diego
- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Fernando Moreno, City of Escondido
- Gio Cortes, City of Escondido
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Jessica Toth, Solana Center for Environmental Innovations
- Kirk Kinder, County of San Diego
- Kenneth Prue III, City of San Diego
- Kim Silva, City of Escondido
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Monica Martinez, City of El Cajon
- Natalie Levy, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR)
- Nicole Grucky, City of Solana Beach
- Risa Baron, Republic Services
- Rosemarie Chora, City of Oceanside
- Valeria Collins, City of San Marcos
- Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach

2. New Topics

- a. [SB 1053](#) will require shoppers to bring their own bag or buy a paper bag in-store. Paper bags can be repurposed as liners for kitchen caddies and this can be an opportunity to make highest and best use of the bags. Staff are working to develop messaging for educational outreach.
- b. Staff took parks department employees on a tour of the compost facility at the Otay Sustainability Park to provide more insights on the process.
- c. Some local jurisdictions are using the contractor Zero Food Print to provide subsidized compost to agricultural users.

3. SB 1383

- a. Education and Outreach
 - i. Discussed challenges in working with large business plazas to get organics containers and achieve compliance.
 - ii. Challenges include the number of businesses and contacts, coordinating visits with haulers, addressing varying lease and contractual requirements, space constraints, etc.
- b. Procurement, Enforcement, & Facility Updates. No updates.

4. Presentation: Compost & Mulch Application- Guidance, Trainings & BMPs

- a. UCANR jurisdictional survey & plan

- i. Summary report results to be anonymized and shared at 2026 CRRA conference in a SD focused session.
 - ii. Timeline:
 - 1. Survey Distribution & Data Collection – Jan to Mar 2026 (8 weeks to respond)
 - 2. Data Analysis & Reporting – April to May 2026
 - 3. Final Presentation & Summary Report – June to July 2026
 - iii. Goals
 - 1. Assess where jurisdictions are utilizing recovered organic waste products. Are other resources and trainings needed?
 - 2. Determine areas where recovered organic products can be further expanded to meet procurement targets.
 - 3. Use survey to initiate discussions in different departments/programs/City Managers or expand partnerships. No right or wrong answers, survey is intended to help users consider their plans as well as report on existing practices.
 - 4. Determine how jurisdictions are implementing [AB 2346](#) and addressing [AB 1572](#): as landscapes get retrofitted accordingly, they trigger MWEL0 protocols. Discussion on how compost can be applied in these projects for water conservation goals and jurisdiction procurement goals. [Environmental Incentives](#). CALWEP toolkit rolling out.
 - 5. If anyone is interested in sharing opinions, please reach out to Natalie Levy: nlevy@ucanr.edu
 - b. Tip sheets and specifications- No updates.
 - i. [Compost and Mulch Use Toolbox](#)
5. Legislative Updates
- a. SB 54 – Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act. No additional updates.
6. Roundtable, News & Events
- a. [AB 643](#) bill is in legislative session. Committee hearing January 12, 2026.
 - b. [US Composting Council Conference](#) in Sacramento February 2nd – 5th Carmen will be presenting a decontamination pilot, with waste reduction and lid flips.
 - c. CRRA Conference presentations- proposals due January 31, 2026.
 - d. <https://www.crra.com/conference#callforspeakers>
 - e. <https://www.crra.com/conference>
7. Adjournment – next meeting (first Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 pm)