

Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 6/23/2026

Meetings take place the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Staff Contact: Eric Wolff

County of San Diego

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Agenda

1) Introductions

Alexander Galasso, City of San Diego	Kristen Dare, WM
April Andrews, County of San Diego	Leslie Webb Blanco, City of Vista
Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad	Madeline Lascola-Hutcherson, Goodwill
Christian Olivas, City of Lemon Grove	Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
Cynthia Mallett, WM	Miranda Ramos, County of San Diego
Dana Laosiri, Republic Services	Natalia King Quick, County of San Diego
Debbie Descans, WM	Nicole Grucky, City of Solana Beach
Diana Jamaledine, City of Solana Beach	Ofelia Andrade, City of Coronado
Duncan Andrews, Friendlier	Paul Maechler, City of Encinitas
Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle	Rosemarie Chora, City of Oceanside
Fernando Moreno, City of Escondido	Roxana Montalvo, County of San Diego
Gio Cortes, City of Escondido	Ruth Janssen, I Love a Clean San Diego
Heidi Sanborn, NSAC	Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
James H. Eggart, Woodruff & Smart	Stephen Mergener, Zero Waste San Diego
Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway	Steve Weihe, County of San Diego
Joanne Brasch, CPSC	Ting-yao Li, City of Escondido
Joshua Keyton, County of San Diego	Tyla Soylu, Zero Waste San Diego
Kenneth Prue III, City of Oceanside	Vivian Richter, County of San Diego
Kirk Kinder, County of San Diego	Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach

- 2) **Transcripts and AI Notetaking** – Transcriptions and AI Notetaking are allowed. If you are using such services, please consider that they are not perfect and confirm with the source before quoting anyone.

3) **Open Forum**

- a) No updates.

4) **Presentations**

- a) Friendlier – Duncan Andrews

i) Overview

- (1) Reusable food containers and centralized reuse system
- (2) 250+ clients, with over 300 tons of waste diverted
- (3) Recently expanded to California and looking to come to San Diego/ LA

ii) Mission

- (1) Simplifying the world's transition from single-use to a reusable packaging
- (2) Most operators turn to compostables and recyclables, but this waste often ends up in landfills due to contamination

iii) For reuse to work, it should be:

- (1) Operationally seamless and radically convenient
- (2) Scalable beyond the limits of on-site infrastructure
- (3) Predictable pricing with no hidden fees

iv) How it works

- (1) Like a uniform rental service:
 - (a) Serve, Enjoy, Return
 - (b) Wash, Order, Deliver

v) How are lost containers accounted for?

- (1) Never pay for lost inventory, the deposit takes care of it

vi) Product Features

- (1) Blue containers:
 - (a) Cups, bowls & delis, plates, rectangular containers
 - (b) Food-safe, BPA and PFA free
 - (c) Made in North America

vii) Next steps:

- (1) Volume estimates provided by interested party
- (2) Friendlier creates a pricing proposal based on their needs

viii) Case Study

- (1) University of British Columbia (UBC)
 - (a) 136,481 total products reused in the first six months
 - (b) 95% of UBC strongly agree, agree, or neutral that their campus is demonstrating leadership in sustainability by running Friendlier program

ix) Reuse Effects on the Life Cycle

- (1) After just one reuse, the container already reduces environmental impact compared to a single use alternative
- (2) 140g of CO2 emissions are saved per container use

x) Questions:

- (1) What was the critical mass to move down to San Diego? What would it take to move here?
 - (a) Friendlier looks for an “anchor client” and the volume threshold that makes the cleaning facility worth it – San Diego fulfilled this criteria
- (2) Pricing per container?
 - (a) 40 cents per container used
- (3) Are containers or products used for cleaning or personal care items?
 - (a) Products have been tested at Vancouver pharmacies (pill bottles)
- (4) Attendance at CRRA conference?
 - (a) Will be at CRRA
- (5) Has this program been applied to events?
 - (a) 6 events
 - (b) Some districts in Canada are providing grant money for these events

5) CalRecycle Update

a) Emily Schuetz

- i) EAR training webinar posted to YouTube
 - (1) 2025 EAR is due to CR on August 3rd
- ii) Two SB 1383 & SB 54 webinars hosted
 - (1) June 17th, July 22nd
 - (2) Session focused on paper procurement is scheduled for September 15th
- iii) Open grants and loan cycles:
 - (1) Beverage container recycling: due August 11th
 - (2) Tire incentive program: due August 19th
 - (3) Farm and ranch solid waste abatement: due October 7th
 - (4) Tire derived aggregate program: due October 15th
 - (5)
- iv) Stakeholder workshops:
 - (1) Paint stewardship: August 4th
 - (2) Textile stewardship workshop: August 13th
 - (3) Next public meeting: August 18th
- v) Emily is being promoted to Senior Environmental Scientist on August 3rd
 - (1) Questions can be sent to her in the meantime, should include supervisor
- vi) Questions

- (1) Are site visits cancelled because Emily is getting promoted?
- (a) Still can be arranged, contact supervisor for more information

6) NSAC Update

- a) Heidi Sanborn
 - i) SB 54
 - (1) Receiving industry pushback
 - ii) PACK Act
 - (1) Currently circulating in federal government spaces – will affect every level (state, local) if it goes through
 - iii) SB 501, SB 936
 - (1) Increased advocacy is necessary to the passage of these bills

7) CPSC Update

- a) Joanne Brasch
 - i) Recess is occurring
 - (1) No hearings for bills
- b) 3 bills are currently active:
 - i) AB 762: Ban on single use vapes
 - (1) Currently sitting in appropriations
 - ii) AB 904: Carpet bill replacing AB 80
 - (1) Gutted and amended, sitting in appropriations
 - iii) SB 1010: Refrigerant stewardship
 - (1) Updating CAR program to add certification fee

8) Waste to Worth Update

- a) Natalia King-Quick
 - i) Last round of stakeholder engagement has wrapped up
 - (1) Ask to have community members self-select their own roles
 - ii) Waste to Worth survey is open, until July 31st
 - (a) The County of San Diego is creating a regional roadmap to support a **just and equitable shift to a circular economy**. A circular economy means keeping materials and products in use for as long as possible through activities like reuse, repair, recycling, and remanufacturing.
 - (b) **We invite you to share your ideas** to strengthen San Diego's regional economy, reduce waste, and keep valuable materials in use. Your input will help identify opportunities to:
 - (i) Expand infrastructure for reuse
 - (ii) Lower disposal costs
 - (iii) Create local jobs
 - (iv) Build a more resilient community
 - (c) The survey has up to 17 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your input is appreciated!
 - (i) Responses of survey will be shared

(d) Questions

- (i) Do we respond as individuals, or on behalf of what our organization/jurisdiction wants?

1. If responding as an organization, needs to be noted in the survey

9) SB 1383 Roundtable

- a) No updates.

10) CRRA 2026 Conference Planning

- a) Almost at capacity – register by August 14th to secure a spot

11) Other Regional Working Group Reports

- a) Edible Food

- i) Joshua Keyton

(1) Edible food recovery for 2025 has increased compared to previous years

(2) AB 660: Food safety label rework

(a) In effect July 1st

- b) HHW

- i) Roxana Montavo

(1) Oil payment program report is due August 15th

- ii) Organics

- c) Mike Wonsidler

- i) Compost Caravan

(1) Day of demonstration for best management practices

(a) San Diego: October 22nd

(2) [Sign up to speak or sponsor the Oct 22 CA Compost Workshop & Demo Day.](#)

- ii) CalFire Urban Wood Management Grant

(1) Urban Wood Economy (contact):

(a) Leana Mauricette, leana@uweconomy.org

- d) Reuse and Repair Network

- i) April Andrews

(1) July 15th: Reuse and Repair meeting

(a) Cross border collaborations

(i) Key issue is cost per truck - businesses want items picked up but don't want to pay crossing fees

(b) Next meeting: September 16th

12) Roundtable - None

13) Adjournment - next meeting 8/25/2026.