

San Diego Reuse & Repair Network Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM (Duration: ~59 minutes)

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Facilitator: April Andrews

1. Welcome & Introductions

April Andrews (County of San Diego) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Participants introduced themselves:

- Manuel Medrano – City of Chula Vista
- Jessica Toth – Solana Center for Environmental Innovation
- Lotte Phoummavong & Madeline Lascola-Hutcherson – Goodwill Industries of San Diego County
- Megan Kendall – City of San Diego Environmental Services
- Arturo Perzabal – Urban Core
- Stephen Mergener – Zero Waste San Diego
- Marina Pangilinan – I Love a Clean San Diego
- Laura Luxemburg – Subi Foundation
- Luke Lombardi & Amy Stanfield – Buro Happold (Consultants)

2. Main Presentation: Circular Economy Assessment & Roadmap

Presented by: Amy Stanfield & Luke Lombardi (Buro Happold)

Project Overview:

- Goal: Transition San Diego from a linear economy (take-make-waste) to a circular economy (reuse, repair, remanufacture).
- Focus: Support small businesses, grassroots organizations, and workforce development.
- Outcomes: Reduce waste, emissions, and foster economic prosperity.

Key Findings:

- Waste Generation (2024): ~10.4 million tons; ~1.2 tons per person.
- San Diego ranks 14th highest in CA for daily disposal per person.
- Diversion rate: ~60%.
- Largest waste categories: Organics & paper.
- Residential sector leads in waste generation, followed by service & retail.

Engagement Plan:

- Public survey: Mid-February.
- Roundtables: March 2026.
- Zero Waste Symposium: February 18, 2026.
- Draft roadmap for public comment later in the year.

3. Discussion Highlights

- Funding: Proposal to increase waste fee (from \$0.02 to \$1 per ton) to fund circular economy programs.
- Industry Engagement: Need to involve hospitality and tech sectors.
- Action vs. Planning: Participants expressed planning fatigue; desire for actionable solutions.
- Challenges: Lack of local resource recovery centers; capturing value before landfill.
- Opportunities: Textile reuse events, fix-it clinics, collaboration with product stewardship programs.
- Success Factors: Ease, convenience, and economic viability.

4. Updates

- Binational Committee: Manuel Medrano reported ongoing efforts to find partners for moving materials across the border; limited resources remain a challenge.
- Zero Waste Symposium: Stephen Mergener announced the 13th annual event on February 18, 2026.

5. Next Steps

- Share public survey link when available.
- Encourage participation in Zero Waste Symposium and March roundtables.

- Continue collaboration and feedback for the Circular Economy Roadmap.

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at approximately 59 minutes.