

Organics Committee of the Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling

Public Notice and Agenda

Date: June 1, 2021

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: Remote

Present:

Commissioners: Laura Ferrante, Coby Skye, Tedd Ward (Vice Chair), Joseph Kalpakoff (Chair), Deborah Cadena, Nick Lapis

Absent:

Alex Oseguera

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of Quorum

Chair Kalpakoff called the meeting to order. Commissioner Oseguera was absent. A quorum was established.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment Review – Items Not on the Agenda

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 3: Review and Potential Approval of Meeting Notes

No changes were made to the draft meeting notes from May 17th, 2021. Commissioner Ward moved to approve the meeting notes and Commissioner Skye seconded. The meeting notes were unanimously approved by the Commission.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 4: Discussion of Recommendations relating to Compostable Packaging, Food Rescue, Waste Prevention and Infrastructure

Commissioner Ward presented on the changes and additions made to the Carbon Farming policy proposal. Commissioner Skye recommended adding additional language about recommending the legislature include additional funding for composting projects. Commissioner Ward moved to bring the policy recommendation to the full Commission and Commissioner Skye seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

The Committee discussed the Small Scale Farm and Ranch policy proposal and its relevance in communities with smaller populations. The Committee decided to hold off on voting or discussing this policy proposal until after the presentation from CalRecycle.

Chair Kalpakoff led a discussion on infrastructure. Commissioner Ward suggested creating Model CEQA documents to set infrastructure for creating organics processing facilities. Commissioner Ward recommended that Chair Kalpakoff and Commissioner Skye draft a paragraph about the importance of developing infrastructure for organics for the Organics portion of the July report.

Break

Paulina Lawrence, the chief of the permitting and assistance branch at CalRecycle, provided a presentation about permitting of composting operations and facilities, specifically on the regulatory tiers for composting facilities and updates to Title 14. Deputy Director Mark de Bie discussed the 2015 review of the composting regulations that was done by CalRecycle to reflect the industry at that time. Mark de Bie answered questions from the Committee about the regulations review. Mark de Bie highlighted the unique differences in California because of large population size and diverse range of urban, rural, and agricultural lands. Commissioner Lapis suggested having a conversation with the California Alliance for Community Composting, California Alliance of Family Farmers, and California Compost Coalition to talk through what barriers farmers and community composters are seeing. Commissioner Skye proposed the creation a two-person work group between Commissioners Ward and Lapis to reach out to farmers and community composters. Chair Kalpakoff seconded the creation of this sub-group. Commissioner Ward proposed additional language to the Organics background section of the report on challenges with rural opportunities and facility and regional planning and commitments.

Public Comments (See Appendix I for full comment):

- Wendy Ring

Agenda Item 5: Discussion of Draft Text regarding Introduction, Context and Importance of Organics policy proposals

The Carbon Farming policy proposal was approved by the Committee and will be read at the full Commission meeting.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 6: Review of Organics Committee responsibilities and timelines

This item was not discussed.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 7: Next Meeting and Agenda Items for Future Meetings

The Committee will wait until after the June 2nd Commission meeting to decide when to meet again in August or September.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 8: Meeting Summary and Closing

Commissioner Ward suggested adding the additional language about emission and rural considerations to the background Organics Committee section of the July report by the Commission meeting tomorrow. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Public Comments: None

Appendix 1: Public Comments

Wendy Ring

Enforcement of SB 1383 on its current schedule will shut the door on much feedstock for on farm composting, if it is on a slower track. This is only practical for dairies and farmers at certain volumes. Can CalRecycle delay enforcement in communities under 100,000 which want to explore on-farm composting? Create a waiver?