

# MEMO



## Staff Report Item #: 10

Meeting Date: July 22, 2022

To: Board of Directors  
From: Director of Communications, Zoë Shoats  
Approved by: General Manager, Felipe Melchor

**Subject: TAC / SB 1383 Update from July 13, 2022, Meeting**

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**Recommendation:** Information Only

### Background

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a staff working group comprised of at least one representative from each member jurisdiction MRWMD serves; the three franchise haulers who serve them; and MRWMD staff. The TAC was initially formed to better coordinate MRWMD member jurisdictions in choosing a common franchise hauler to provide curbside collection service for the benefit of the community. Since then, the group meets at a frequency set by demand to share resources and work collaboratively towards common goals and meet regulations. The Committee does not make decisions, rather, staff members recommend actions for the MRWMD Board and/or their elected bodies to take action.

### Discussion

The TAC met on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, virtually via Zoom. Items discussed include:

- 1. Lithium-Ion Battery collection Events held by Rotary clubs** – The TAC received a presentation from former Director of Finance and Administration, Peter Skinner, who was representing the Monterey Cannery Row Rotary Club regarding an idea to host lithium-ion battery take-back events in Monterey County this fall. The take-back events would be hosted by the Rotary in partnership with Redwood Materials who provides the collection bins, transportation to Carson City, NV and recycles the batteries. Redwood Materials will accept all devices that include lithium-ion batteries including electric toothbrushes, laptops, weed whackers, cell phones, etc. Most household batteries will be accepted, but if the donator has mostly lead acid batteries, they will be recommended to take them to local drop off locations or place them on top of their curbside recycle cart for collection. Previous events that other Rotary clubs have hosted have collected 1,700 pounds of batteries. The purpose is to educate the public and increase the level of battery recycling. Currently the battery recycling rate is less than five percent. When properly recycled, old and broken devices can decrease global reliance on mining and lower the cost and environmental impact of products. ReGen Monterey is interested in this program to help reduce battery fires at the MRF and landfill. The Rotary Club is requesting partnership to assist in promoting the events by ReGen Monterey, Salinas Valley Recycles and their member jurisdictions.

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*Let's not waste this.*



- 2. SB 1383 Contamination Monitoring Update** – The Contamination Monitoring/CalRecycle Reporting/Enforcement (MRE) subgroup of the TAC met recently to review a proposal from Blue Strike Environmental to preform contamination monitoring (lid flips) to all three streams per SB 1383 regulations. The subgroup worked with Blue Strike Environmental to update the number of lid flips needed for GreenWaste Recovery and Monterey Disposal routes. Waste Management will be utilizing Smart Truck technology for monitoring. The group also discussed ensuring data will be uploaded to Recyclist for CalRecycle reporting purposes. The MRE subgroup recommended that outreach materials pertaining to contamination monitoring be developed collaboratively by the Education and Outreach subgroup for consistent messaging. ReGen Monterey will be handling the contract details as funding for the work will be provided by the SB 1383 Shared Costs MOU.
- 3. SB 1383 Organic Materials Procurement Update–Direct Service Provider Agreements–**  
As a part of SB 1383, CalRecycle requires jurisdictions procure organic materials (compost, mulch or renewable energy). The full cost of compost was originally estimated to be \$28/ton and that cost was built into the SB 1383 Shared Costs MOU, Exhibit D. Since incorporating the cost into the MOU, staff has investigated CalRecycle’s option to fulfill this requirement by utilizing Direct Service Provider Agreements, where an entity purchases organic materials (compost or mulch) on behalf of the jurisdiction. Keith Day Company has agreed to administer the Direct Service Provider Agreements with their customers, reducing the cost for jurisdictions to only \$5/ton for program administration. At the \$5/ton rate, the cost of compost is entirely covered by the grant funds in 2022 and any remaining grant funds will be reallocated to the other two projects identified in the grant application.
- 4. Keeping Collection of Residential and Commercial Organics Streams Separate in Mandated Green Carts** – As commercial carts are being replaced, they are being updated from a yellow cart to a green cart to comply with SB 1383 regulations. Though the cart color will be the same for both residential and commercial, the commercial stream currently includes acceptance of compostable plastics and biobags, whereas the residential stream is limited to food scraps only and does not accept biobags. These streams are processed separately as they render different grades of compost. In the future there may be opportunity to align the programs, pushing the commercial stream to mimic the residential stream and thus generating a highly marketable certified organic compost.

Note: The August TAC meeting was cancelled to align with cancellation of the Board of Directors and Finance and Personnel Committee meetings.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Conclusion**

The TAC will continue to meet monthly and staff members will make recommendations to the boards they serve for action as needed.