



# CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

## Monterey Regional Waste Management District Operations

January 21, 2021 Meeting

<b>TO:</b>	Climate Committee Members
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Carrie Theis, Committee Member

### SUMMARY

**Asset:**

Regional recycling, waste processing and disposal facility

**Hazards:**

Methane gas emissions

**General Comments and Outlook:**

The Monterey Regional Waste Management District is located north of Marina and has been operating since 1951 to handle the waste processing and disposal along with recycling for the Monterey Peninsula. Over the years they have added programs to their facility producing an integrated approach to reduce, reuse and recycle the waste produced on the Monterey Peninsula.

The decomposing of waste materials and organics creates methane gas. Extraction of methane from the landfill creates renewable power for the use by the District and Monterey 1 Water (M1W) to help produce recycled water. Soon the District will be converting landfill gas to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to provide fuel for the trash trucks. CNG is a carbon negative fuel. The extraction of methane gas from the landfill produces 5 megawatts of power and the CO2 offset is about 22,000 tons per year.

Windrow Composting is used to manage organics processing to produce compost for nearby organic farms. This process keeps the yard trimmings and organics out of the landfill and creates a nutrient rich compost. It has been shown that applying ¼" of compost (California Carbon Project) to grasslands will improve the soil environment for over a 100 years. Plants thrive more by pulling CO2 out of the air to help offset greenhouse gas emissions. A more widespread application of compost could work to reverse climate change by becoming a carbon bank.

Food recovery and organics processing has become a priority for the State of California with the implementation of AB1826 in 2014 for the mandatory commercial organics recycling and SB1383 in 2016 to mitigate climate change with the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy.

The goal of SB1383 is to divert 75% of organic material from the landfill and 20% of edible food for recovery by 2025. To try to obtain the goal of 75% diversion of organic food waste, the waste haulers will be implementing the collection of residential food waste sometime this year. To handle the increased tonnage of organic materials, the Waste Management District will need to implement a larger anaerobic digesting system to prevent the methane gas from being released into the environment. The edible food recovery part of this bill will be accomplished by having the restaurants partner with the Monterey County Food Bank.

### Identified Issues:

- The challenges will be to meet the diversion goals set by the State by continuing to educate the public about recycling and introduce the concept of organics waste diversion. The program logistics of diverting edible food from the restaurants to the Monterey Food Bank program is yet to be determined.

## REFERENCES

- Monterey Regional Waste Management District website – [www.mrwmd.org](http://www.mrwmd.org).
- Monterey Regional Waste Management District presentation to the Climate Committee: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAu0eILwM1JCDkzD7Js86mA>

## History

- Version 1 presented at committee meeting on 8/19/21