



Department of Public Works

Blossom Scott-Heim, P.E.
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AGENDA TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Solid Waste Committee October 8, 2025 at 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
Public Works Department
Committee & Commissions Room
48 Yaney Avenue, Sonora, CA 95370

ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC
Meeting ID: 895 5808 9247
Passcode: 526121

<https://tuolumne-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/89558089247?pwd=V1QjU4F4AuzN7WPHfqZQwalsNZWg4L1>

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC FORUM

The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting on September 10, 2025.

4. STAFF / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. 10/11 Green Waste Dollar Dump Day Event
- b. Upcoming Firewise Events
- c. America Recycles Day – November 15, 2025
- d. Dump Coupon Update

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a. City of Sonora collection services change – County impacts

6. NEXT MEETING – November 12, 2025

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Committee serves as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors by reviewing, commenting on and recommending new and/or modifications to existing policy related to the Solid Waste Collection, management and disposal systems within the County.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Department of Public Works at (209) 533-5601. Notifications 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



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MINUTES

UNAPPROVED

TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Solid Waste Committee

September 10, 2025, at 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Anaiah Kirk, District 3 Supervisor; Mike Griffin, At-Large Public Committee Member; Ann Segerstrom, Sonora City Council Member

STAFF: Debbie Reagan, Solid Waste Director; Blossom Scott-Heim, Director of Public Works; Halee Oakes, Administrative Technician; Amy Welch, Solid Waste Specialist; Monique Figueroa, Solid Waste Technician; Taylor Clements, Solid Waste Specialist; Emma Hawks, Assistant to the Department Head

GUESTS: Vanessa Barberis, Public Sector Manager Waste Management; Javier Sanchez, Waste Management Recycling Coordinator; Terri Douglas, Cal Sierra District Operations Manager; Melissa Eads, Sonora City Administrator; Tyler Summersett, Community Development Director; Casey Vaccarezza, Cal-Waste Representative; Carly Kane, Cal-Waste Representative

ABSENT: Mike Holland, District 1 Supervisor; Andy Merrill, Sonora City Council Member; John La Torre, At-Large Public Committee Member

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kirk called the meeting of Wednesday, September 10, 2025, to order at 1:02 P.M.

PUBLIC FORUM

The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes.

A member of the public announced that the Senior Center will be starting up a monthly community presentation series and recommended participation from Solid Waste Director Deborah Reagan.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Supervisor Kirk closed the public forum.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

Supervisor Kirk looked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. No changes or additions were requested. A motion was made by Committee Member Griffin and a second by Segerstrom, motion passes 3-0.

STAFF / COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hwy 59 site visit July 31, 2025

Staff in the Tuolumne County Solid Waste Division had the opportunity to tour the Highway 59 Landfill in Merced. James Moore, the executive director of Merced County Regional Waste, guided staff through the tour and was extremely knowledgeable. Staff were able to observe the disposal process for municipal solid waste that comes through Tuolumne County's transfer stations.

B. Tire Amnesty Grant Award

The County was recently awarded approximately \$41,000 as a regional grant for Tire Amnesty programs. Instead of going through the Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority, the County submitted a City/County regional application to bring more money to the Tuolumne County programs. Funding will help pay for disposal and hauling costs of tires collected from Tuolumne County residents at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility in Jamestown. This will also fund disposal costs for the month-long amnesty collection event in August held in Groveland. The grant has not been officially awarded, but staff has been notified of the intent to award. Receiving funding for this grant will also help keep illegally dumped tires off roadways in Tuolumne County.

C. Household Hazardous Waste Grant Application

Staff submitted an application for a Household Hazardous Waste Grant to make some vital improvements at the HHW collection facility in Jamestown. Improvements would increase the list of items accepted at the events, potentially allowing staff to accept things such as latex paint, batteries, and other hazardous materials.

Debbie Reagan also reported out on an upcoming event for Tuolumne County Residents.

Tuolumne County Solid Waste Division staff plans to participate in a large collection event for America Recycles Day on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. This event will be held at the Motherlode Fairgrounds. America Recycles Day will focus on recycling and reusing in Tuolumne County. Staff is in discussion with potential vendors and finalizing the list of items that will be accepted at the event. Outreach with local volunteer groups to assist with traffic control will be conducted. More details on the event will be provided to the public shortly.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

A. Potential project utilizing the 1,000-ton allowance (standing item)

Approximately 150 tons under the 1,000-ton allowance from Cal Sierra have been used for the 2025 calendar year. Fire damage debris can not be accepted under this allowance, but smoke damage debris and spoiled food from the recent TCU September Lightning Complex Fires can. The Solid Waste Division still has coupons good for up to 2 cubic yards of disposal at the Cal Sierra Transfer Station through September 30, 2025, for all Tuolumne County residents. Staff could extend this program and continue to offer them to residents effected by the recent fires. Another option is placing 20 yard roll off bins on site at the Chinese Camp Elementary School for effected residents to dispose of smoke damage debris

and spoiled food. Bins would be dropped and picked up on the same day to avoid any contamination of the bins. Staff would be present to monitor and provide insight for what is considered acceptable waste for the bins. Staff is working with OES and other departments to get this event up and running for Friday, September 12th and Saturday, September 13th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. An official PSA and flyer will be distributed to media outlets and the public when details are confirmed.

Supervisors Kirk questioned if residents affected by the fires have been made aware of the limitations to collecting debris or personal items from the burn site and the concerns and severity of making sure to not impact the burn footprint. This has been discussed and communicated to the public at a past town hall meeting and on social media outlets. The Local Assistance Center will be at the Motherlode Fairgrounds this Saturday (9/12) and Sunday (9/13) from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM to provide information.

Discussion Ensued.

Committee Member Griffin questioned if the County has any plans to get back into encouraging Fire Wise Community Events for the Green Waste Collection Program. The Scenic Brook community did reach to Debbie Reagan about running an event in October utilizing the Sheriff work crew and the chipper.

B. City of Sonora collection services change – County impacts

Debbie Reagan gave an update to the committee on potential impacts that could affect the County if the City of Sonora moves forward with collection service changes.

The City of Sonora issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for solid waste collection services in July of 2025. Three responses were received, two of which were responsive and one that was deemed non-responsive. The deadline for proposals was Monday, August 11, 2025.

At the Sonora City Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, the City Council voted 4-1 to proceed into negotiations with Cal Waste Recovery for a new contract. The RFP request was to begin the service change effective Saturday, November 1, 2025.

Segerstrom added that the City went back into negotiations to review some fine points that were up for discussion.

Debbie Reagan addressed two separate impacts that would directly affect the County.

The first concern is related to multiple County Facilities within the City limits that are currently serviced by Cal Sierra Disposal under a master allocation account. A balance is given to the County every calendar year. The annual allowance increases by a percentage equal to that granted for a rate increase. The County currently pays zero dollars in solid waste collection fees, both in the unincorporated areas of the County and the City Limits. All City and County accounts were brought under the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to eliminate the impact to the County's General Fund saving the County approximately \$60,000 per year. It is

in the County's best interest to continue utilize the master allocation account to cover all of the solid waste and recycling costs. With a change in service provided, it poses the question of whether the County can continue to use Cal Sierra's services to collect solid waste within the City limits, or must switch services to Cal Waste because of the franchise agreements provisions.

The second impact involves the Cal Sierra Transfer Station in East Sonora. The franchise agreement between the County and Cal Sierra Transfer Station is for unincorporated Tuolumne County. Historically, the City of Sonora's waste has gone to the Cal Sierra Transfer Station at the discretion of the franchisee. The County collects an Integrated Waste Management Fee (IWMF) on every ton that goes through the Transfer Station and accounts for 85% of the Solid Waste Enterprise Funds non-grant revenues. This pays for staffing, County run programs, etc. This IWMF ranges between \$1.3-\$1.4 million in revenue for the County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund per year.

The County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) was finalized in 1995. Discussions during the creation of this plan specifically authorized the County to keep the all IWMF revenue in exchange for administrating grants, preparing regulatory reports and managing post closure maintenance of Tuolumne County landfills.. The County currently applies for and administers regional grants that benefit City and County residents through many collection events and programs held each year. The County also in recent years assisted with updating the City's ordinance code to add compliance language for SB1383 requirements.

When discussing the dollar impact of this service change, bypassing the Cal-Sierra transfer station and hauling City of Sonora waste to a Transfer Station in Calaveras County would reduce the amount of municipal solid waste passing through the transfer station by approximately 9,000-tons per year. This change would represent a projected reduction of \$260,000-\$315,000 in annual revenue to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund . If the waste continues to be directed to the Cal Sierra Transfer Station, this will eliminate the loss to the budget.

The city holds jurisdiction and has the power to make this decision. City Administrator Melissa Eads reassured attendees that it was not the city's intention for this service change to financially impact the County. Eads relayed that the city was made aware of these concerns at the Council meeting held on September 2nd when considering the RFP's and expressed that Debbie has provided a background for how the city's decisions could adversely affect the County's programs. The city has reached out to their partners at Cal-Waste and there is a willingness the look at how to work collaboratively towards solutions. The city intends to find a more quality and cost-effective level of service for its constituents. The city is ready to prioritize discussions with the County and an update will be given at the city council meeting on September 15th, with hopes of moving forward with the new contract at the first meeting in October and moving forward to the public process for fee hearings after that.

Deborah Reagan stated that the Solid Waste Division's first indication that the city was going out to bid was through a phone call from City Community Development Director Tyler Summersett approximately one week before going the RFP was released to the public. The City and County have a meeting directly following the BOSSWC to discuss options moving forward.

Supervisor Kirk questioned when or if the full Board will need to be brought into discussions. Debbie expressed that work could start at staff level and be brought to the Board if further action is required.

A member of the public addressed concerns over the lack of effort the city put into hearing the concerns of those that will be impacted the most, like the public and businesses of Sonora.

Discussion ensued.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Kirk adjourned the Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Committee Meeting of Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 1:46 P.M.