

# Draft MINUTES

## Solano County Local Task Force (LTF) for Integrated Waste Management

Meeting of May 21, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Solano County Administration Center

Member Organization	Representative	Present
CCL Organics	Dave Burnley	
City of Benicia	Sharon Williams	X
City of Dixon	Janet Koster	
City of Fairfield	Esther Blanco	X
City of Rio Vista	John Degele	
City of Suisun City	Amanda Dum	X
City of Vacaville	Ivonne Vaughn	X
City of Vallejo	Derek Crutchfield	X
Concrush	Allen Hochstetler	X
County of Solano	Narcisa Untal	X
County of Solano	Marcy Hannum	X
County of Solano	David Weiss	X
County of Solano	Colby LaPlace	
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District	Talyon Sortor	
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District	Kevin Cullen	
Pacific Rim Recycling	Steve Moore	
Pacific Rim Recycling	Marissa Wong	
Potrero Hills Landfill	Dave Jappert	
Potrero Hills Landfill	Natalie Hicks	X
Recology Dixon	William Payton	X
Recology Dixon	Melanie Calabrese	
Recology Hay Road	Danielle Lowther	
Recology Hay Road	Chris Taylor	
Recology Vacaville	Julia Lopez	X
Recology Vacaville	Scott Pardini	
Recology Vallejo	Lisa Lefebvre	X
Recology Vallejo	Tom Phillips	
Recycling Zone	Dave Ryan	
Recycling Zone	Chris Aschero	
Republic Services	Susan Hurl	
Republic Services	Marie Knutson	X
Rio Vista Sanitation Service	Nicole Impagliazzo	
Sierra Club	Jane Bogner	X
Solano Community College	Dwight Calloway	
Solano Community College	Jeff Lehfeldt	
Solano Garbage Company	Sandra Gonzalez	X
Solano Garbage Company	Travis Armstrong	
Travis Air Force Base	Brian Sassaman	
Travis Air Force Base	Milea Franklin	
VALCORE	Ken Hawes	X
VALCORE	Vacant	
CalRecycle	Jill Firch	
CalRecycle	Rachelle Tarver	X

**GUESTS:**

Lee Axelrad, Solano County Counsel  
Mitch Delmage, CalRecycle  
Chris Houlemard, CalRecycle  
Joanna Cedar, CROPMOBSTER  
Gary Cedar, CROPMOBSTER  
Pat Guild, Valley Vision,  
Joe Scholtes, KUIC Radio  
Pam Hedrick, Yolo County  
Rodney Clara, Mattress Recycling Council

1. **Call to Order / Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

3. **Action Items(s)**

a. **Minutes: March 19, 2015**

The minutes of March 19, 2015 were approved.

b. **Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ)**

Mitch Delmage and Chris Houlemard, Local Assistance and Market Development Branch, CalRecycle, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program. They reported that a new designation cycle opens June 1, 2015 for jurisdictions interested in participating in the RMDZ program. The program provides a partnership between state and local governments and local businesses to take some of the materials that are being diverted from the waste stream and make them into products for reuse. The RMDZ program provides financial and non-financial assistance to jurisdictions and combines recycling with economic development to fuel new businesses, expand existing ones, create jobs and divert waste from landfills. The program can serve as a tool to enhance the economic development within each of the Solano County jurisdictions.

**ACTION:**

Ms. Untal noted that the program is being brought before the LTF to get support to start the application process. The County of Solano is willing to take the role as lead agency. CalRecycle will guide Solano County in its role as lead agency and act as the administrator. Mr. Hochstetler made a motion to authorize staff to send communication to CalRecycle supporting RMDZ participation and identify the County as lead jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bogner. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Presentation**

a. **Mattress Recycling Council**

Rodney Clara, Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), described the California Used Mattress Recovery & Recycling Act that requires the mattress industry to create a recycling program for used and discarded mattresses and box springs. The MRC is a non-profit organization established by the mattress industry and certified by CalRecycle to plan and manage the California mattress recycling program. Beginning in 2016 retailers and other businesses that sell mattresses will collect a recycling fee on each mattress and box spring that is sold to a California consumer. The fees will be remitted to MRC and will be used to transport and recycle mattresses.

The new law does not require solid waste facilities that collect used mattresses to recycle them. However facilities that voluntarily participate in the program gain access to a no-cost recycling service for mattresses and box springs. Permitted solid waste facilities with a California SWIS number are automatically eligible. Recycling facilities may be suitable but should contact MRC to determine their eligibility. Program participants may not charge an individual for dropping off a mattress.

A participant site does not have to be open to the public to benefit from the services provided by the program. MRC provides collection containers at the participant's site, compensation for handling and packing the mattresses into the provided containers, transportation from the site to the contracted recycler and no-cost mattress recycling services.

**b. CropMobster, Inc.**

Esther Blanco introduced Gary and Joanna Cedar founders of Cropmobster. Ms. Cedar described Cropmobster as a free service for everyone. Cropmobster leverages social media, crowd sourcing and "instant alerts" to spread the word quickly about local food excess and surplus from any supplier in the food chain, gets healthy food to those in need, helps local businesses recover costs, prevents food waste and connects the community in new and fun ways. It is an alternative online peer to peer marketplace for local businesses and food producers. What began as a technology solution on a single local farm quickly spread through grass roots efforts and evolved into what it is today. Their mission is to strengthen local food systems, promote local business and transform surplus into value, support hunger relief groups and build stronger communities.

She noted that 40% of food that is currently produced in the U.S. goes to waste which equals 168 billion dollars in economic loss every year. One in six people in the U.S. is food insecure. In California alone more than 50% of small and medium size farms fail to make a profit and over the last five years over 100,000 small and medium size farms have gone out of business. Due to the ongoing drought California's agricultural sector experienced 2.2 billion dollars in economic losses in 2014. 17,000 people lost jobs and a half a million acres of farmland have been taken out of production along with 200 million dollars in livestock losses due to reduced pastureland and increased food costs. The outlook for 2015 is expected to be worse. These trends are unsustainable for the entire food distribution supply chain and will lead to increased prices for consumer food and livestock feed prices.

Cropmobster's mission is to reverse these trends and create an alternative online marketplace that supports farmers, food businesses and consumers. For food producers or anyone who just needs to get the word out to their community about their needs all they have to do is post an alert in the system which is then broadcast to thousands of subscribers who have signed up to receive alerts. Alerts can take the form of deals, donations, freebies, trades, jobs, housing, land, gleanings and events. It creates a simple shareable customer experience. Thru Cropmobster's sharing and crowdsourcing platform in many cases there is almost instant feedback and over 90% of the alerts have closed successfully. Some of the benefits of Cropmobster's platform is that it improves consumer access to healthy food; helps farms and local food businesses recover costs that would otherwise be lost; stimulates food donations in the nonprofit and hunger relief sectors and helps keep organic materials out of the waste stream.

Over the past two years in the pilot market in Sonoma County Cropmobster has grown to more than 7000 subscribers. With their help more than a million pounds of food has been diverted from landfills and provided nutritious food for people and livestock. It generated more than \$1,000,000 of income for local businesses.

They have been consistently surprised on how the Cropmobster system has been used because it is unique to every community. Consumers, businesses and hunger relief organizations have been able to connect in new ways. During harvest season local farmers post alerts allowing organized networks of gleaners to hand gather thousands of pounds of crops from their fields and divert it to hunger relief groups. Other farms sell and trade livestock and produce directly to consumers. For example a large mushroom farm in Sebastopol publishes their surplus weekly on Cropmobster as deals for about 50% off. A local kale chip producer in Petaluma posted an alert on Cropmobster for a surplus of 1000 pounds of kale stems per day that was costing them over \$4000 in monthly disposal costs. A local pig farmer responded to their alert and offered to pick up the kale stems weekly at no charge. Several businesses in Sonoma County have used Cropmobster to liquidate their surplus equipment. There are many more examples of how communities have used Cropmobster to come together to respond to local needs.

The new recycling mandate requiring the recycling of organic materials will create new business opportunities for Cropmobster. Its technology can help solve problems on a local level while adding value by reducing the economic and environmental impacts on landfills and reducing the amount of greenhouse gases. During their local pilot in Sonoma County Cropmobster received recognition locally and nationally including Time magazine, the American Red Cross and a Congressional Award.

**c. Rx Take-Back Program Update**

This item was continued to a future meeting.

**5. Member Updates**

Derek Crutchfield, City of Vallejo

On April 18, 2015, the City of Vallejo hosted Earth Day in conjunction with the Vallejo Farmers Market, which was well attended. The event had jugglers, face painters and several booths.

The winners of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Recycled Scrap to Sculpture Art Contest were announced. The level of participation was down slightly, but there were still some very nice pieces of recycled art. The art contest has three categories (Adult, Junior and Elementary) to ensure that adults and children of all ages can participate and have a chance to win.

In honor of Public Works Week, the City of Vallejo held an open house at the Flemming Hill Water Treatment Plant on Sunday, May 17, 2015. This event was open to public and there were tours of the water treatment facility along with booths and exhibits. On Monday, May 18, 2015, approximately 100 students were bussed into the facility where they received tours of treatment facility. They were also taken around in groups to see the booths and exhibits.

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next regular LTF meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 16, 2015**

Attachment A – Rx Take Back Event Summary

**BILL EMLÉN**  
 Director  
**TERRY SCHMIDTBAUER**  
 Assistant Director  
**MIKE YANKOVICH**  
 Planning Services Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**



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**Rx Take Back Event Summary  
 Saturday, May 16, 2015  
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**COUNTYWIDE TOTALS**

Benicia	223	<b>Total Rx Weight: 1,709 lbs. = 34 boxes</b>
Dixon	13	
Fairfield + Travis AFB	166	
Rio Vista	1	
Suisun City	16	
Vacaville	404	
Vallejo	5	
Other	3	<b>Total Sharps Weight: 50 gallons</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>831 participants</b>	

**Benicia Police Department: 200 East L Street, Benicia 94510**

Benicia	223	<b>Total Rx Weight: 450 lbs. = 9 boxes</b>
Vallejo	4	
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>Total Sharps Weight: 5 gallons</b>

**Solano County Sheriff Coroner's Office: 520 Clay Street, Fairfield 94533**

Fairfield + Travis AFB	150	<b>Total Rx Weight: 457 lbs. = 9 boxes</b>
Rio Vista	1	
Suisun City	14	
Vacaville	1	
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>Total Sharps Weight: 25 gallons</b>

**Vacaville Police Department: 660 Merchant Street, Vacaville 95688**

Dixon	13	<b>Total Rx Weight: 802 lbs. = 16 boxes</b>
Fairfield + Travis AFB	16	
Suisun City	2	
Vacaville	403	
Vallejo	1	
Other	3	
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>Total Sharps Weight: 20 gallons</b>