



DATE: September 12, 2016

TO: Council Sustainability Committee

FROM: Director of Utilities & Environmental Services

SUBJECT

Hayward's Annual Solid Waste Diversion Rate for 2015

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee reviews and comments on this report.

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on Hayward's annual waste diversion for 2014 and 2015. The 2014 annual solid waste diversion report submitted by staff calculated that Hayward had a 76% diversion rate. However, CalRecycle disallowed some deductions and is still determining the final diversion rate for 2014. CalRecycle estimates the final 2014 diversion rate will be between 74%-76%. For calendar year 2015, staff estimates the City achieved a 73% diversion rate. Staff submitted its report to CalRecycle by the required deadline of August 22.

BACKGROUND

State law (AB 939) mandates that, beginning in calendar year 2000 and each year thereafter, all municipalities divert from landfill at least 50% of all waste generated. Pursuant to Measure D, a County Charter initiative amendment passed in 1990, the Alameda County Recycling Board of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) set 2010 as the date by which Alameda County would strive to achieve a 75% diversion rate. Council adopted a 75% diversion goal in 2007. Additionally, State law AB 341 established a 75% goal by 2020.

When Council approved the current Franchise Agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) in January 2015, the City set a goal of reaching 80% diversion by 2018. The City's contract with WMAC establishes diversion goals based on the tons of discarded materials collected as dry recyclables, organics, or solid waste to be landfilled. The contractual diversion goals are designed, in part, to help the City meet State diversion targets as well as solid waste policies in the City's General Plan. In conjunction with the City's contract with WMAC, staff manages a variety of programs intended to help achieve the City's diversion goals.

Due to a change in regulations in 2007, compliance with diversion goals is measured by calculating the actual per capita disposal rate (pounds of waste disposed per person per day) for each municipality compared with a target. The City of Hayward's target is seven pounds per capita. The CalRecycle methodology also allows jurisdictions to deduct certain types of material from the total disposed. Tonnage allowed for deduction includes Class II Special Wastes, which are wastes contaminated with non-hazardous substances, such as contaminated soils, that are mandated for disposal.

The per capita disposal target is unique to each municipality, as the population and tonnage disposed for each varies. Thus, the per capita disposal rate cannot be easily compared with other municipalities. CalRecycle will continue to use other factors to evaluate overall compliance with the State mandate, such as the scope and quality of the recycling programs implemented, as described in the annual reports prepared by municipalities.

General Plan Policies – Hayward's General Plan, adopted on July 1, 2014, includes several policies and implementation programs related to solid waste, recycling and organics collection. Three main General Plan Policies related to solid waste are listed below.

Public Facilities and Services, Policy 7.4 Solid Waste Diversion – The City shall comply with State goals regarding diversion from landfill, and strive to comply with the provisions approved by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA).

Public Facilities and Services, Policy 7.21: Mandatory Recycling – The City shall implement mandatory recycling for commercial and multifamily uses and work with ACWMA to increase participation in this program.

Public Facilities and Services, Policy 7.14 Commercial Recycling – The City shall encourage increased participation in commercial and industrial recycling programs, and strive to comply with the recycling provisions approved by the ACWMA. The City shall work with ACWMA to provide technical assistance to businesses to implement mandatory recycling.

DISCUSSION

The 2014 report submitted to CalRecycle in August 2015 is still being reviewed by CalRecycle. In 2014, the agency altered its policy for approving deductions to waste disposed, and it has been working with City staff to update the 2014 report. CalRecycle has indicated potential adjustments to the 2014 diversion rate would be completed in the fall of 2016.

Based on current information, the City's approved diversion rate for 2014 will likely be between 74%-76%. Staff calculated that the City achieved a 73% diversion rate during 2015, based on the per capita disposal rate compiled by the State and a methodology approved by CalRecycle staff. The primary reasons for the decrease in Hayward's diversion rate from 2014 to 2015 are the amount of material accepted at landfills from Hayward in 2015 was the highest since 2011, and the amount of material available for deduction from disposal was the

lowest since 2012. In 2015, there was a 15% increase in tonnage landfilled over 2014 and a 78% decrease in special waste tonnage available for deduction.

Although the 2015 rate is lower than 2014, the rate has increased from the mid-60% range achieved from 2008-2010 to 71% in 2013. The 2015 County-wide diversion rate is not yet available from ACWMA; the 2014 County-wide diversion rate based on the population of each jurisdiction was 73% and in 2013, the County-wide diversion rate was 71%.

In 2015, the number of small businesses participating in the recycling and organics collection services offered under the City's contract with Waste Management increased by 5%, and the tonnage of organics collected from apartments nearly doubled. Participation by businesses and apartment complexes is critical because about 80% of all materials sent to landfill are generated by those two groups. Staff will continue to work with Waste Management to increase business and multi-family participation in recycling and organics collection services.

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Solid waste management involves the safe and responsible management of discarded material from generation through processing to disposal. Reducing waste landfilled by maximizing the reuse, recycling, and composting of materials increases diversion, conserves natural resources, and plays an important role in making a community sustainable.

NEXT STEPS

CalRecycle is scheduled to provide an official update on the 2015 report to staff in mid-December. Staff will apprise the Committee of the outcome of CalRecycle's final ruling on both the 2014 and 2015 diversion rates.

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Recommended by: Alex Ameri, Director of Utilities & Environmental Services

Approved by:



Kelly McAdoo, City Manager