

Questions from the audience:

Q: What happens after 2038 or 2040, once the Ox Mountain landfill capacity is reached? Will our waste have to be transported inland?

A: Once the landfill capacity of the current landfill is reached (projected to be within ten years), the County will undertake a study to identify potential sites for new landfills, expand the current landfill, or explore other methods of disposing of solid waste.

Q: Does San Mateo County have a program for volunteers to pick excess fruit from people's trees and give it to food distributors?

A: The County does not, but organizations like Village Harvest do promote and have programs like this (called "gleaning")

Q: Who is generating the compost and mulch? Are these private parties new to the waste management ecosystem, or do the haulers have composting operations?

A: Compost and mulch will be produced by various companies throughout the region, including facilities by Republic Services in San Jose and Recology in Vernalis.

Q: Please let us know: How are you going to enforce SB1383? My neighbors do not follow the law, though I have often mentioned that it is at the very least a very good idea. I tell them to use my container but no one does. I have mentioned that it is a new law, but still no one uses my container. Also in restaurants and cafes, the containers are a mess and staff do not follow correct use of containers. Saying 'Please' helps somehow.

A: It is true that a lot of work needs to be done to educate customers and workers in restaurants and cafes to make it clearer what goes into what bin. Efforts will start with outreach and education from a partnership of both local governments and haulers. If there are still violations after repeated outreach efforts, local governments can fine businesses that don't comply.

Q: How much organic waste is generated by restaurants?

A: significant amount of organic waste is from restaurants (more than half).

Q: What about Construction? Can we compost anything from buildings?

A: Most construction waste is required to either be separated for recycling or sent to facilities that can process mixed waste for recycling. There is not a significant amount of organics in construction waste aside from yard waste.

Q: Is the procurement just for government procurement or procurement by entities (businesses and residents) within the jurisdiction?

A: The requirement is specifically for government procurement.

Q: Can you say more about the compost distribution? I am also interested in how you are addressing contamination as residents learn what is compostable and what is not.

A: Many cities work with their haulers on a compost giveaway program where residents can pick up compost free of charge. This compost is usually created by the food waste that has been collected from the city's residents. We are looking at working on education and outreach campaigns to educate residents and businesses on how to properly compost to reduce contamination.

Q: I'm still not clear on who this legislation is for. Does it apply to every residence and business, or just large facilities?

A: This legislation is for residents and businesses; every entity that generates organic waste will be required to start composting if they aren't already.

Q: What role does nutrition screening play in determining "edible food" for recovery? For example, would processed foods be included?

A: As defined in the regulations, "edible food" does not exclude processed foods or any other type of food (except inedible food like spoiled food).

Comment: If the government doesn't answer the enforcement question, part of the law requires periodic bin inspections. I do not know how this will roll out. I am hoping that we can use the Governor's new college tuition program to bring students from Skyline College's environmental studies program to do some work in my city.

Q: What about Bedwell Bayfront park in Menlo Park and how that landfill was handled? It seems like a great idea unless I do not know enough about the reality of it.

A: I believe this is a closed landfill, not an active one.

Q: When is the average resident going to have to start recycling more compostable items?

A: Many cities have passed an ordinance to establish the program, and I would expect that these programs will start ramping up over the next year.

Q: While we recover edible food through this bill, what protections are in place for nutritious food getting to those most in need?

A: We are working closely with our partners such as Samaritan House, Nuestra Casa, and Pacifica Resource center to help us ensure that edible food is distributed to those in need.

Q: What is "RMDZ"?

A: RMDZ stands for "Recycling Market Development Zone", and the state runs a RMDZ program that aims to promote recycling-based manufacturing businesses in the state. More information can be found here:

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/rmdz>