



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 8, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Adopting a Goal of Zero Waste by 2030

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is a member of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, a joint powers authority that operates under the name "Zero Waste Sonoma." The mission of Zero Waste Sonoma is waste diversion required by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). Zero Waste Sonoma's programs include household hazardous waste, composting, wood waste recycling, planning and education;

WHEREAS, the AB939 Sonoma County Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management (LTF) is an advisory body created by the County Board of Supervisors to advise the Board of Supervisors as well as Zero Waste Sonoma;

WHEREAS, the LTF recommended that the Board of Directors of Zero Waste Sonoma adopt a resolution establishing a goal of Zero Waste by 2030; and

WHEREAS, defined by Zero Waste International Alliance, Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health;

WHEREAS, Zero Waste principles, in accordance with CalRecycle's Zero Waste Hierarchy, promote the highest and best use of materials, emphasize a closed loop system of production and consumption, and movement in logical increments toward the goal of reducing waste generation and landfill disposal by more than 90% through:

- Improving "downstream" reuse and recycling of end-of-life products and materials to ensure their highest and best use; and
- Pursuing "upstream" re-design strategies to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded products and materials and to promote less wasteful lifestyles;

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2019, Zero Waste Sonoma adopted by Resolution a goal of Zero Waste by 2030, and directed Zero Waste Sonoma staff to present the Resolution to the member jurisdictions for their consideration, and

WHEREAS, this recommendation builds on all previous efforts, including but not limited to the County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) and those of the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG), and Zero Waste Sonoma, as well as state initiatives and requirements; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma has met and exceeded the 50% diversion goal set by the California AB 939 by substantially reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting before landfilling, and is now working toward the statewide 75% recycling, composting, or source reduction of solid waste by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the substantial recycling progress to date has been slower than expected and, since 2012, waste disposal per person per day has increased by 35% in Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA has estimated 50% of all Green House Gas (GHG) emissions are the result of the extraction, production, transportation, and use of goods, including food, products and packaging; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Sonoma County residents and businesses sent 304,087 tons to the landfill, generating approximately 103,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from decomposing organic matter according to the Center for Climate Protection Greenhouse Gas Report for 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Short Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act of 2016 (SB 1383) requires a 20% reduction of edible food waste by 2025 and a 40% reduction in methane levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste policies can minimize GHG production and therefore support Sonoma County's Climate Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Central Disposal Site is a very valuable resource worth preserving and current estimates suggest it has a remaining capacity of less than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, a resource-recovery based economy can create and sustain more productive and meaningful jobs than a disposal-based economy; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma will assume a leadership role by setting Zero Waste as a goal;

WHEREAS, Sonoma County's Five-Year Strategic Plan includes Zero Waste as amongst the County's Climate Action and Resiliency Goals;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of Sonoma hereby encourages the pursuit of Zero Waste as a long term goal in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the manufacture, use, storage, and recycling of materials. This goal can be achieved through action plans and measures that significantly reduce waste and pollution. These measures will include encouragement of residents, businesses, and agencies to judiciously use, reuse, and recycle materials, and motivation of businesses to manufacture and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, recycled, and recyclable products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sonoma hereby adopts the concept of Zero Waste as defined by Zero Waste International Alliance and included above as a guiding principle for all County operations, outreach, and programs and actions within the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sonoma sets the goal of Zero Waste by 2030 and commits to:

- Support Zero Waste policies as a jurisdiction and a member of Zero Waste Sonoma;
- Reduce the total pounds of landfill waste per person per day, currently 4.6, by at least 10% each year;
- Institute and/or expand high diversion and Zero Waste goals and programs for all government facilities, events, and projects;
- Educate the public regarding the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion through reuse, repair, composting, and recycling;
- Strongly encourage all residents, businesses, and agencies to participate in composting and recycling programs as well as to reduce and reuse;
- Update the County's Green Purchasing, Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP), and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies;
- Work with Zero Waste Sonoma in the development of a countywide Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling Ordinance;
- Support adoption and implementation of land use policies to facilitate the siting and permitting of processing and end market infrastructure that will be necessary to manage the increased volume of materials eligible for diversion;
- Support equitable pay and safe working conditions for material management workers; and
- Develop a sound financial model that can sustain high diversion, Zero Waste programs, and enable long term delivery of quality services to the community.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.