



DATE: May 11, 2017
TO: Planning & Organization Committee/Recycling Board
FROM: Tom Padia, Deputy Director
BY: Mark Spencer, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Presentation of 2016 Benchmark Data

SUMMARY

StopWaste has collected single family, multi-family and selected commercial waste samples from the point of generation since 2013. This presentation reviews the most recent data collected and provides an overview of trends from the past four years.

DISCUSSION

With Benchmark Information Service Fee funding, StopWaste has contracted with Container Pros to maintain a crew of three persons to collect samples throughout the year since 2013. In 2016, Container Pros collected 1826 samples from single family dwellings. These samples were collected from randomly selected addresses throughout Alameda County, with roughly 100 samples collected in each jurisdiction. For each sample, the entire contents of the waste (garbage) bin were collected, bagged, labelled and transported to a facility in San Leandro owned by ACI where they were sorted into five categories; waste, recyclable materials, plant debris, food soiled paper and food scraps. These materials were then weighed separately for each sample.

In 2016 Container Pros collected 494 samples from multi-family dwellings in seven jurisdictions and 770 samples from commercial addresses of five selected business types. Each sample consisted of three bags (roughly 96 gallons) pulled from the waste bin at the address. The samples were labelled and transported to the ACI facility where they were sorted and weighed.

An independent contractor performed the QA/QC of the data collected by Container Pros which was then analyzed by Mark Spencer. This presentation on the Benchmark project provides an overview of the past four years' results. The Benchmark Information Service Fee will be discontinued as of June 30, 2017 and this summer the Container Pros crew will be gathering one last set of single family and multi-family data as part of the 2017 Waste Characterization Study. A reduced level of ongoing sampling collected countywide will be incorporated into the new project, Measurement and Analysis, in the FY 17/18 budget and will be funded by core revenues.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only