



**DATE:** May 11, 2017  
**TO:** Planning & Organization Committee/Recycling Board  
**FROM:** Tom Padia, Deputy Director  
**SUBJECT:** Castro Valley Sanitary District Less-Than-Weekly Garbage Collection Pilot – Transmittal of Final Report

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## **SUMMARY**

With funding and support from StopWaste, the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) recently concluded a test of “Less Than Weekly” garbage collection. At the May 11 P&O Committee/Recycling Board meeting, staff will share results and lessons learned from the pilot project.

## **DISCUSSION**

Given successful trials in Portland and other jurisdictions, and the potential to both drive up participation in organics diversion programs and significantly reduce or control future costs, the Authority budgeted funding in FY 14/15 and 15/16 to support one or more member agencies with piloting every other week residential garbage collection. CVSan was the only jurisdiction to step forward with a proposal to pilot test such a program, and in October 2015 the Authority approved funding to them for this purpose.

CVSan’s current franchise agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) expires in mid-2019. CVSan was interested in gaining knowledge and experience through a pilot to inform their process of structuring collection and outreach programs under a new agreement. As a result of preliminary discussions with WMAC, along with certain Prop. 218 legal concerns, the pilot was structured as a “Less Than Weekly” (LTW) pilot where residents on pilot routes were strongly and repeatedly encouraged to set out garbage only every other week or less often as needed, but the truck did drive the route each week and collected all carts set out.

Residents were given kitchen food scrap pails and liners, tags for extra garbage set-outs, and repeated messaging of “If you don’t fill it up, don’t roll it out.” It is expected that a new contract that goes through a Prop. 218 process from the beginning would be able to incorporate true “Every Other Week” collection if that is the direction CVSan chooses to go.

## Results

The CVSan pilot ran from June through December 2016 and included 825 single family households on portions of two collection routes and a third collection route serving as a control. StopWaste coordinated with Benchmark sampling on pilot and non-pilot routes prior to the pilot and twice during the pilot. While CVSan gained much experience and knowledge during their intensive outreach efforts during the pilot, the sampling did not detect any material impact on diversion of organics out of the garbage carts on the pilot routes as compared to the control. WMAC records of route times and truck weights similarly did not reveal any material diversion impact nor cost savings from the voluntary pilot.

CVSan prides itself on its intensive waste reduction outreach and thorough communications through multiple media with their account holders. If anything, the results of the pilot may indicate that CVSan has come close to the maximum effectiveness that voluntary measures can have in promoting food scrap recycling (i.e. moving food scraps from the garbage cart to the organics cart), and that structural and/or mandatory measures may be needed to “move the needle” going forward. CVSan does already fully participate in the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance for commercial and multi-family accounts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only

Links: [CVSan Less Than Weekly Pilot Final Report – HF&H Consultants](#)  
[Less Than Weekly Communications Report – Underground](#)