



DATE: February 12, 2016
TO: Waste Management Authority Board
FROM: Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
BY: Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Organics Processing Development Reserve Usage & Criteria

SUMMARY

At the February 11 P&A meeting, staff reviewed the history of the Organics Processing Development (OPD) reserve fund and recommended the use of part of the fund for organics diversion projects that go beyond in county processing capacity. The P&A memo can be found at: [OPD Reserves Memo-02-11-16](#).

DISCUSSION

The Organics Processing Development (OPD) reserve fund was created in 1998 for the development of in-county organics processing capacity or facilities. Over time, there has been a lack of viable facilities for the Agency to fund. Variables other than funding have proven to be more critical factors in the development of in-county facilities, such as siting, permitting and franchise agreements.

Based on this, and the fact that two in county facilities are currently undergoing the permitting process, staff recommends that at least part of the OPD reserve be used to fund projects that further the Agency's goals to divert organics beyond the development of in-county processing facilities. It is recommended that staff use the proposed product decisions criteria to evaluate possible projects for organics diversion using OPD reserve funds, including efforts to increase the quantity and quality of participation in existing residential and commercial organics collection programs, efforts to increase edible food donation and reduce edible food waste, and helping member agencies meet planning capacity requirements of AB 876. Projects will be proposed as part of FY16/17 budget development.

COMMITTEE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION

The P&A Committee by a vote of 10-0 (Carson and Turner absent) recommended that the WMA Board affirm that the \$1 million EBMUD reserve is no longer reserved for EBMUD, and direct staff to incorporate the fund within the OPD reserve, and to budget some part of those funds for organics diversion projects that go beyond in-county processing capacity using the proposed product decisions criteria.