

February 25, 2020

TO: Members of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee

FROM: Adam Kurtz, Goodyear, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTICE AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.  
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Ironwood Room  
302 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee has been scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference or by telephone conference call. Those attending by videoconference must notify the MAG site three business days prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Chair Kurtz or Julie Hoffman at 602-254-6300.

Please park in the garage underneath the building, bring your ticket, and parking will be validated. For those using transit, Valley Metro/Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

In 1996, the Regional Council approved a simple majority quorum for all MAG advisory committees. If the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee does not meet the quorum requirement, members who arrived at the meeting will be instructed a legal meeting cannot occur and subsequently be dismissed. Your attendance at the meeting is strongly encouraged. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please make arrangements for a proxy from your entity to represent you.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Kelly Taft at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.



# MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

March 3, 2020

### 1. **Call to Order**

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### 2. **Call to the Audience**

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Solid Waste Advisory Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

**Action Requested:**  
Information.

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### 3. **Approval of the September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Action Requested:**  
Review and approve the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes.

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### 4. **Recycling Assistant Widget**

The Recycling Assistant widget is an interactive platform created by ReCollect that includes a search engine and sorting game to teach residents how to properly recycle. The search engine includes recycling and disposal instructions for over 350 materials. In December 2019, the City of Phoenix collaborated with 11 municipalities in the Valley to transform the Recycling Assistant into a community-wide widget. The purpose of regionalizing this

educational widget was to standardize the recycling message in the Valley. In addition, the collaboration resulted in reduced annual costs for each participating jurisdiction. An overview of the Recycling Assistant will be provided.

**Action Requested:**

Information and discussion.

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**5. Variance Plan for Frequency of Collection**

According to Arizona Administrative Code R18-13-308, garbage is required to be collected twice per week. The rule also states that a variance from the required frequency may be granted to allow for once per week collection. A variance plan must be completed that demonstrates no public health hazard or nuisance will exist and that fly breeding will be controlled. Each plan also must contain provisions for random inspections. An overview on the variance plan requirements will be provided. In addition, an opportunity will be provided for discussion on how these requirements relate to current conditions.

**Action Requested:**

Information and discussion.

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**6. Current Efforts to Address Recycling Challenges**

In 2017, China announced it was banning the importation of certain types of solid waste and setting a strict contamination limit for recyclable material. This international policy change has had a significant impact on the recycling markets. As a result, changes have occurred to some of the solid waste and recycling programs in the region. An opportunity will be provided for Committee members to discuss the solid waste and recycling challenges they are facing and their current efforts to address these challenges.

**Action Requested:**

Information and discussion.

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## 7. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

### **Action Requested:**

Information.

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## 8. Comments from the Committee

An opportunity will be provided for Solid Waste Advisory Committee members to present a brief summary of current events. The Committee is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

### **Action Requested:**

Information.

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## 9. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 17, 2019  
MAG Office Building  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick Murphy, Mesa, Chair	Richard Allen, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Javier Machuca for Cindy Blackmore, Avondale	Manuel Castillo, Scottsdale
Miguel Esquivel for Robert van den Akker, Buckeye	Robert Parks, Surprise
# Sheree Sepulveda, Chandler	Tony Miano, Tempe
# Nick Russo, El Mirage	* Helen Heiden, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Paul Montes, Gilbert	J.B. Shaw, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
# Amy Moreno, Glendale	* Chris Coyle, Arizona Forward
Adam Kurtz, Goodyear	# Michael Denby, Arizona Public Service
# Sonny Culbreth, Litchfield Park	* Jill Bernstein, Keep Arizona Beautiful
* Jerry Cooper, Paradise Valley	Brian Kehoe, Maricopa County
Aaron Redd, Peoria	Jack Minkalis for Jason Jordan, Pinal County
Johnni Green for Joe Giudice, Phoenix	# Wendy Crites, Salt River Project
Amber Gough for Ramona Simpson, Queen Creek	

\* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

# Attended by telephone conference call.

+ Participated via video conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	# Matt Morales, City of Flagstaff
Lesya Young, Maricopa Association of Governments	# Dave Bennett, City of Scottsdale
Janet Kawczynski, Town of Queen Creek	Willie Black, Solid Waste Association of North America, Arizona
Zack Kushlan, Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community	Dustin LaDue, City of Scottsdale

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was conducted on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Patrick Murphy, City of Mesa, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 a.m. Nick Russo, City of El Mirage, Wendy Crites, Salt River Project, Sheree Sepulveda, City of Chandler, Amy Moreno, City of Glendale, Sonny Culbreth, City of Litchfield Park, and Michael Denby, Arizona Public Service, attended the meeting via telephone conference call. Chair Murphy encouraged Committee members to speak into the microphones so that the audience and teleconferencing members can hear.

Chair Murphy indicated that copies of the handouts for the meeting are available. He noted for members attending through audio conference, the presentations for the meeting will be posted on the MAG website under Resources for the Committee agenda, whenever possible. If it is not possible to post them before the meeting, they will be posted after the meeting.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Murphy provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG or items on the agenda for discussion, but not for action. He noted that according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out comment cards, which are available on the tables adjacent to the doorways inside the meeting room. Citizens are asked not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. Chair Murphy noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the June 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 18, 2019 meeting. Richard Allen, Salt River Pima - Maricopa Indian Community, moved to approve the June 18, 2019 meeting minutes, and J.B. Shaw, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Sepulveda, Ms. Moreno, Mr. Culbreth, Mr. Denby, and Mr. Russo voting in favor of the motion by teleconference. Ms. Crites was not present for the vote.

4. Safety Efforts in the Solid Waste Industry

Matt Morales, City of Flagstaff, Dave Bennett, City of Scottsdale, and Willie Black, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Arizona, provided an overview on the Safety Ambassador Program – Safety Efforts in the Solid Waste Industry. Mr. Bennett stated that the Arizona Chapter of SWANA Safety Ambassador Program began in 2016 with Tony Miano, City of Tempe, as the Chapter Ambassador for the first one and a half

years. The Program was designed to provide training and resources to its members; initial training was popular and was tailored to managers, supervisors, and leads. He stated the current Safety Ambassador is Mr. Morales and there are 325 members in the Arizona Chapter.

Mr. Bennett noted the solid waste industry is the fifth deadliest occupation in the country. The fatality rate in this occupation has increased since 2009 with an average of one U.S. waste worker's death per week while on the job. The waste/recycling occupation has a higher fatality rate than police officers or firefighters. Mr. Morales mentioned that SWANA National has been tracking incidents and accidents for several years and the statistics show an increased trend in the number of incidents and accidents that occur on Monday mornings during the NFL football season; the number decreases when football season ends. He mentioned that a direct correlation cannot be made; however, it is an interesting anecdote.

Mr. Morales discussed the worker safety and ranking for the industry. He stated that with SWANA and its outreach efforts to members and community, it endeavored to find a more cohesive relationship with Arizona Division of Occupational Safety (ADOSH) and to seek support to be more effective, especially in reducing the incident and accident rate. ADOSH has traditionally investigated accidents and other post issues and one of the solutions that ADOSH has come up with is to form an alliance where organizations work together with ADOSH to foster a safer and healthier workplace.

Mr. Morales stated an alliance was signed with ADOSH last month. The alliance will result in the development of a work program to improve industry safety. One avenue is to study trending data with ADOSH and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. One of the goals they hope to achieve by October 2020 is to establish voluntary consultations where ADOSH visits an organization and provides recommendations to improve safety. The voluntary consultation has already been conducted by the City of Scottsdale and the City of Flagstaff.

Mr. Bennett discussed the history of the City of Scottsdale's working relationship with ADOSH. Scottsdale had an employee critically injured on the job in May 2018. Six months after the employee was injured, a notice was received from the Budget Department to keep the reserve funds' balance down, which is around \$10 million in case of any type of emergency. However, based on the expenditures of the accident, the City would have to raise approximately \$2 million. This was avoided by conducting a voluntary compliance with ADOSH. From the voluntary compliance with ADOSH, the City of Scottsdale learned of several areas to improve in the Brush and Bulk Program; including changes to the equipment, installing controls on each side of the trucks, hard hats for tractor operators, and screens installed inside the tractors.

Mr. Bennett discussed the Hauler Outreach Program. The SWANA Arizona Chapter Safety Ambassador Program has conducted seven outreach events in the state. A group of individuals from the Safety Program go to a municipality's landfill, MRF, or transfer station and educate the customers and employees on safety and encourage people to sign a Safety Pledge.

Mr. Black discussed the Safety Ambassador meetings. The meetings began as quarterly meetings with the first one attended by approximately 160 people. When the attendance began to decline, the Safety Committee brainstormed options. A special presentation was formulated on the importance of air brake inspections and issues with distracted driving, which has become popular and is used at events and facility safety presentations.

Mr. Bennett announced the SWANA WASTCON 2019 Conference is scheduled for October 21-24 at the Phoenix Convention Center and encouraged everyone to attend. He mentioned the importance of the safety event and the certification and training opportunities. He stated that on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, ADOSH will present the results of their investigation of Arizona transfer stations, landfill, and bulk and brush collections.

5. Public Awareness of Refuse Truck Load Fires

Manual Castillo, City of Scottsdale, discussed public awareness of refuse truck load fires. Mr. Castillo stated that in recent years, there have been more and more truck fires. Generally, there are two types of truck fires: a load fire or some type of engine compartment fire. He stated that load fires are typically caused by chemicals or batteries and are totally preventable.

Mr. Castillo stated the City of Scottsdale formed a committee called Solid Waste Truck Fire Prevention Committee to research the implementation of a program for the prevention of load fires. The Committee has representatives from Scottsdale Fire Department, the City's Risk Department, Fleet Department, and Solid Waste Services.

Mr. Castillo mentioned that the Committee is trying several different forms of public educational outreach such as NextDoor and new truck signs that read "Know Before You Throw." New residential can stickers and commercial can stickers are planned to raise awareness. Scottsdale Solid Waste offers two ways to recycle household hazardous waste: the annual drop-off yard event and monthly home collection. The monthly home collection is a curbside service with 200 residents. Mr. Castillo stated the Committee plans to increase the number of participants in the curbside service.

Mr. Castillo requested questions and feedback from the Committee regarding current efforts with outreach on truck load fires and inquired about opportunities to collaborate.

Mr. Allen asked if the City of Scottsdale is maxing out the 200 monthly residents. Mr. Castillo responded that they are maxing it out quickly. At the beginning of the month residents are eligible to sign up and some days it will go through in hours. Mr. Allen commented that he appreciates the City of Scottsdale taking on truck fire prevention. He stated that he works at the landfill where the materials arrive and it is not always a truck problem; sometimes the fire doesn't start until it gets to the landfill or recycling facility. He appreciates Scottsdale bringing awareness to the issue. Mr. Castillo discussed the costs associated with truck fires and noted that many are preventable. He noted that Scottsdale has had seven truck fires in the past five years.

Chair Murphy noted Mesa uses videos on their webpage and Facebook to educate customers on truck fire prevention. He stated some of the truck fires they have experienced were from paper located behind the cab and the area not being cleaned properly. Since the City has focused on the improvement in this one area, they have seen a significant decrease in the number of truck fires. Mr. Castillo stated that some statistics show that only a quarter of truck fires or solid waste vehicle fires are load fires. He noted the industry now has CNG which tends to run hotter. Chair Murphy suggested that municipalities ensure their Fire Department is trained on CNG type fires.

Mr. Miano requested that Mr. Castillo send an email to determine if there are others who have experienced truck load fires. Mr. Miano stated that the City of Tempe lost two front load trucks due to fire and one was a CNG. He stated the replacement cost is \$400,000 each. One of the trucks was a load fire and the other was a transmission fire. Mr. Castillo responded that he will send an email. Mr. Shaw added that there is a group of municipalities forming in the Valley to try to streamline messaging and this may be an ideal group to connect with for valley-wide education.

Ms. Sepulveda stated that the City of Chandler has experienced two hot load fires in the past year in the same area. She stated that the drivers are very good at knowing where this material may be coming from. She suggested a couple of things they do that may be beneficial to others. The City sends an informational letter to customers in the area that contains a picture of the hot load fire with a reminder about using the hazardous waste program. Another is the benefit of working with social media such as NextDoor and similar neighborhood groups. She suggested working with the Police Department and the Fire Department as well to help get the word out.

## 6. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Murphy provided the opportunity for Committee members to suggest future agenda items.

Jack Minkalis, Pinal County, requested a discussion regarding the variance and how it affects the twice-a-week pick up. He stated with some of the municipalities considering the cost of recycling and the idea of possible recycling pick up cancellation or suspension,

the topic would be a good discussion. Brian Kehoe, Maricopa County, stated he will check on the availability of potential speakers. Chair Murphy requested that all questions regarding the subject be forwarded to Mr. Kehoe.

7. Comments from the Committee

Chair Murphy asked for any comments from the Committee.

Mr. Castillo stated the City of Scottsdale will have an electronics recycle drop-off event on October 5, 2019. These events are conducted four times a year.

Adam Kurtz, City of Goodyear, stated the City plans to conduct a regional household hazardous waste event on Saturday, November 2, 2019 in partnership with Avondale, Tolleson, and Litchfield Park.

Mr. Shaw distributed to the Committee brochures regarding the disposal of sharps for businesses and residents. He mentioned the purpose of the brochures is to raise awareness. Also, Mr. Shaw stated that on Saturday, December 7, 2019 ADEQ, Department of Revenue, and the AG's office will team up to conduct a free shred-a-thon event near the capitol. Ms. Sepulveda inquired if the event is posted anywhere. Mr. Shaw responded that it will be in the near future. Ms. Sepulveda requested the event's communication be sent to the Committee. Mr. Shaw stated he will forward the communication to Julie Hoffman, MAG, for distribution to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee members.

Johnni Greene, City of Phoenix, requested information regarding gated alleys. She stated the City of Phoenix has a gated alley pilot program and it would be beneficial to have information on other Valley communities with gated alley programs.

Robert Parks, City of Surprise, stated the City will be conducting its second curbside HHW collection event on September 30, 2019. The first curbside event went well. He noted that if there are any questions on the Surprise recycling program to give them a call. They currently have three to four weeks of data following the changes.

Aaron Redd, City of Peoria, mentioned the City's Request for Information (RFI) for the Fleet Management and Route Management System to upgrade from Zonar. He stated the City has selected Routeware. Also, he stated Peoria studied several recycling programs from cities such as Phoenix and Queen Creek, specifically the education, outreach and enforcement aspects of the programs. Approximately five weeks ago, the City launched a pilot recycling program. It started in the City's heaviest area of contamination which has a 47 percent contamination rate. They have been educating heavily as many residents did not know that the items do not belong in the recycle can. A couple of weeks remain in the pilot program and efforts will continue to saturate the area with inspections and audits. They hope the 47 percent rate will significantly decrease.

Mr. Miano stated the City will introduce its draft rate to Council on Thursday along with some other services such as the green organics third container pricing. The City is in a pilot and plans to formalize the program and introduce cost recovery rates.

Amber Gough, Queen Creek, stated the team is currently working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for contracted residential solid waste services and is due to be completed in October 2019. Also, last spring, the City redesigned its recycling drop-off center and recently won two awards for go-green communications and graphic design. She announced there are several outreach events in the near future: a Founder's Day educational event, four recycling drop-off events, one in November, two in January and one in April.

Mr. Minkalis stated fall cleanups throughout the county are planned; to date, nine are scheduled. Also, there will be a battery/oil/paint/anti-freeze event in Oracle on November 23, 2019. Apache Junction will host two HHW events this year.

Javier Machuca, City of Avondale, stated the City will conduct a household hazardous waste event on November 2, 2019.

Chair Murphy stated the City of Mesa's Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) facility has been open for almost one year and it is going very well. A significant number of residents are being served with more tonnage and a significant amount of that is being swapped out. The swap shop is working very well. Also, he stated the City went to Council last week regarding recycling and received direction to proceed with the program. The City does plan to remove three drop-off centers that were mainly served by noncustomers of the City of Mesa's Solid Waste Department. In addition, the food-waste-to-energy pilot and results should be completed in the next couple months.

Amy Moreno, City of Glendale, stated the City will begin its HHW event that goes from October 14 through November 2019. Also, the City has been conducting a recycling pilot. They switched out the sage green recycle barrel for darker blue barrels and found that on average, contamination was reduced by 45 percent.

Nick Russo, City of El Mirage, stated they are going to Council to modify the current bulk trash program format, which is out-sourced and customer-paid, to a hybrid system where the city pays a portion and the customer pays a portion. They had a work session and plan to basically do what other cities are doing and will incorporate the findings into a sanitation specific rate study to present to Council during budget time.

Ms. Sepulveda stated the City has a proposed six percent incremental rate increase in November. They have been diligently watching all of their drop-off sites and have reduced the number from 21 to nine in the community as a result of considerations for ensuring clean recycling materials and no illegal dumping. Also, she stated they have no

plans to make any changes to the recycling program, which is operated based on contractual terms. Ms. Sepulveda noted that they are monitoring it closely.

Sonny Culbreth, City of Litchfield Park, stated the City is happy to join Goodyear, Tolleson, and Avondale on the November Hazardous Waste collection event and the partnership is appreciated.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Miano moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kehoe seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.