

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Due to the risks to public health caused by the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus at public gatherings, the Maricopa Association of Governments has determined that public meetings will be indefinitely held through technological means. Meetings will be open to the public through technological means. In reliance on, and compliance with the March 13, 2020 Opinion issued by Attorney General Mark Brnovich, the Maricopa Association of Governments provides this special advance notice of the technological means through which public meetings may be accessed. While this special notice is in effect, public comment at meetings will only be accepted through written submissions, which may or may not be read aloud during meetings.

To attend the meeting noticed below by technological means, members of the public may:

1. To watch a live video stream of the meeting, go to MAG's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPYm3GwUIqFxbIzTabenoVA>.
2. Members of the public may submit written comments relating to this meeting to azmag.gov/comment. Comments may be sent at any time leading up to the meeting, but must be received at least one hour prior to the posted start time for the meeting.

If any member of the public has difficulty connecting to the meeting, please contact MAG at (602) 254-6300 for support.

September 8, 2020

TO: Members of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee

FROM: Adam Kurtz, Goodyear, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING

The MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee has been scheduled at the time noted above. The meeting will be **held as a virtual meeting only**, with no in-person attendance options available at this time. Instructions on how to participate will be provided via email to members of the committee. Members of the public will be able to view and listen to the meeting via a live video stream. You can watch the meeting online by clicking here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPYm3GwUIqFxbIzTabenoVA> to go to MAG's YouTube channel. Public comments can be provided in written format through the MAG website at azmag.gov/comment. If you have questions, please contact the MAG office at (602) 254-6300.

In 1996, the Regional Council approved a simple majority quorum for all MAG advisory committees. If the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting does not meet the quorum requirement, members who have joined the meeting will be notified that a legal meeting cannot occur and the meeting will end. Your participation in the meeting is strongly encouraged.

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 the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact MAG at (602) 254-6300.



MAG Solid Waste Advisory

Committee

TENTATIVE AGENDA

September 15, 2020

1. Call to Order

2. Call to Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to provide input through written comment to 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. Members of the public are asked to submit written comments related to this meeting through the MAG website at azmag.gov/comment, and indicate for which meeting the comment is intended. Comments may be sent at any time leading up to the meeting, but must be received at least one hour prior to the posted start time for the meeting. Comments received prior to the deadline will be read aloud during the meeting. Comments must not exceed three minutes in length. 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 comments received for agenda items posted for action will be read at the time the item is heard.

Action Requested:
Information.

3. Approval of the June 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Action Requested:
Review and approve the June 16, 2020 meeting minutes.

4. **Call2Recycle Battery Recycling Program**

Batteries are a growing problem in the solid waste industry. Thousands of partners, including retailers and government municipalities, work with Call2Recycle to manage their battery recycling efforts. Call2Recycle is a not-for-profit consumer battery recycling and stewardship program that offers its partners an easy way to address their battery recycling needs while ensuring the reduction of hazardous waste in compliance with state and national regulations. A presentation will be provided on the battery recycling program by Call2Recycle.

Action Requested:

Information and discussion.

5. **Phoenix Deconstruction Program**

In February 2020, the City of Phoenix launched its Deconstruction Program, which focuses on educating those who are applying for a demolition permit to pursue deconstruction as an alternative or first step to remodeling. Leading up to the launch, the Phoenix Public Works Department worked with local deconstruction contractors, including Stardust Building Supplies, to generate content for the deconstruction brochure and website. An overview of the Phoenix Deconstruction Program will be provided.

Action Requested:

Information and discussion.

6. **Update on the Impact of COVID-19 on Solid Waste and Recycling**

Members of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee will have an opportunity to provide an update on the impact COVID-19 has had on solid waste and recycling programs and operations.

Action Requested:

Information and discussion.

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 and discussion.

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.

9. Adjournment

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

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 MAG
Web Conference
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Attended by telephone conference call.

+ Participated via video conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, MAG

Lesa Young, MAG

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was conducted on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Adam Kurtz, City of Goodyear, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of the March 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 3, 2020 meeting. Nick Russo, City of El Mirage, moved to approve the March 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Robert van den Akker, City of Buckeye, seconded, and motion passed unanimously with Cindy Blackmore, City of Avondale, Manual Castillo, City of Scottsdale, Wendy Crites, Salt River Project, Michael Denby, Arizona Public Service, Adam Kurtz, City of Goodyear, Amanda McKeever, City of Tempe, Lauren Whitakker, City of Mesa, Aaron Redd, City of Peoria, Mr. Russo, J. B. Shaw, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Ramona Simpson, Town of Queen Creek, and Mr. van den Akker voted in favor of the motion. Amy Moreno, City of Glendale, and Robert Parks, City of Surprise, were not present for the vote.

3. Regional Markets for Recycling

Chair Kurtz stated that Agenda Item Three, Regional Markets for Recycling, would not be heard at the current meeting and will be scheduled for a future meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

4. Impact of COVID-19 on Solid Waste and Recycling

Chair Kurtz introduced the discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on the solid waste and recycling industry and suggested the Committee members discuss the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on respective operations. He stated with the ever-changing environment and adaptation, agencies can learn from one another.

Mr. Castillo reviewed changes that have occurred in the City of Scottsdale's Solid Waste Department since mid-March 2020. He stated that the Department made changes in three main areas to comply with the social distancing requirement. The areas include: (1) Working groups' daily start times were staggered (e.g., the Brush and Bulk work group began the work day at 4:30 a.m., the Commercial group at 5:00 a.m., and due to the large size of the Residential group, it was split in half to begin at 5:15 and 5:30 a.m.); (2) The regular morning operator safety meetings were replaced with operators reporting directly to their trucks; and (3) Designated locations within the North Corp Yard were established such as a container repair area, a fuel island, and an ice island. He noted that changes were made with offices and administrative staff as well to include the staggering of personnel working from home and working in the office. For those working in the office, work stations were relocated and distanced. He added that the duties of program representatives (field inspectors) were reduced by temporarily eliminating random

inspections. Normally, the Department conducts approximately 100 inspections per program representative; this procedure was reduced to manage only pertinent cases. Some of the program representatives filled in as customer service representatives.

Mr. Castillo stated that Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was established to include hand sanitizer, truck sanitization, and face coverings. He mentioned the City was fortunate to have a substantial stock of both hand sanitizer and face masks and had plenty available for all employees both in the office and in the field. Regarding truck sanitization, several methods were tried and eventually a mixture of bleach and Spray 9 was the sole method used. He emphasized the adoption of preventive measures for health and safety. When meetings must be conducted, safe distancing and the donning of face masks and gloves are enforced. Also, technology is utilized for communications, training, and customer service to limit the number of persons gathered in a space. He added that transfer station personnel have taken extra measures to wear Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) suits.

Mr. Castillo discussed the impact of COVID-19 on solid waste disposal. He mentioned the numbers provided are estimates only. In March 2020, there was a significant increase to 23 percent in residential refuse (1,282 tons.) This equates to \$34,000 in tipping fees. In April 2020, the number leveled off somewhat with a seven percent increase (415 tons), which equates to \$11,000 in tipping fees. For residential recycling, the month of March showed a decrease of five percent (113 tons), which equates to \$3,000 in tipping fees. The month of April showed an increase to 16 percent (325 tons), which equates to \$9,000 in disposal tipping fees. In late March, random inspections were halted and only recently were random recycling inspections reinstated. Mr. Castillo mentioned the statistics for commercial solid waste disposal. During the month of March, there was a zero percent increase (3 tons), which equates to \$70 in tipping fees. During the month of April, there was a 27 percent decrease (464 tons), which equates to \$12,000 in tipping fees.

Regarding brush and bulk disposal, Mr. Castillo stated that during the month of March, there was a 25 percent decrease (558 tons), which equates to \$15,000 in tipping fees when compared to Fiscal Year 2019. During the month of April 2020, there was a 17 percent decrease (323 tons), which equates to \$8,000 in tipping fees. Compared to Fiscal Year 2018 in the month of March, brush and bulk increased 68 percent (690 tons), which equates to \$18,000 in tipping fees. The month of April increased 155 percent (1,337 tons), which equates to \$35,000 in disposal tipping fees. He added that conditions vary due to storms and other factors; for example, currently, more residents are at home performing yard maintenance, which produces more brush waste.

Mr. Castillo discussed solid waste revenue for commercial accounts for the period of March through May 2020. The City of Scottsdale provided several service options to customers since some of the businesses have had no patrons. To date, six customer accounts have service on hold, twelve accounts have reduced service, and four accounts have been closed. The monthly revenue loss is \$6,543 and Fiscal Year 2020 revenue loss is \$26,172, which equates to a negative three percent.

Mr. Castillo highlighted the City's Solid Waste Recovery Plan. For commercial, a dedicated business phone line was created and is listed on the City's Solid Waste webpage. The business phone line goes directly to the Department's commercial supervisor. In addition, there is an app available; if the phone rings on the business line and there is no answer, the call automatically goes to the supervisor's business cell phone. For residential and commercial customers, a payment deferment program is offered. Another part of the Solid Waste Recovery Plan was the request made to private haulers within the City to waive environmental and extras fees.

Mr. Parks inquired about current discussions of cities reopening amid a COVID-19 spike in cases and asked about improving safety measures to prevent a second wave of the virus. Mr. Castillo responded that he can only speak for the City of Scottsdale's reopening and understands the concern. He mentioned the City plans to reopen in a limited degree and plans to take more precautions.

Chair Kurtz asked if the City of Scottsdale has a plan for another phase of operations for its Solid Waste Department and what does that plan look like in the upcoming months. Mr. Castillo responded that it is a work in progress. The Department is working on maintaining a high level of service, keeping the routes covered, and doing everything possible to limit personal contact.

Chair Kurtz discussed implemented changes for the Solid Waste Services in the City of Goodyear due to COVID-19. He stated that field staff meetings were transferred outdoors, not more than one person is allowed to ride in the cab of a vehicle at a time, and customer service is limited to online or phone interactions as much as possible. He noted that inspections were temporarily suspended; however, they are now conducting them again. Chair Kurtz added that the Brush and Bulk service had a 48 percent tonnage increase during the month of April 2020 compared to the same time in year 2019. The month of May 2020 was a little lower, but still a lot. He mentioned that since more residents are at home currently, more remodeling projects and major tree trimming are being conducted, which has placed a burden on the Bulk Services Program and the Trash and Recycling Program. He added that the City suspended the Recycling Program due to the materials recovery facility (MRF) not being able to meet the Mayor's requirement for social distancing. However, as of June 2020, the Recycling Program was reinstated and inspections resumed, which is a phased program. Chair Kurtz also mentioned the increased tonnage from the curbside program.

Ms. Whitakker gave an update on changes in the Solid Waste Division in the City of Mesa. She stated that the administration staff's last day in the office was mid-March 2020 and beginning the first week of June, the staff is being phased back to the office. The Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) Facility's last day was mid-March and is scheduled to reopen on June 17, 2020 and a significant increase in HHM visitors is expected. She mentioned that the Flagstaff HHM facility remained open and it experienced twice the number of normal visitors during the months of March and April. She noted that during the period of the City of Mesa's HHM shutdown, the HHM staff

were temporarily repurposed to conduct nightly truck sanitization; now that the HHM staff has returned to regular operating hours, the truck operators are performing simple sanitization duties. Ms. Whitaker stated that the City's neighborhood cleanup program was temporarily suspended, but resumed on June 1, 2020. Regarding changes in the Bulk Program, the trucks' start times were staggered and morning announcements are now being made over the radio. When driving the routes, only one operator is allowed in the truck's cab and a second bulk employee follows in a pick-up truck. Vegetative and recycling is being collected with one truck only, which saved approximately 25 percent on miles and route hours. She noted there has been a significant commercial decrease and a significant residential increase in tonnage. Regarding education outreach, a public service announcement (PSA) was distributed on how to maximize block barrel spacing to prevent overload.

Mr. Redd discussed implemented changes in the Solid Waste Division in the City of Peoria due to COVID-19. Regarding social distancing, the administrative staff continues to telecommute while the supervisory staff of five employees continues to work in the office where social distancing is maintained. He stated that in mid-March, the Division's truck operators began to meet on the tarmac to receive their assignments. Two drivers are allowed in a truck cab at the same time for training purposes; employees are required to wear face masks and gloves. In addition, all route books are sanitized as they come in and then reissued to drivers. Most drivers are not allowed inside the office unless it is an extreme emergency. Inspectors are required to follow the same protocol. Mr. Redd stated that there was a 225 percent decrease in commercial tonnage and an approximate 19 to 20 percent increase in residential tonnage. Recycling contamination increased and the Division plans to conduct an educational outreach.

Mr. Parks stated that the City of Surprise has experienced many of the same things as other cities and towns. The Trash and Recycling Department's staff is smaller in comparison; therefore, employees continued to report to individual offices. No one is working from home. Truck operators report directly to their trucks where they have the route books. Radios are sanitized daily. Mr. Parks noted there was an increase in bulk waste; compared to a normal 50 pick-ups per day, the number of pick-ups increased to 75 per day during the past two months. Curbside tonnage also increased by an extra 40 to 50 tons per day.

Ms. Moreno stated the City of Glendale is doing much the same as other local cities and towns. The City's Integrated Waste Management Division implemented staggered work shifts with management teams, supervisors, and foremen. Some employees continue to telecommute and there is a slow phasing in of employees returning to the office. Truck operators are not allowed inside the building other than to use the restroom. Drivers are required to use PPE and hand sanitizer. Also, drivers are required to sanitize trucks before and after a shift and the Division provides a vendor to conduct truck cab disinfectants weekly. Ms. Moreno added that the Division has seen an increase in residential tonnage and bulk trash tonnage continues to increase

Ms. McKeever stated that the City of Tempe has not reopened to date. The City was scheduled to open on June 15, 2020, but is now tentatively scheduled for July 7, 2020. She noted that there is not a rush for the Solid Waste Division's employees to return to the office as long as the City remains closed. The administration staff is in the office two or three times a week; but for the most part, staff telecommutes as much as possible. She stated that all employees are required to wear PPE. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray, and towels are provided to operators. Regarding operations in the Solid Waste Division, employees start work at the same time, but different meeting areas were established to adhere to the city-wide social distancing requirement. Currently, the yard is open and the hazardous materials center is open. Previous to the week of June 15, visits were by appointment only; that restriction was lifted and the center returned to regular operating hours. When customers visit the center, they are required to remain in their vehicles. Ms. McKeever added that the City of Tempe currently conducts health screenings which is a list of ten yes or no questions. All on-site employees are required to complete a health screen.

5. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Chair Kurtz provided the opportunity for Committee members to suggest future agenda items to discuss at the next meeting. No future agenda items were suggested.

6. Comments from the Committee

Chair Kurtz asked for any comments from the Committee and to report on current activities in member agencies.

Mr. Castillo reported that City of Scottsdale responded to a young man's request to have a drive-by solid waste truck in recognition of his birthday during the COVID-19 lockdown situation. The event was successful and a local news channel was present. He stated the Department continues to work on its Recycling Program and takes its recycling to the City of Phoenix. He noted the City reinstated inspections recently. He added that HHW curbside collection, which is conducted by a vendor, will begin in July.

Mr. Parks stated that the City of Surprise will announce on July 16, 2020 that the City will reinstate a Recycling Program where City residents can take their recyclables to a site. He noted that it is not a full curbside program, but it is something to begin to offer back to the residents. The City has partnered with Friedman Recycling and only accepts cardboard, limited plastics and tin cans. The recycling facility is open only certain hours and days of the week and is located in a secured area in order to prevent contamination. He added that the service is not an extra cost.

Mr. Shaw announced that the Arizona Recycling Coalition will conduct a virtual meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and is open to members as well as nonmembers. Discussion will include COVID-19 related issues. The meeting will include break-out groups that will concentrate on northern, central and southern regions and the creation

of subcommittees regarding outreach policy among other things. He stated the meeting is free and registration can be found at www.arizonarecyclingcoalition.org.

Ms. Simpson stated that the Town of Queen Creek has reinstated its recycling and trash inspections beginning in June 2020. Currently, the operator remains in the truck and conducts inspections on overfilled carts which have been an issue. She mentioned that the Department has seen an approximate 40 percent increase in the Recycling and Trash Program and it is becoming more difficult to complete the routes on time. She added that the Department plans to implement a paperless pilot program where inspection notices and outreach materials are emailed to residents instead of being placed on carts. She stated that Bulk Services were reinstated in June as well, but the number of participants was reduced to 400. Normally, there are between 400 and 600 Bulk Services requests per week. Ms. Simpson mentioned that the loads collected were much heavier than usual. She noted that the Town's neighborhood recycling center reopened during the first week of June with a new addition of A-Frame signage located between all containers. The purpose of the new signage is to remind residents not to leave materials on the ground for safety reasons, especially during the current COVID-19 period and to remind residents to keep the center clean to improve faster collections. She mentioned that the Town suspended its scheduled March and April Earth Day drop-off collections event and plans to reschedule the event in November 2020. She requested suggestions on how to make the event safe for all staff and residents involved. Ms. Simpson stated that the Town of Gilbert opened its HHW facility in June and the Town of Queen Creek plans to have an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) beginning in July 2020 with the Town of Gilbert to allow the Town of Queen Creek residents to utilize the HHW facility. She added that the Town of Queen Creek is working on a way to help support the efforts of the Town of Gilbert to adhere to the social distancing regulation when residents visit the HHW facility. Residents are to remain in their vehicles to show identification; then, residents may get out of the vehicle to place materials on a pallet.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.