



February 4, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors, Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency

From: Paul Freund, Agency Manager

Subject: January 2026 Monthly Update

1. I continue to provide Green Building Code compliance support to the building departments and monitor and provide support to the cities and the County for paper product procurement.
2. The Landfill and the Agency's office were both closed on January 1, in observance of the New Year holiday.
3. I was on vacation January 2.
4. The hazardous waste storage lockers at the now closed Corning Disposal HHW Facility were cleaned by ACTenviro staff on January 7. Staff are awaiting testing of the lockers before they can be moved to the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill HHW Facility.
5. Christian and Max from Green Waste delivered and helped place recycling bins at Plumas Bank, a new Smart Business Alliance (SBA) Partner, on January 8. They also displayed recycling posters to help Plumas Bank staff recycle correctly.
6. I virtually attended a meeting organized by the BioChar Coalition and the Tehama County Resource Conservation District on January 12. The meeting focused on biochar and compost production opportunities in Tehama County. The BioChar Coalition also came for a tour of the landfill's yard waste collection and processing area on January 23 to see what materials we manage to get ideas for potential feedstock for a future community compost operation they hope to site in Tehama County.
7. Christian met with Max from Green Waste on January 13 to review Green Waste's RMO contamination monitoring system and identify future recycling audit locations. They also discussed plans for updating and improving Green Waste's "Waste Wizard" program that helps residents and businesses determine where their waste should go.

8. I attended a meeting organized by Ag Commissioner Tom Moss about finding opportunities for farmers to properly dispose of pesticides they could no longer use. Attendees at the meeting included the Director of Environmental Health, Tia Branton, staff from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and Larry Sweetser of Sweetser and Associates/consultant to the RCRC ESJPA. Some details need to be figured out, but there is a possibility that several farmers could use the Agency's Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) program and have the fees paid by the Department of Pesticide Regulation to augment the irregular pesticide take-back events that have occurred in the past.
9. Tehama County Environmental Health performed their monthly inspections of the landfill and MRF on January 23. They did not find any violations or areas of concern.
10. I met with PATH on January 27 to discuss the details of their new composting program they will be starting at the Navigation Center with items purchased with the Agency's SB 1383 grant funding. Once the composting program is in operation the plan is to then start advertising to the public as a community composting drop-off site.
11. Christian met with the Corning High School's Facilities Manager and Janitorial Supervisor on January 27 to discuss ongoing efforts to expand campus recycling through the SBA program. The existing recycling program was assessed, and the number of bins needed to improve the program was identified. Christian will follow up in February to deliver a portion of the recycling bins and conduct a waste assessment with WM.
12. I conducted an interview on January 29 for the Organic Materials Program Coordinator position with the assistance of Red Bluff City Manager, Tom Westbrook, and Tehama County Librarian, Alicia Meyer. The Agency received one qualified applicant, our current Recycling Program Analyst II Christian. Tom, Alicia, and I all agreed that Christian will do well in this new position and the paperwork to promote him is currently being processed. The Agency will now begin recruitment for a new Recycling Program Analyst.
13. The Agency held its monthly meeting with Waste Connections on January 30. We discussed upcoming equipment changes, maintenance to Phase 1, and various reporting requirements. We also discussed compliance with AB 1826 and the Agency's estimation of organics tons from businesses that would potentially need to comply with that law.
14. Agency staff contributed waste reduction, recycling and hazardous waste disposal information to the monthly Lake CA POA newsletter and WasteWise News.

15. Household hazardous waste collection events will be held from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM on the second Saturday of February in Red Bluff. I am currently awaiting confirmation from ACTenviro on whether they can staff the fourth Saturday events beginning in February.

Please feel free to contact me at the office at 528-1103 should any questions arise.

CC: Gabriel Hydrick, Tehama County Chief Administrator
Tom Westbrook, Red Bluff City Manager
Brant Mesker, Corning City Manager
Carolyn Steffan, Tehama City Clerk/Administrator