TEHAMA COUNTY/CITY OF RED BLUFF LANDFILL DIVERSION PLAN 2026

According to the agreement between the Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency (TCSWMA) and, Waste Connections of California, Inc., and Madera Disposal Systems, Inc. (WCI), Section 4.G.14, WCI must develop and implement a Diversion Plan which focuses on efforts to maximize recyclable material processing, marketing, reuse and diversion of all recyclable materials we receive.

Our goal is to continue to extend the life of the landfill, to be good stewards of this resource, and to be compliant with the contract terms and conditions. At a minimum, WCI shall recycle the following recyclable materials for diversion: newspaper, mixed paper, glass jars and bottles, cans (aluminum bi-metal and tin), telephone books, magazines, cardboard, chipboard, aluminum foil and trays, aerosol cans, scrap metal, plastic containers #1-7, plastic bags, tires, automotive batteries, water-based paint, used motor oil, automotive oil filters, agricultural plastic, mattresses and box springs, alkaline and rechargeable batteries, and carpet.

This diversion plan explains the current processes, marketing, and planned programs for added diversion in year three. These operational processes have been developed by analyzing the data gathered during the first two years of this contract. The current system is built on a strong operational foundation, with refinement coming from new data. We are confident we will continue to produce sufficient diversion to achieve our 2% annual increase in diversion. For year three (2026), our set goal is 7,286 annual tons.

After detailing the current systems, this document concludes with the areas of extra emphasis for year three. The focus of these additional programs will be data collection, reuse, and education. The goal is to build on the success of our active diversion efforts by promoting practical reuse and creating meaningful educational opportunities that connect residents to the value of these processes.

CURRENT PROGRAM

The following describes the current processes in place to sort and divert different commodities from the self-haul pad, landfill and material recovery facility (MRF). Our current practices now provide the baseline that we use to meet our diversion goals.

I. SELF-HAUL AREA

We recognize most of our increase in diversion will be here at the self-haul pad. This is where diversion will be impacted the most, and this is where we will focus our efforts. The majority of our self-haul customers are sent to this area, which enables us to divert materials that would otherwise be directly landfilled.

Most customers are directed to the self-haul area to dispose of their unwanted materials. Our employees direct the customer where to unload and assess what kind of material they are disposing of. The self-haul pad attendant directs the customer where to unload yard waste/wood waste, concrete, tile, asphalt, appliances, mattresses/box-springs, electronic waste, and carpet.

Our employees currently pull the following items from mixed trash loads:

- **Cardboard**
- **Rigid Plastic**
- **Mixed Recycling (plastic beverage containers, aluminum, paper, etc.)**
- **Metal**
- **Electronic Waste**
- **Carpet**
- **Wood**
- **Books**
- **Any Unacceptable Materials**

To facilitate metal recycling, appliances are staged north of the MRF, awaiting processing. Once processed, these appliances are stockpiled with other metals to be loaded once a full load is ready.

Carpet, mattresses, and box springs are loaded into staged trailers awaiting transport. Once a full load is accumulated, they are shipped to off-site markets.

Tires found in either self-haul loads or in the landfill are relocated to a stockpile located north of the MRF. Tires are removed weekly by a third-party vendor.

Rigid and agricultural plastic, pesticide, and fertilizer containers are segregated and staged in a 40 cubic yard container until there is enough to process. These containers are accepted free of charge if brought in separately from other trash and are required to be triple-rinsed.

Books are now pulled from the pad for either reuse in the swap shop or to be diverted to mixed paper recycling.

The "external" recycling bin program has been a success and will continue to make recycling as easy as possible for the residents of the county. WCI will continue to place three bins before the scale house for: mixed recycling, metal, and clothing. Although there are contamination challenges with these bins, the overall response and utilization outweigh any additional sorting labor on WCI's part.

II. LANDFILL

Safety is our #1 Operating Value. As we ask our employees to pull items from the active face, we will not jeopardize safety.

Commercial haulers are the customers who are directed to dump at the active face. Such haulers include: Green Waste of Tehama, Waste Management, Sierra Pacific, other commercial traffic, and some self-haul customers with commercial motorized dump trailers. Currently, landfill operators pull the following items out of the waste stream and stage them separately for diversion:

- **Mattresses/Box Springs**
- **Tires**
- **Metal**

- **Wood Waste**
- **Electronic Wastes**
- **Any Unacceptable Materials**

Additionally, roofing, construction and demolition (C&D) materials are separated at the tipping pad and used as alternative daily cover.

III. MRF

Co-mingled recyclables enter the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) from the City and County's designated haulers. There are two sorting piles, one dedicated to residential single stream and the other to commercial single stream. Recyclable materials can be found in loads brought to the landfill and the self-haul pad. In either location, all co-mingled recyclables are processed in the MRF.

We deploy six sorters to process the residential single-stream materials first, and then process the commercial single-stream material. The sort line has multiple stations. Sorters are positioned at each station based on the materials to be pulled and are responsible for sorting one or more specific items. These materials are pulled off the sorting belt and dropped into a container below. As the containers reach capacity, the processed material is stockpiled in bins or on the MRF floor until there is sufficient material to produce one bale. A final inspection for contaminants is performed before baling the material.

We currently process the following materials on the sort lines: newspaper, mixed paper, glass jars and bottles, cans (aluminum bi-metal and tin), telephone books, magazines, cardboard, chipboard, aluminum foil and trays, aerosol cans, scrap metal, plastic containers #1-7, plastic bags, agricultural plastic, and alkaline and rechargeable batteries.

YEAR THREE PROPOSED PROGRAMS

MRF WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

In 2026, WCI plans to conduct a waste characterization study focused on the catch bins located at the end of the MRF sort line. This fact-finding effort is designed to explore whether additional diversion opportunities exist by examining the types of materials that make it through the sorting process. The characterizations will serve a dual purpose: providing operations with data to evaluate and refine current practices, while also equipping the sustainability team with targeted information to support future outreach and education efforts.

SWAP SHOP

In 2025, the Swap Shop program matured into a more structured and effective reuse initiative. Building on the success of its 2024 launch, Waste Connections implemented all planned upgrades, transforming the shop into a reliable resource for Tehama County residents.

Key improvements in 2025 included installing a verified scale for accurate weight tracking, introducing a standardized sign-in sheet modeled after the paint program, enhancing visibility through clear signage and social media outreach, refining the collection system for reusable construction materials, and exploring the potential for residents to directly contribute lightly used items, laying the groundwork for future expansion.

On designated swap days, customers enter the shop, browse available items, and select what they'd like to take. Before removal, each item is weighed using the dedicated shop scale. These weights are recorded and categorized under "reuse," with Swap Shop-specific tracking to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Leadership of the project transitioned to the Operations Supervisor, whose oversight was instrumental in achieving the 2025 goals. Thanks to this leadership and community engagement, the Swap Shop successfully diverted 5 tons of reusable materials.

One challenge in 2025 was sourcing enough usable items to support more frequent openings. In response, the 2026 goal is to host two seasonal swap events—one in spring and one in fall—based on material availability. Additionally, a shade canopy will be added to improve the user experience during warmer months.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS "Path to Sustainability"

This project progressed significantly in 2025. The first sign was installed near Phase One of the landfill, and the second, focused on the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), entered final design stages, we anticipate this sign being installed in the beginning of 2026. Through this process, the full vision for the "Path to Sustainability" was clarified: a four-sign walkway extending from the existing concrete path. The first sign represents the "past," covering Phase One of the landfill. Two eastern signs will highlight current diversion efforts, one focused on the MRF and the other on the self-haul pad and the wide scope of recyclable materials accepted onsite. The fourth and final sign will address Phase Two, defining a sanitary landfill and showcasing active diversion efforts at the working face. WCI commits to completing and installing the third sign in 2026 with a budget of $5k.

Sign Details in Table 2

MARKETING

In 2026 WCI will continue to grow our social media presence, and we will continue to use that platform to communicate information about waste collection, while still including content about the landfill. The focus on the landfill will be aimed at showing the community what goes on at the landfill from a closer perspective than they could achieve themselves.

Development of the landfill educational video began in 2025, and WCI intends to have a finished product in 2026.

We feel that our website could use some work. Digital refinement will be a priority as we work to make our online presence more relatable to Tehama County residents. The current site feels generic, and we see an opportunity to personalize it through improved imagery and clearer, locally relevant content. As part of this effort, we will audit the website for accuracy, completeness, and overall user experience to ensure it better reflects the community we serve.

TABLE 1 –

Guide to Plastics #1 - #7

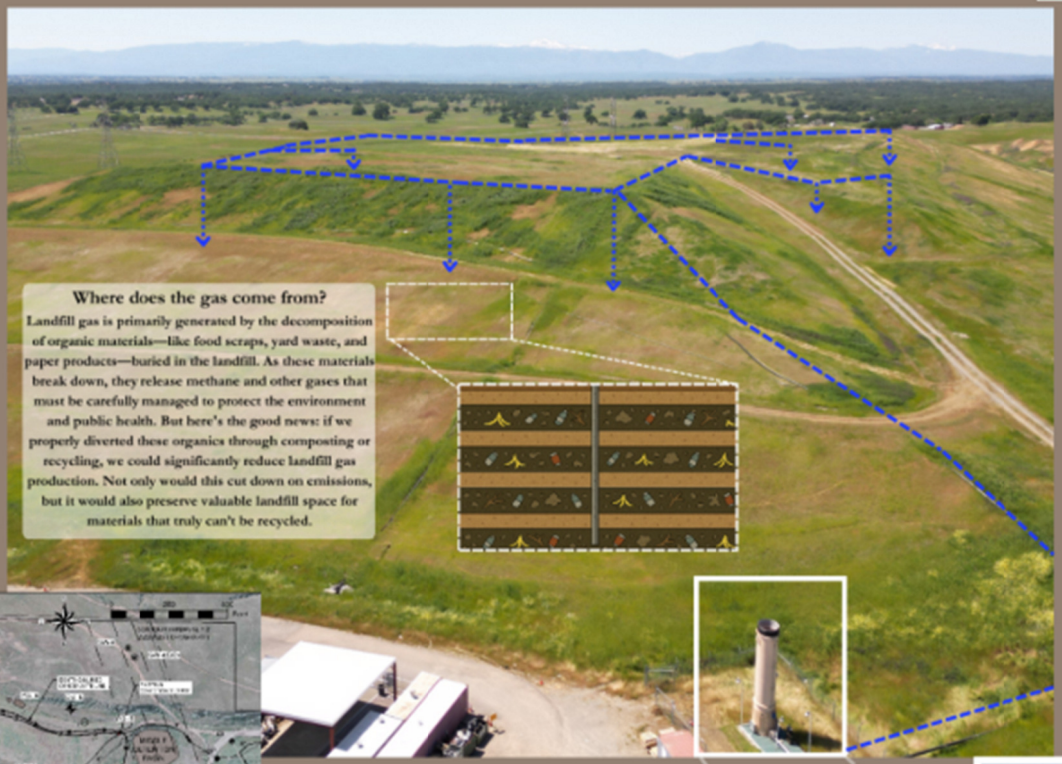
Identity Code	Abbreviation & Name	Some Common Products	Commonly Unmarked Materials
	PET or PETE Polyethylene teraphthalate	Plastic Beverage Containers including soft drink, water, Juice bottles, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter containers and salad dressing containers	Fiber for Carpet, Fleece Jackets, Comforter Fill and tote bags. Plastic food and Non-food containers. Film and sheet strapping.
	HDPE High-Density polyethylene	Bottles including milk, water, juice, cosmetic, shampoo, dish and laundry detergent.	Cereal box liners, Plastic lumber for outdoor decking, fencing and picnic tables. Pipe, floor tiles, buckets, crates, flower pots, garden edging, film and sheet, recycling bins
	V or PVC Polyvinyl Chloride	Plastic Toys, some clear food packaging, medical tubing. Wire and cable Insulation.	Mud flaps, cassette trays, electrical boxes, cables, traffic cones and garden hose.
	LDPE Low-Density Polyethylene	Shrink Wrap, Greenhouse film, Plastic shopping bags, paper towel/toilet paper/etc packaging.	Shrink-Wrap Greenhouse Film, Garbage can liners.
	PP Polypropylene	Prescription Medicine Bottles, kethup bottles, some yougurt containers, some margerine (or similar) tubs.	Oil Funnels, garden rakes.
	PS Polystyrene	All Styrofoam, egg cartons, restaurant carryout boxes, plates/cups, etc.	Thermal insulation, light switch plates, license plate frames, egg cartons, packing peanuts
	OTHER Any Other Plastics	Nalgene bottles, CD's and some food product containers	Some bottles and plastic lumber applications

Tehama County Landfill: Phase 1 *1970-2017*

The landfill property was purchased jointly by Tehama County and the City of Red Bluff in 1964. From 1964 until the early 1970s, the landfill property was used as an open burn dump.

The landfill currently accepts for disposal, non-hazardous residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural waste in all of Tehama County, a population of over 64,000 people.

The landfill property is 160 acres. The landfill is permitted for development in two distinct phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2. Facing south, you are currently viewing Phase 1. The Phase 1 landfill is an unlined landfill that was closed in 2017 with a soil-closure cap. Waste was placed in the Phase 1 landfill area from the early 1970's to 2017.



Where does the gas come from?

Landfill gas is primarily generated by the decomposition of organic materials—like food scraps, yard waste, and paper products—buried in the landfill. As these materials break down, they release methane and other gases that must be carefully managed to protect the environment and public health. But here's the good news: if we properly diverted these organics through composting or recycling, we could significantly reduce landfill gas production. Not only would this cut down on emissions, but it would also preserve valuable landfill space for materials that truly can't be recycled.

You are here

A landfill gas (LFG) extraction system has been in place since 2002. The site is equipped with 14 vertical extraction wells and six horizontal collectors buried within the waste mass (marked by blue lines). These components are designed to efficiently capture the gas mixture—primarily methane and carbon dioxide—generated as organic material breaks down over time. To help control gas collection and limit the intrusion of air into the landfill, the system includes a network of adjustable valves for operational fine-tuning.

The extracted gas is directed to a flare unit, where it is burned off to reduce environmental impact. Emissions from this process are monitored annually to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

Although gas-to-energy technology can convert landfill gas into usable power for homes or businesses, the volume of gas produced at this site is not sufficient to support such a system.

Gas flare

Another Collaboration By: Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency and Green Waste of Tehama, A Waste Connections Company

Phase 1 is estimated to contain 2 million tons of buried trash equivalent in weight to seven full-size oil tankers!

TABLE 2